

SOREEL Meeting

7/24/25 3:00-4:30pm

Round the Room Check In

Kristi: At the Children's Museum, they are getting ready to start a preschool in Grant's pass. Should be open next fall.

Christine B: Teaches ODS with SFI and helps with summer camps and hangs out with PPRV

Kristina: PPRV is planning Moth Night, and they are connecting with multiple schools and summer camps. Ethan is still interested in working on the SOREEL website, but is very busy right now. PPRV is interested in translating their website. They have a plant sale coming up October 12, in Phoenix.

Mikaela: KOSS is wrapping up the last week of summer camp. They had a good season, and they are gearing up for outdoor school and field trips.

Hannah: SFI, they had a lot of summer programming with adult learning, and backpacking with Highschoolers. SFI is looking to do more public free events, they will be doing Perseid Meteor shower watching party August 16. They have more free programming coming up, and lots of day-visits.

Ellie: RFT2S Summer programs and cooking classes with the Ashland Food Coop. Summer programs with Central Point and Rogue River. Starting to gear up for fall field trips.

Elva: KBO has been doing regular weekend bird walks through parks. They are getting ready for field trips and banding stations this fall. Also planning Oak woodland education in classroom.

Libby: Southern Regional Coordinator for Outdoor School. OSU Extension Outdoor School is currently navigating the Oregon Legislature's 20% budget cut. We are trying to distribute the pain of these cuts as equitably as we can across the state, but there will still be impacts to schools and districts as well as ODS providers. Rather than acting unilaterally, we have been running focus groups and surveys to hear from our community. We are using your feedback to develop cost saving scenarios that will be voted on by our Advisory Committee in early August. Stay tuned for more information.

Bill Hunt: Adventures Oregon, Adventures Europe. Working with HS kids. Using the outdoors as your classroom, teacher training programs. They are going to Europe for a year, doing education and Teacher training about environmental ed in European Union systems. Bill wants us to know that their office in Germany will still be able to take our calls. Bill has camping gear if any of us want it.

Paul Sheldon: The Crest at Willow Witt 450 acres in Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. They are in week 6 of 7 weekly summer camp sessions. They had the annual Turtle Trot and the Crest Fest music festival, Moth Night with PPRV. They are starting to branch out, doing nature journaling in the conservation burial ground. They share an office with Friends of CSNM

Daniel: Friends of CSNM, 25th anniversary of the monument's designation. Interpretive rangers are coming to the end of their term. Kids have been coming to the green springs loop trail doing biodiversity activities and interpretive hikes and programs. They have ethnobotany and seed collection activities coming up. In August they have a program about grasshoppers coming up. Not a lot of programs in mid-summer. Work parties and beaver dam type restoration projects in the fall. Talent Harvest Festival is coming up. It's an awesome event if you have a kid activity attract people to the event.

Tara: SOLC, and Chair of EEAO Board. SOLC education program continues to grow. They now have a district wide contract with Eagle Point School district, for summer activities. They will be hosting a national convening of Land Trust Educators in March first week of March 2026. Because there are so many conservation adjacent programs and people in our area, and those folks are invited as well. Including an ongoing community of practice. Consider attending if you're interested in education programs tied to land conservation in perpetuity.

Bethany: ODS Coordinator Rogue EE at Camp Myrtlewood. Waiting to hear about ODS funding. Gearing up for fall programming. They have seven weeks of programming scheduled. Starting hiring seasonal staff. They just wrapped up an overnight summer camp with 60 3rd-6th graders, four nights. 90% local kids around Camp Myrtlewood, and 53 kids got full scholarships.

Greg (not in attendance but sent email): RVCOG is planning a Salmon Watch training. See Greg's recent email to the SOREEL Group.

Regarding North Mountain Park Nature Center

The working group did not yet send a letter to the Parks Commission, because the status of things at the center may not be as dire as previously thought.

Kirsten Kane is the new Environmental Education Coordinator at APRC. They are painting the Nature Center Building. The Garden Club members still come to care for the gardens. NMP still reached out for Community Program submissions. Salmon Watch is going out there this fall. Sulaiman Shelton will be moving his office to the Center.

Right now, it's looking like they will not be restarting youth educational programs, but that they won't be throwing out the materials either.

The Salmon Fest has been canceled. But another alternate event a "Return of the Salmon Field Day" is being planned by RVCOG and PPRV. October 18. Kristina will send us information about that event. Greg Stabach sent out a plan for a Family Day in October from 10-2, at North Mountain Park. Kristina will ask Greg to share with the SOREEL group.

Elva is dedicated to keeping Rogue Valley Bird Day alive, through continued partnership with a planning team. KBO might take over quite a bit of the planning and marketing now that Jen is gone.

We could still put together a letter from SOREEL explaining that we appreciate the efforts to save the Center, but that we would like to partner and utilize those educational materials.

- ☐ Elva thinks that Kirsten would be open to connecting with us, and will send her an invite.

SOREEL Website

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/soreel/home>

We've updated the table that's on the website, and we'd like every SOREEL member to update their information.

We will send an email to SOREEL and ask everyone to update their information. Invite people to visit the SOREEL website, click on the SOREEL Roster to expand it. Then, request permission to edit the spreadsheet. Tara will give permission to edit and you can update your organization's record.

Once the website is updated, we can share this with people who are interested in other opportunities.

Suggest that SOREEL partners can link to us from their own website:

- ☐ Elva will create the verbiage for all our websites. Something like: ____ is a proud member of SOREEL.
- ☐ Libby will send Elva the SOREEL logo

Tara is open to adding any of us as co-editors to the website. OR we could hire a programmer to make a better site?

What is the purpose behind our website, now? Are we the ones utilizing this or is the public using this? Do we want to be more structured?

What is the current purpose behind SOREEL?

We are in a period of scarcity right now.

Our purpose might be primarily networking, to provide support to each other
Secondarily: SOREEL is potentially a marketing tool to teachers and school districts who don't utilize our services. (Add a note addressing Teachers, directly, at the top of the website)

Another goal is to try to include incoming professionals and invite other community members who might be working in tangential fields.

We could possibly use SOREEL for some advocacy. A place to highlight the importance of EE and advocate about the impact of our work.

With the loss of the Masters in EE and loss of much federal funding, maybe we can be more of an advocate for the importance of this work.

- ☐ Ellie: Send a message to SOREEL to invite them to edit the spreadsheet, within a month.
- ☐ Tara will add Elva as an editor, who can look at the Google Analytics.

Next meeting

We want to hold meetings every two months, approximately.

So, the next one would be the last Thursday of the month in September.

September 25th at 3pm Hopefully at ScienceWorks Hands on Museum, in Ashland.

- ☐ Johnnie, does this date work for you to host?

