

Spring Open House and Annual Meeting Sunday May 4, 2025

The Outdoor Lab welcomes all Arlington Families to the Open House. Come explore our 226 acres of mountain trails, meadows, streams and pond. While at the Lab, your family can:

- fish in the pond (cane poles & worms provided)
- paddle our boats (canoes and kayaks available)
- hike our trails (over 5 miles, various hiking abilities)
- observe critters in our Nature Center (turtles, snakes and more)
- find a perfect spot for a family picnic (bring your lunch)

Open House Tickets will be available soon at www.outdoorlab.org

You can Volunteer at the Open House!

Great for families or teens who love the outdoors (and need community service hours). Come out and help with the Open House. Gather your friends, Scout Troop, Environmental Club or Neighbors. We need volunteers to get guests into/out of canoes, get worms onto hooks/fish off hooks, and help get s'mores off the fire and into mouths of guests.

[Volunteer registration is open now!](#)

Annual Meeting

We'll hold our Annual Meeting at 11am in-person at the Lab AND remotely via Zoom. If you'd like to join via Zoom, email secretary@outdoorlab.org for the Zoom link.

Remember to donate to be able to vote in this year's Board of Directors election.



APS Budget Season

Arlington Public Schools recently released their proposed 2025-26 budget. We are pleased to report that there are no cuts to Outdoor Lab programming at this time.

Regarding staffing, the current proposal maintains 6.75 FTEs (1 Supervisor, 1 Teacher/Coordinator, 1 Custodian, and 3.75 Lab Assistants).

On the transportation front, the budget now separately itemizes the cost of bus trips to the Outdoor Lab (\$99,775) from general transportation line items.

This is terrific news for Arlington students! We extend our sincere thanks to Superintendent Dr. Francisco Durán and the School Board for their continued support of outdoor education.

AOEA Seeking New Student Board Members

High School Students - AOEА seeks a rising junior or senior as a student Board Member for a one-year term to represent APS students on the Board. [Applications](#) for the upcoming school year are due March 31.

You can learn more [here](#) or by emailing the Nominating Committee at boardnominations@outdoorlab.org.

Summer Camp Counselors Needed

Summer Camp Counselors-in-Training/Junior Staff:

There are three weeks of Outdoor Lab overnight summer camp: June 23-27, July 7-11 and July 14-18. Current students in grades 9 through 11 are invited to apply for a volunteer CIT/Junior Staff position; [applications](#) are due Fri., March 28.

Outdoor Lab Survey - Your Insights Matter



Thanks to everyone who participated in our recent survey. Your feedback helps us prepare for the future. Many of you shared terrific stories about your Outdoor Lab experiences and we'll be highlighting a few of them throughout the year.

"I have such fond memories going to the Outdoor Lab in 3rd, 5th, and 7th grade and at open houses throughout the year. Fishing at the pond with my friends, hiking along the stream, running in the meadow, warming up with hot chocolate inside the cottage are all moments I look back on often. I think visits to the Outdoor Lab fostered in me and my classmates a deep love for nature and a sense of collective ownership and responsibility for our common home. I'm grateful for the work you all do."

"I was in 4th or 5th grade and my group was walking up the Martin Trail and we came across an eastern rat snake and then there was a quick impromptu lesson about snakes and eastern rat snakes specifically. It was just a really cool opportunity made possible by the environment that we were in and the staff that were there leading us through it. I also have really fond memories of being on the night hike and playing barred owl calls on a speaker into the woods. We were all waiting quietly and then a real owl called back to us and flew over the meadow we were in."

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Arlington Outdoor Education Association

www.outdoorlab.org



Arlington Outdoor Education Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that owns and conserves the 226-acre property and facilities of the Outdoor Lab. Our long standing partnership with Arlington Public Schools provides teachers, curriculum and transportation. You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website, made a gift or signed up for one of our events.

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