



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ann Shultz

Phone: 503-951-3417

E-mail: pr@oregoncapitolfoundation.org

Five ways for kids to learn about Oregon government

The Oregon State Capitol Foundation wants kids to learn how ideas become law

SALEM, Ore. 13 JULY, 2020 — Summer's a great time for kids to learn about Oregon's history and how to get involved with our state's government.

The Oregon State Capitol Foundation encourages kids to check out these five fun ways to learn about the legislative process and discover our state's rich history:

1. Take a virtual tour of the Capitol and grounds

Learn about unique features of your Oregon State Capitol and our state's history from the comfort of your home. Take a 360-degree virtual tour and explore the most popular areas of the Capitol such as the rotunda, House and Senate chambers, rooftop viewing deck and surrounding grounds. To access the tour, visit www.oregonlegislature.gov/capitolhistorygateway or text Oregon to 24587 on your smartphone.

2. Complete fourth-grade lesson plans

There are fourth-grade lesson plans available at www.oregoncapitol.com (click the Educators & Students tab) for anyone interested in Oregon government. Other materials found under the Citizen Engagement tab will help kids learn about how government works and how a bill becomes a law.

3. Get involved in the Kid Governor program

Fifth-grade students learn about civics and democracy through Oregon's Kid Governor program. Kids participate through their schools. Students "vote" in their classrooms just like registered voters do in the November statewide election. They can also nominate a student to run for office. Student candidates pick a platform to support on a community issue that is important to them. Oregon's 2020 Kid Governor is Raaga Mandala of Jacob Wismer Elementary School in Portland. Her platform is the transition of homeless people into permanent housing. To learn more about how to get your school involved in the Kid Governor program, visit www.or.kidgovernor.org. Interested in running for Kid Governor? Pick a platform now and think about ways to support the cause.

4. Become an Honorary Page in the House or Senate chamber

Kids 12 and older who want to learn firsthand how ideas become law can apply to be an honorary page. A page helps state lawmakers in either the House or the Senate chamber for a day. Duties vary but can include copying, filing and running errands. Contact the senator or representative for your district to learn more. Even though legislators are not in session currently, kids can reach out to them now and express interest for the next session. To find out

who your district's legislators are go to www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html.

5. Subscribe to Oregon State Capitol Foundation blog

The semi-monthly blog highlights facts and details about Oregon's history to inspire even its youngest readers. Kids will discover and learn about important milestones, events and influential Oregonians through the blog as well. Subscribe at www.oregoncapitolfoundation.org/subscribe.

"We hope kids will take interest in Oregon's government and learn more about our state's history in these unique ways," said Judy Hall, vice chair of the Oregon State Capitol Foundation. "We encourage kids to discover their interests in democracy and become the leaders of tomorrow."

About the Oregon State Capitol Foundation

The nonprofit Oregon State Capitol Foundation works to enhance the beauty of the Oregon State Capitol and preserve the history it represents. We also fund educational programs focused on Oregon's heritage and democracy. Our volunteer board of directors shares a deep love for the Capitol and its history. Board members include current and past elected state officials, former state agency staff and current and former legislative advocates. For more information, visit www.oregoncapitolfoundation.org or call 503-363-1859.

###