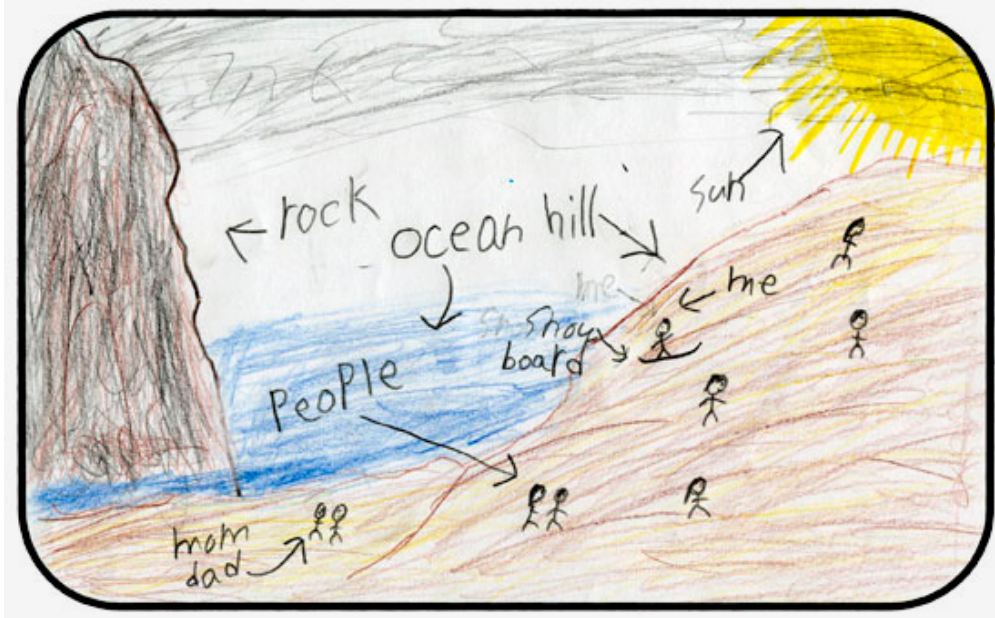


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## Oregon Student Essays 2017 Web Exhibit



Island City third grade student, Quinton Smith, drew this picture of a sandy hill at the coast as part of an essay about his favorite Oregon outdoor memory for the 2017 contest.

### About the 2017 Exhibit

Oregonians have a long history of participating in outdoor recreational activities. Oregonians and visitors alike have skied, fished, hiked, boated, biked or camped across our beautiful state. For 2017, the *Oregon Blue Book* focused on outdoor recreational activities in the Oregon Cascades. The secretary of state encouraged our elementary and middle school students to participate in the second ever *Oregon Blue Book* essay contest. The 2017 essay questions were:

#### Elementary School

(75-150 words): What is your favorite thing to do in Oregon's great outdoors? Describe a fun memory of spending time outdoors in Oregon.

#### Middle School

(100-200 words): Oregon is a great place to play outdoors. You can camp, raft, ski, hike, boat, surf, or just take a walk. If you have a friend coming to visit you in Oregon who has never been here before, where would you take them for a fun outdoor activity and what would you do?

This exhibit features the winning essays and finalists in each category. The essays are displayed as written. Most are illustrated by images from the Oregon State Archives.

Note: Some images have been tinted for exhibit purposes.

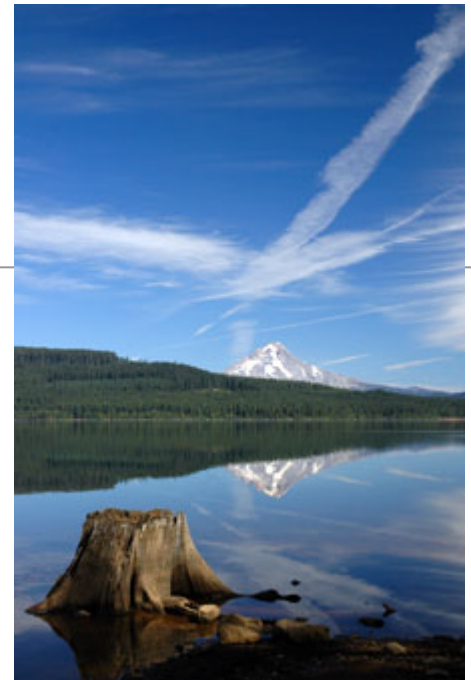
## Elementary school student essays (Favorite Oregon outdoor memory)

[Jada Jones](#), contest winner

[Colton Anderson](#), contest runner-up

[Cora Snoke](#), contest runner-up

[Quinton Smith](#), contest runner-up



Many of the essays focus on the scenic beauty of Oregon. Shown here is Timothy Lake with Mt. Hood in the background. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

## Middle school student essays (Oregon outdoor visit for friend)

[Soren Nilsen-Goodin](#), contest winner

[Hayes Blackman](#), contest runner-up

[Jake Hale](#), contest runner-up

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**Oregon Student Essays Web Exhibit 2017**

**Elementary School Category**

"Mending Lila" by:

**Jada Jones, Essay Contest Winner**

Illustration by Mizuki Maddock  
Ashley Baker's Fourth Grade Class  
Yujin Gakuen School, Eugene

Mizuki is my best friend we both heard about this competition. She drew this picture for you and maybe the book.



A butterfly with a torn wing drawn by Mizuki Maddock to illustrate this essay.

My most memorable Oregon experience was camping along the Crooked River with family. We fly fished for trout and watched birds hunt in the canyon. This whole area is beautiful.

On the first day of our trip I saw a Monarch butterfly. I got close and noticed a large tear in it's wing. I asked my parents how we could help. They couldn't fix the wing, but said I could find it nectar.

For the next few days I cared for Lila. She held on to me wherever I went. On the fourth day we needed to head back home and I couldn't take her with us. I wished she could fly again and continue her journey. At that moment, Lila said good bye and flew away.

I will always remember this experience. I hope you are able to have an experience in Oregon you will never forget.



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## Oregon Student Essays Web Exhibit 2017

### Elementary School Category

"Frog Lake" by:

**Colton Anderson, Essay Contest Runner-up**

Maggie Harlow's Fifth Grade Class  
Memorial Elementary, McMinnville



Frog Lake is one of many scenic lakes near Mount Hood. Shown above is nearby Trillium Lake, another popular destination. (Oregon State Archives Photo).

Frog Lake is nestled in Mt. Hood National Park a mile off the highway. On the Frog Lake Trail about 4 miles up is a beautiful lake about 2 feet at its deepest. During the winter it freezes almost to the bottom. It is surrounded by a dense forest and the wide trail cut right through it. The lake is completely clear all the way to the bottom.

My dad and I have snowshoed up there with our skates over our shoulders, sticks, and our puck, and played hockey. He taught me some techniques on skating and puck handling. We camped up there for three days and it was lots of fun. On the third day we hiked back, got in the old S10 [pick-up truck] and drove home.

Once we got home we told stories about how fun it was. I can't wait to go back again!

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## Oregon Student Essays Web Exhibit 2017

### Elementary School Category

"Apple Gate Lake" by:

#### **Cora Snoke, Essay Contest Runner-up**

Sara Major's Fourth/Fifth Grade Class  
Rush Community School, Jacksonville



Boats sit at a boat ramp at Applegate Lake. (Oregon State Archives Photo)



# Apple Gate Lake

When me and my dad took the boat out to Apple Gate Lake it was the most exciting time of my life! The minute the boat hit the water I was ready to go.

As we went I was indeed impatient with excitement! Then my dad said I could cast my bait and lower it in the water. I was so excited, furthermore I was hungry.

We sat for awhile. I sat and ate crackers. Then I felt a tug. I was so excited! I could hear the splash of the fish. I felt like I would get pulled in. As the tension got stronger my dad got the net. As my dad cut the fish, I could smell it so much. I felt like I could taste it.

We caught more fish and had fun. We drove home and ate fish with pride.

Typed Text of Essay

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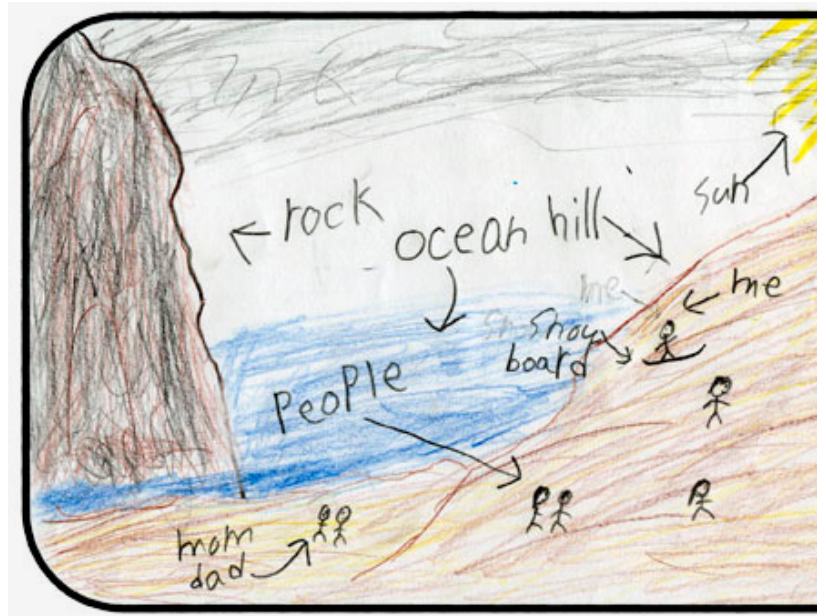
### Elementary School Category

"The Sandy Hill" by:

#### Quinton Smith, Essay Contest Runner-up

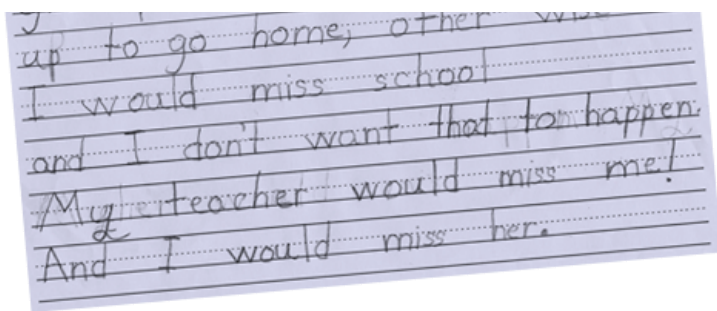
Mrs. Wright's Third Grade Class  
Island City Elementary, Island City

Island City third grade student, Quinton Smith, drew this picture of a sandy hill at the coast as part of an essay about his favorite Oregon outdoor memory.





When I got to the hill on the Oregon Coast beach, I started climbing, and climbing, and climbing, until I got to the top! I took a big breath, the air smelt like sea salt. When I turned around the view was glorious! I looked the other way and I saw the blue sea. It was awesome I could see miles, and miles, of ocean! It was cool. And then I ran down the hill to tell mom. Then I ran down the hill for fun again and again. Once I slid down on a giant frisbee it was fun. The air tasted like sea salt. But the sound was cooler it was, like the ocean was singing to me. Then my friend came to join me, he had a great time with me. Then my mom and dad joined with me. Some of my family joined, we had a great time. My dad and mom really liked the view. The next day I had a snow board, but I used it on the sand instead of snow. It worked out really good!! After a little bit, we went to our grandpas house to pack



## Typed Text of Essay

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## **Oregon Student Essays Web Exhibit 2017**

### **Middle School Category**

"Wahclella Falls" by:

#### **Soren Nilsen-Goodin, Essay Contest Winner**

Lisa Colombo's Sixth Grade Class  
Southwest Charter School, Portland



Wahclella Falls in the Columbia River Gorge. (Photo courtesy Kelvin Kay via Wikimedia)

Located near the Columbia River, it's an amazing place to hike, to swim and to have fun. As soon as you walk into the forest everything stops. The bustling of the city stops. The sound of cars speeding down the road stops. Everything stops. Except for Nature. The sounds of nature start. The pleasant sound of birds chirping. Trees swaying and especially the waterfall.

The closer you get to the waterfall it sounds like thunder. Thunder and rain. And then you look at the creek. You see fish jumping in the rapids. You think about what a pleasant day there having. Just like you. And this is why I would take a friend to Wahclella Falls.



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## Oregon Student Essays Web Exhibit 2017

### Middle School Category

"The Oregon Surf" by:

#### Hayes Blackman, Essay Contest Runner-up

Lynette Gottlieb's Seventh Grade Class  
Ashbrook Independent School



The beach near Otter Crest. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

Oregon has some of the most special surfing on the planet. If I had a friend visit I would take them surfing. He may not be used to the cold water, but I promise my friend will fall in love with surfing. Getting up for your first time on the board, feeling the salt spray on your face, that is what nature is all about. Surfing is for all ages, whether you're eight or eighty. It is the essence of the outdoors.

I love the beaches and I never want to have to let the go. With all the beautiful places to surf in Oregon my family's favorite is Otter's Crest. It's not terribly large, but it's still amazing. The water can be so chilled that your feet turn blue. If you swim out far enough you discover a marvelous kelp forest. When the water is clear you can see the kelp glisten. I want someone else to see this beauty and fall in love. This beach of mine is what I love and will always savor.



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## Oregon Student Essays Web Exhibit 2017

### Middle School Category

"Oregon Adventure!" by:

#### **Jake Hale, Essay Contest Runner-up**

Scott Buchanan's Eighth Grade Class  
Crook County Middle School, Prineville



Steins Pillar towers over the forest in the Ochoco Mountains. (Oregon State Archives Photo)

Oregon's forests are great places to take a friend out who's never been to Oregon. From Spring there's horseback riding, turkey hunting, and even the start of fishing. Then there's Fall, the start of hunting season. My most favorite time of the year.

If I was to have a friend come over to Oregon and stay here, I'd take him out too the Ochoco Mountains. They are a great place for mostly any outdoor activity and have a wide expanse of land. Plus, the Ochocos are my backyard. I've been around them most of my life and I wouldn't trade them for anything.

Since I grew up in a hunting family, I would take my friend out hunting. I'd take him out just for the experience of the beauty of nature and the thrill of being able to provide for you and your family. Whether it be coyotes or sage rats, we'd still have a great time. This is what I do, no one can take it away from me. This is what we find fun in around Central Oregon. I know that that friend who would be coming here would have a blast being in the outdoors of Oregon.