











2025 Annual Report & Perspective





Student Expectations Set at beginning of each Field Class & Reinforced throughout their Adventure Trails!

This Keeps them on Target for Life!

School-year, Summer and Fall Break Adventurer from TPS & North Mabee B&G Club RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

STEWARDSHIP

INTEGRITY



CURIOSITY • HANDS-ON • LIFE SKILLS

Executive Summary | Annual Report September 2025 & Perspective

Cause/Mission: To positively affect communities from the kids up, by empowering innovators with STEM/Life Skill habits through repetitive exploration of a natural living laboratory.

> Intentionality with Passon, Integrity and Hope, a precursor to Joy

"Outdoor Classroom is not merely an organization but a movement, a philosophy, and a transformative force in STEM education. Since its inception in 2015, Outdoor Classroom has been on a mission to develop and instill a STEM mindset in young innovators, teachers, and non-traditional educators. What sets them apart is their intentional and heartfelt commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that individuals with diverse learning needs and challenges are not only included but thrive in their programs."

> Jaime Walton, Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance Digital Spotlight DEC 2023

Outdoor Classroom – Tulsa enters its **second decade** as a **nature-based STEM program** equipping underserved youth, educators, and families with life skills, workforce pathways, and curiosity to thrive.

Impact - Awakening Youth Potential

- 3,187 youth, teachers and adults served
- 26.6% growth in school-day programming
- Unique curriculum model that spotlights gender & grade positive empowerment.
- **Inclusion by design:** SPED, ID and physical challenges outreach greatly expanded
- We help drive attendance (offset absenteeism) that yield 3-4 additional school days per participant (Source: The Opp Report)

Challenges & Adaptation – Sustainability

- 15+ field classes disrupted by flooding at current Base Camp ("the swamp") & competing with disc-golf tournaments at Mohawk
- Added costs for emergency site relocations and daunting transportation constraints
- Outsourced transportation services & built collaborative relationships city-wide for programming delivery and outreach

Strategic Priorities – Building a future

- New Base Camp & Capital Project 2026: Secure a resilient site to eliminate flooding disruptions and ensure long-term stability
- Backfill Summer 2026: Expand collaborations to replace lost summer funding & campers by our schools and agency partners

Financial Position - Seeking Support

- Positive cash position through Fall 2025
- Monthly operating costs: ~\$24,000 (within budget. Please see Financial Narrative.
- Forecasting **5%-9% increase** for monthly transportation, staff pay, and overhead
- Benefit from Tulsa Community Foundation's HR, legal, and financial services

Outdoor Classroom - Tulsa is resilient, growing, and future-focused: delivering high-quality, nature-based learning while preparing for the facilities and funding needed to sustain the next decade of impact.

Awakening Youth Potential Through Outdoor STEM Learning & **Future-Focused** Life Skills

How a Tulsa initiative is transforming education, equity, and workforce readiness

The Challenge: Untapped Potential - Our Why

Too many children in Tulsa grow up under the weight of poverty, hunger, and limited opportunity. Creativity and curiosity—the drivers of innovation—atrophy when basic needs are unmet. The result is a cycle: diminished academic achievement, constrained career pathways, and communities deprived of their future leaders.

- 1 in 5 Tulsa children live below the poverty line. The more than 3,100+ young innovators we serve annually fall into the 87% economically disadvantaged category. This is our outreach.
- STEM occupations are projected to grow 10% faster than all others (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

"Tell me and I forget, Teach me and I may remember, Involve me and I learn"

The Insight: STEM Happens **Naturally Outdoors**

Outdoor Classroom | Tulsa transforms the 2,800-acre Mohawk Park into a living laboratory where students test, fail, retry, and ultimately solve problems—mirroring real innovation cycles. Teachers and adult chaperones gain tools to inspire curiosity and extend classroom lessons and homelife into real-world exploration.

"When kids discover that failure is part of science, resilience becomes part of life."



Making a Positive Impact on Young Lives and the Community

Outdoor Classroom Tulsa is making a measurable difference in the lives of Tulsa's youth—helping to break the cycle of poverty that too many would otherwise continue to face. Our program awakens natural curiosity, strengthens engagement in school, and builds life and social skills essential for long-term success. By learning in nature, students not only discover science hands-on, but also discover themselves.

The Opportunity Project collaborated with 9b Corp (data) consolidators) to analyze 2024–25 school-year attendance records for over 9,000 youth participating in OST (Out-of-School-Time) programs. The findings were revealing and instructional - students attending field classes and after-school programs showed a 48% decrease in absences. As the report summarized, "OST participants attended school 3-4 more days than peers."

"I have never seen students that normally are not engaged, or even those with behavior issues, completely open up and come alive. I am literally moved to tears watching them bloom. Thank you all so very much."

> - Ali Upton, Celia Clinton **5th Grade Teacher**

Attendance, Engagement, and **Academic Performance**

In the Tulsa Expanded Learning Landscape Report (2024-25), OST participants attended school 3–4 more days on average than non-participants.

This relationship held across grade levels and was strongest for economically disadvantaged students.

Assuming Outdoor Classroom | Tulsa participants share similar patterns, 2,814 students represent roughly 8,442 additional school days annually, translating into measurable engagement and retention gains.

Citations:

- 1. The Opportunity Project. (2025). Tulsa Expanded Learning Landscape Report 2024-2025. Tulsa, OK.
- 2. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). Issue Brief #80: How Afterschool Programs Are Building School-Day Attendance. Washington, D.C.

- Benjamin Franklin

Capacity Building

Year-to-year comparisons combining school-year with summer reflect a 2.7% increase in engagement.

- Growth was tempered by the expiration of federal postpandemic funding that traditionally supported TPS and UPS summer programming.
- To offset this, six new partner agencies were added in Summer 2025, with additional collaborations planned through The Opportunity Project in 2026.

The Model: Curriculum + Future-Focused Life Skills

- School-Year Program: Five-hour field classes for 5th-6th graders aligned to Oklahoma Academic Standards (OAS) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
- After-School & Summer: Camps and expanded learning initiatives (ELI) across Tulsa.
- Community Collaborations: Partnerships with Tulsa Parks, Tulsa County Parks, the Gathering Place, Tulsa Dream Center, Boys & Girls Club, The Center, and The Opportunity Project partners.
- Innovation Pipeline: WildSTEM Explorer Digital Badges in partnership with Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance. OCTulsa had evolved from the Scientific Method to Human-Center Design Thinking.



Out of School Time (OST)



Digital Badging - TRSA

Year to Year Comparisons:

Fall 15.3% Increase Spring 39.3% Increase Summer* 41.8% Decrease Overall 2.7% INCREASE

*Details in Narrative

Engagement Sept '24-Aug '25

YOUTH SERVED

ADULTS SERVED

TOTAL IMPACT

Nature-Based Learning Longterm Outcomes

Outdoor Classroom | Tulsa's programming is informed by strong research showing the cognitive and social benefits of nature-based education. A 2022 systemic review by Mann et al. found positive associations between outdoor learning and academic, emotional, and social outcomes. Similarly, Mill et al. (2021) demonstrated that primary students in nature-based STEM programs developed stronger executive functioning and persistence. These align with Outdoor Classroom | Tulsa's NGSS-aligned

> approach integrating experiential inquiry in natural environments.



Citations:

3. Mann, J., Gray, C., Tranter, P., et al. (2022). Getting Out of the Classroom and Into Nature: A Systematic Review of Nature-Based Learning Outcomes. Environmental Education Research, 28(3), 373-402. 4. Miller, D., Richardson, M., & Gill, T. (2021). Outcomes of Nature-Based Learning for Primary School Students: A Systematic Review. Frontiers in Psychology, 12, 693-718.

5. Children & Nature Network. (2024). Research Digest: Learning and Development in Nature.

Youth Coverage, Schools and Agencies being Served 2025-26

Participating Schools & Agencies 2024/25SY + Summer 2025

Anderson Public Schools Antioch Baptist (OST)

Antioch OST

B&G Club - North Mabee

Bell Elementary Bixby - West

Boevers Elementary

Boys & Girls Club - North Mabee

Celia Clinton Elementary

Chamberlain Park (Malone Rec Center)

Chandler Park Earth Day & Summer

Clinton West

Cornerstone Co-Op Disney Elementary

Dove Discovery Academy

Eliot Elementary

Ellen Ochoa (Summer)

Epic Charter Schools

Felicitas Mendez (TPS)

Girl Scouts of NE OK

Grissom Elementary Hamilton Elementary

Hicks Park Rec Center

John Hope Franklin

Kendall Whittier Elementary

KIPP Middle School

Lacy Park (Summer)

Lanier Elementary

Limestone STEM Academy

Lindbergh Elementary

Marian Anderson Elementary

Marshall Elementary

Mayo Demonstration

McAuliffe Elementary

McClure Elementary

McKinley Elementary

Memorial Middle School

Mitchell Elementary

Monarchs on the Mountain - Chandler

Monroe (Summer)

Oak Crest Elementary (BA)

One Hope OK

Owen Rec Center

RISE Academy (UPS)

Robertson Elementary

Rosa Parks Elementary

Rotary Camp Enterprise

Salk Elementary

Skelly Elementary

Springdale Elementary

Stroud Public Schools

TRAICE Academy (TPS)

The Center

The Common Good - NW Hub

TRSA SENSE (Teacher PD)

Tulsa Classical Academy

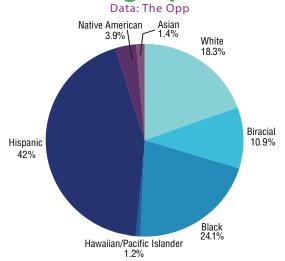
Tulsa Dream Center (OST)

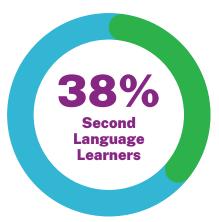
Unity Elementary (GG)

Walt Whitman Elementary

Whiteside Rec Center

Demographics





Youth Coverage, Impact & Outcomes 2025

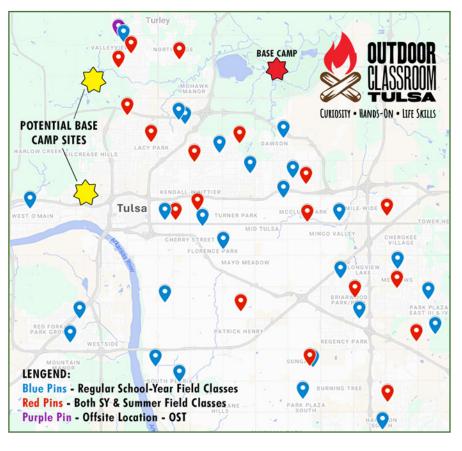
We continue to expand our demographic reach, while our core service remains rooted in the historically underserved neighborhoods along MLK Blvd., E. Pine, West Tulsa, North Garnett, and the South Peoria corridor.

- 87% of participants are economically disadvantaged
- 33% are English Language Learners

These figures reinforce our mission to deliver equitable, culturally responsive, and life-skill-enriching experiences to those who stand to benefit the most.

"I liked being the mushroom in the food chain."

Meghan, Student



Differences by Gender and Grade

Outdoor Classroom | Tulsa (OCT) has long been a data-driven organization. Over the past decade, we have participated in the national PEAR (Partnerships in Education and Resilience) Assessment Program through Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA), uploading more than 4,300 student surveys—primarily from grades 5 and 6—to measure impact on STEM interest, perseverance, and social development during their field class adventure with our Naturalist Educator team.

At one point, the PEAR national evaluation team provided insights that we may indirectly relate to broader Oklahoma statistical challenges on teen pregnancy and female incarceration—highlighting the long-term societal benefits of keeping girls engaged in science and positive peer networks.

Among Outdoor Classroom (OTC) students, girls had significantly higher retrospective ratings in overall STEM Interest when compared to boys (p<0.05).

Nationally, PEAR observed that boys had significantly higher retrospective STEM Interest ratings at the end of their program compared to girls (among students Grades 2-6). This data is pre-pandemic, as PEAR adjusted their survey to remote learners, with a greater focus on Social Emotional Learning. The OCT data remains consistent today.

Outdoor Classroom percent-positive gains in STEM Interest by gender were as follows:

Girls: 93.3% positive change **Boys**: 91.3% positive change

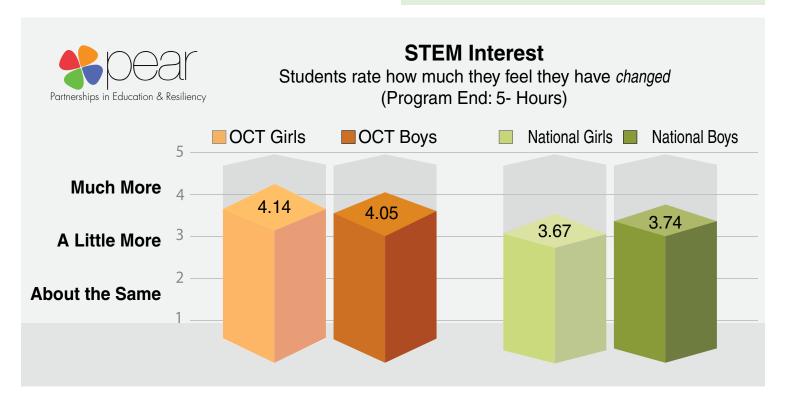
"Overall, STEM-related attitudes varied by grade levels. Generally, both at Outdoor Classroom and nationally, STEM interest in students in grade 6 was significantly lower than students in grade 5 and below."

- PEAR Assessment Summary

Older elementary grades remain our focus—where curiosity begins to fade, and intervention can make a lifelong difference. Brain science indicates a normal atrophy at ages around 5 years-old and before puberty (ages 9-13), whereas functions not developed are naturally dimmed or lost.

"Regarding gender, girls in Outdoor Classroom reported significantly higher change in STEM Interest, Critical Thinking, and Perseverance. Nationally, however, PEAR has observed that boys endorse significantly higher ratings in STEM Interest compared to girls, whereas girls tend to endorse significantly higher ratings in Peer and Adult Relationships than boys. Given that many national and international evaluations have found that girls' attitudes toward science tend to be lower than boys, it is of great interest that Outdoor Classroom programming is having such a positive impact on girls."

- PEAR National Evaluation



Inclusion by Design

Outdoor Classroom Tulsa welcomes explorers of all abilities and backgrounds.

Drawing inspiration from educators and thinkers of the past century, we believe that when we work at the edges of our community—serving those often overlooked—we strengthen the center for everyone. Inclusion is not an afterthought; it is our design principle.

We have humbly hosted Town & Country School, Union's SPED (Special Ed) and ID (Intellectual Disability) programs at Union's Moore Elementary, The Tulsa Boys' Home, and a Saturday Fall Family program for Camp H.O.P.E. from Family Safety Center Tulsa.

The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges completed its fifth visit. This year—trekking wooded trails with wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches before learning





to fish alongside our Naturalist Educator team, guided by University of Tulsa Professor Tipton, FW Murphy Chair of Mechanical Engineering.

In Spring 2025, we welcomed Union High School's **R.I.S.E.** clients—young adults with intellectual disabilities extending their high school years to build workforce and communication skills while earning their GEDs. This year, they are maintaining and learning through our engineered aquaponics classroom system, developing both vocational and environmental literacy.

These young explorers remind us of every day that ability is measured not in limitations, but in persistence, curiosity, and spirit.

"In truth, we often become the learners."

- OCT Naturalist Team



Partnerships 2025 and Beyond

The Power of Collaboration: Expanding Impact Beyond the Woods and back to the communities we serve.

As Outdoor Classroom evolves from its host-organization roots at Camp Loughrige and the Tulsa Garden Center. This independence as a stand-alone non-profit LLC has enabled us to build a dynamic ecosystem of educational, business, and community partners. These collaborations deepen impact across grade levels, expand executive function skills, and prepare youth for future-ready pathways.

- → Tulsa Garden Club, Rotary Club of Tulsa, Tulsa Community Foundation, and The Common Good - NW Hub exemplify the multiplier effect of shared values in youth development.
- → At Rotary's 50th Camp Enterprise, our educators introduced high school juniors to Human-Centered Design Thinking, extending learning threads first planted in 5th grade for many of the participants.
- → Our spring collaboration with Union Public Schools' R.I.S.E. program for young adults with intellectual disabilities (ID) gained district-wide recognition and national attention for inclusive experiential education.

"Our independence has opened the door to deeper, more scalable collaborations."

- Brian Bovaird, Executive Director



Community Partners

2024-2025

Antioch Baptist Church: After-School

Boys & Girls Clubs - Metro Area/Sand Springs

Dove Discovery School

EPIC Charter Schools

Gaining Ground (2024)

Girl Scouts of NEOK/Girls Beyond Bars Pgm

One Hope Oklahoma

Oxley Nature Center

Rotary Club of Tulsa/Camp Enterprise

The Center (for physically limited)

The Common Good - NW Hub

The Opportunity Project

TPS - TRAICE Academy

TRSA - Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance

TU Center for Applied Design Thinking

Tulsa Classical Academy

Tulsa County Parks - Chandler

Tulsa Dream Center - N & W Campuses

Tulsa Garden Center

Tulsa Garden Club - Education

Tulsa Parks - Rec Centers

Tulsa Public Schools

Union Public Schools

Union Public Schools R.I.S.E. Program

YMCA - East Central

YouthWorks





FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES











Site Relocation Exploration – A Spring 2026 Capital **Project**

To sustain and strategically guide our next decade of growth, Outdoor Classroom | Tulsa is actively exploring opportunities for a new Base Camp site. Our current Mohawk Park location—nestled between the 1st and 18th holes of the Blackhawk Disc Golf Course and directly across from the Tulsa Zoo—has served as a remarkable launch point for thousands of young explorers. However, the site's position within an active floodplain with slow drainage, combined with periodic disc golf tournament conflicts has resulted in the displacement or cancellation of 15 scheduled field classes, impacting an estimated 525 students.





Mohawk Park Flooded Activity Areas April - May 2025



Stuart Park, located at the Gilcrease Museum vista and encompassing approximately 425 acres, has emerged as a promising candidate. The property is divided by North 33rd West Avenue, and we are seeking use of the eastern portion adjoining the museum grounds. The site includes a mix of untouched Crosstimbers habitat, groomed activity areas, a lake/pond, and existing vehicular access with an expanded paved parking area—an ideal foundation for program delivery and future infrastructure, out of sight from the Museum.

This exploration is being pursued in collaboration with Tulsa Parks, Bike Club Tulsa, Gilcrease Museum leadership, and University of Tulsa (TU) management liaisons overseeing the property's stewardship. The lease model would mirror our existing Mohawk partnership—a no-cost agreement with Tulsa Parks, with all capital improvements becoming City of Tulsa assets. Discussions also include a potential services agreement with TU for shared

maintenance of formal areas. Standard utilities and operating costs would continue as part of our normal expense structure.

A secondary site under review includes the Tulsa Botanic Garden wilderness area, which would operate through a services contract with the private nonprofit LLC that manages the property. Any capital investment at that site would revert to the LLC upon future relocation.

Because all candidate locations lack Base Camp facilities or utilities, capital investment would be necessary to establish non-permanent classroom structures, for example, climateresilient yurts with a 40-year design



lifespan suitable for Oklahoma conditions.

Strategically, a Northwest Tulsa location would fill a longstanding youth development void, connecting directly to our partner schools along the 36th Street North and MLK corridors and to key community anchors such as the **Tulsa Dream Center, Antioch Baptist** Church, the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club's North Mabee and North Harvard, and the Tulsa Park's Malone **Recreation Center.**

Habitat Restoration and Conservation — Revealing the **WONDER of Nature**

We believe that environmental stewardship nurtures empathy, kindness, and responsibility—qualities that extend beyond the woods and into students' neighborhoods and communities. Since relocating from Woodward Park several years ago, our mission has been to transform our Base Camp region of Mohawk Park into a living laboratory where youth and educators cultivate STEM and life-skill habits through direct hands-on experiences.

As with many public spaces, Mohawk Park faces challenges such as littering and human impact, along with the unfortunate fact we are in a very active floodplain. Our explorers learn Leave No Trace principles and actively participate in restoring fragile forest/swamp ecosystems—seeing firsthand that healing nature helps heal ourselves.

In our ongoing search for a new Base Camp site, we are exploring crosstimber ecosystems that capture the unique diversity of Oklahoma's prairie grasslands and forests. We look to models such as The Nature Conservancy, the Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition (TUWC),



and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Forestry Skills Camp for exemplary approaches to environmental education and natural resource management. Our vision: to create year-round, extended-hour programming that connects students, families, and communities more deeply with the natural world, disconnecting them from the cacophony of their overconnected lives. We let kids be kids and instill self-control.

This past year, our WildSTEM OST initiative offered a semester-long immersion into Park Ecology. Each participant demonstrated a defined competency to earn a state-wide Momentum Digital Badge managed by TRSA—a credential that now lives in their personal academic résumé, supporting pathways toward secondary magnet programs and future STEM or environmental careers.



"The instructors are awesome! They double back and check for understanding, then build off the previous instructor's lesson."

> - Tulsa Public Schools Elementary Teacher

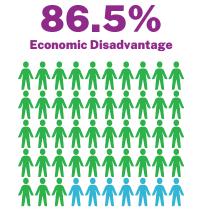
Financial Narrative & Cost Drivers for 2025-26

Outdoor Classroom | Tulsa operates independently as a component entity of the Tulsa Community Foundation's Emerging Non-Profit Program.

Operating and Capital funds are in three TCF accounts: Outdoor Classroom Tulsa Fund, the actual 501(c)3 entity; Outdoor Classroom Tulsa LLC, the operating entity; and special accounts funding non-salary related expenses. All three are combined to calculate the- Cash On Hand.

Donor support of our program yields both measurable long-term outcomes for our students AND financial relief for the families and communities we serve.

Outdoor Classroom indirectly creates an estimated \$130,000 positive impact in the under-served and under-resourced community based on annual data collected by The Opportunity Project and reported in The Business Journal.



This impact is a combination of increased day's attendance by 3-4 school days for kids participating in **Expanded Learning Initiative (ELI)** programs along with our specific after-school (OST) programming resulting in household's day-care offsets. (Source: The Opp)

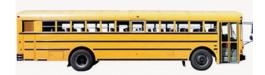
Major Cost Driver

Increase: Transportation remains our most significant operational challenge since inception in 2015.

37% year-to-year increase in transportation costs anticipated.

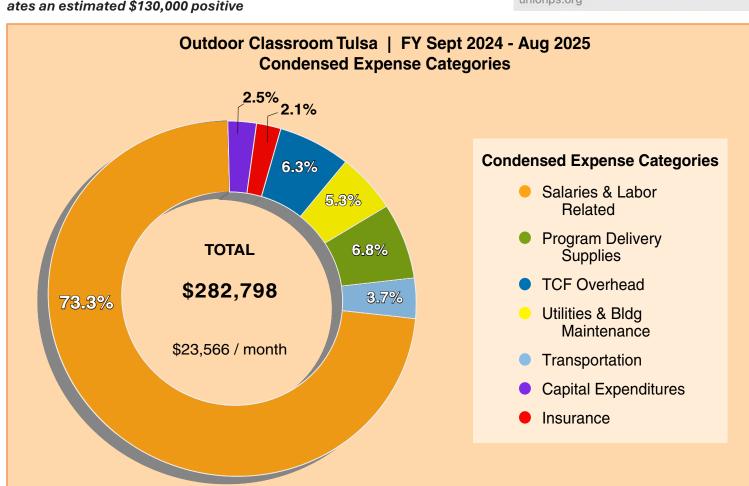
TPS reduced field trip time allowances to 2.5 hours, below Outdoor Classroom standards for effective student engagement

UPS continues to face a driver shortage, and six elementary schools dropped field classes in recent years.



Message to All Families: School Bus Service To Be Limited Due To Driver **Shortage**

unionps.org



Outdoor Classroom - Tulsa Donors

Since December, 2023

Charles & Lynn Schusterman Philanthropy 2024/25

Tulsa Garden Center, Inc. (Transfer 2023)

The Mervin Boyaird Foundation 2023/24

Bovaird, Brian H 2024/25

Stuart Family Foundation

Bovaird, Marian R 2023/24

The Opportuity Project Fund (Summers)

The Howe Foundation 2023/25

Dayton Foundation Depository, Inc.

Bovaird, Blair 2025

FW Murphy Family Foundation

Gaddis, Laura B.

Caldwell, Tim Symmes

Merkel Family Foundation

Bovaird, John

Rudd, Jeffrey T.

Elliott, M

Mann, Jeff

R. B. Snow Charitable Foundation

Tulsa Garden Club

Cooper, Michael

Freese, John Markham

Kach Family Charitable Fund

Robinson, Marellie

Total Funds Raised Since 12/2023=> \$577,295

Cash on Hand October 16, 2025 =>

\$62,760

Est. Remaining Months Operations @ 23,500/

month=>

2.67

"I loved the water pollution demonstration! I think the visual representation will make a lasting impression on the students."

Carnegie Elementary, Fall 2016

Outdoor Classroom contracted with **DS Bus Lines** (a Kincaid subsidiary) for district approved student transport to help regain a 4-5 hour field class experience for youth in both TPS & UPS Districts.

Our 2026 monthly burn-rate is projected at \$24,517/month (a 5-9% increase) year-to-year.

2024-25 FY Performance

Prior year's forecasted burn-rate was \$23,645/month

Actuals: \$23,566/month average,

This variance was driven by reduced summer operating costs due to major changes by TPS & UPS but also does include one-time delayed facility renovations and required start-up capital readiness investments.



Rolling 12-Month Analysis

The \$23,566 shown in the diagram is a rolling 12-month average. The key

component is Salary & Salary related expenses represent 73.3% of total operating costs.

2026 Budget Outlook

Projected monthly budgeted burn-rate: \$24,517

Increase reflects higher transportation, pay increases for Naturalist Educator team, insurance, HR, and accounting costs assessed by Tulsa Community Foundation.

No major capital expenditures are expected until Base Camp relocation plan is finalized for early 2026.

A detailed 2026 calendar year budget is available upon request.

Cash on Hand and Funding Support

Our Cash on Hand \$62,760 as of October 16, 2025 will support approximately 2.7 months of operations into January 2026.

The Call to Action -

Outdoor Classroom is more than enrichment—it is a strategic intervention at the intersection of education, equity, and workforce development. Please support and invest today!

The "Outdoor Classroom Tulsa Fund" can receive charitable donations via mail (checks), cash wire transfer, as well as DTC transfers of stock, corporate bonds and other marketable securities. Please contact the Executive Director for further assistance. We appreciate your support!



The "Cloud in the Bottle" experiment to understand atmospheric pressure changes and Oklahoma weather!

We awaken curiosity. We foster resilience. We empower innovation.











Brian H. Bovaird

Executive Director Naturalist Educator

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Outdoor Classroom - Tulsa

A component entity of the

Tulsa Community Foundation

501(c)3 Not-for-profit

EIN# 73-1554474

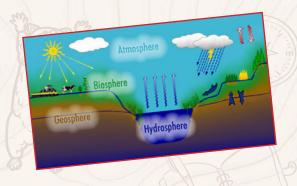
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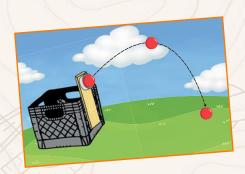
The Bureau

Tulsa, OK

www.tulsabureau.com

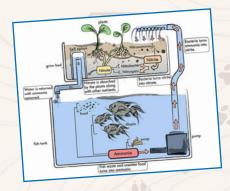


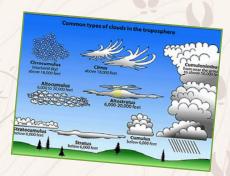




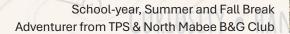








Our Mission: ...through repetitive exploration of a natural living laboratory.







Outdoor Classroom - Tulsa CURIOSITY • HANDS-ON • LIFE SKILLS

EST. 2015

