

## Outdoor Adventures (OA) FAQs

### What is Outdoor Adventures K-12?

Outdoor Adventures K-12 (OA) is a comprehensive outdoor education curriculum developed and implemented by the Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation (OTF). The curriculum is usually infused into a school's physical education program but may also be offered as an elective or agricultural science class. Students learn outdoor skills they will use and enjoy for a lifetime through an integrated curriculum that incorporates STEM and critical thinking. Outdoor Adventures is inclusive of all students, and teachers may choose any of the 40 different units (360 lessons) the curriculum contains.

### Curriculum Access and Canvas Questions

The OA K-12 curriculum (40 units/360 lessons) is on the OTF's Canvas account. Canvas is a curriculum delivery system. The OTF can update lessons in real-time.

#### **How do I access or reset my password for the OA curriculum?**

When the OTF receives a purchase order or credit card payment for the curriculum, the OTF will send the teacher(s) needing access to the curriculum an invitation from Canvas Instructure. The email will come from Canvas Instructure or Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation. The OTF must have the teacher's name, email address and school name to send the invitation. If the teacher does not receive the invitation email, they need to check the spam folder or contact their school's IT Department and ask them to unblock the email. If that still does not work, email [info@GoOTF.com](mailto:info@GoOTF.com) for assistance.

Once you have access to the Canvas account and you need to reset your password, please use this link: <https://oa.instructure.com>

#### ***I have the Canvas invitation, what do I do next?***

Please note the Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation (OTF) Canvas is a separate account from your school's Canvas account. When you receive the OTF's Canvas invitation, you will be asked if you currently have a Canvas account or not. Select **you do not** have an OTF Canvas account – you will create a new account for the OTF access, and you will be directed to create a password and then directly to the OTF's Canvas site. **If you select you do have a Canvas account, then you will be directed to your school's Canvas account and not to the OTF Canvas account.** Please log in and follow the details below so you can access the entire Outdoor Adventures K-12 curriculum:

#### **Log-In:**

- Every teacher will receive a form to complete for their login to be set-up.
- Once you login please change your password.
- To change password, go to Account on left hand side bar . Select Settings and then on the far-right side select edit settings . Then select change password in the center of the page . Password:  Change Password
- Once you have done this click on Home to see how to view lessons and content.
- Click on Modules and then expand the individual units of study. There is a tutorial link for help.
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- To download course files, see tutorial link for help.
- If your school already uses Canvas, you may need to ask your IT Department to help you create a new way to login to a separate Canvas account.

#### **Is OA copyrighted?**

The OA curriculum is copyrighted. The license is for your school only, not the entire district. A district-wide license is available at an additional cost. Contact [Info@GoOTF.com](mailto:Info@GoOTF.com) if interested.

#### **Why should a school offer Outdoor Adventures?**

- Offers an option for students who may not have found their niche in other school activities.
- Adaptable for all students, regardless of physical abilities.
- Proven to improve overall well-being and academic achievement, including social skills and stress management.
- Often results in development of and participation in competitive clubs or teams in archery, shooting sports, and fishing.
- Skills learned in the class are both useful and enjoyable, and students learn about natural resource conservation.
- Students learn about career options they would not otherwise have learned about such as being a wildlife biologist, natural resource officer, outdoor industry professional, outdoor media professional, and many others.

#### **Are all or any units required to be taught?**

No. The curriculum includes 40 units, and a school may teach those units most applicable to their geographic location or other criteria. Some schools opt not to teach hunter education, but often teach wildlife conservation, which covers the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation.

#### **What schools can use OA? Can a homeschooler use OA? Can a 4-H club use OA?**

- Any public or private school, Kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as institutions of higher education, may use Outdoor Adventures. Outdoor Adventures is used as a physical education course by colleges, and as a teacher preparation course for physical education and agriculture science.
- Outdoor Adventures works best with a cooperative or consortium of homeschoolers, but yes, it may be used in the homeschool setting.
- There are also public parks and recreation departments, clubs, churches, and other groups that use Outdoor Adventures in after-school and summer programs.

#### **Who can teach the OA K-12 course?**

Existing or new PE teacher, coach, agricultural science teacher, resource officer, science teacher or any staff member.

#### **How much does it cost?**

The OTF provides multiple options available online: [Shop - Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation \(gootf.com\)](http://Shop-OutdoorsTomorrowFoundation(gootf.com))

#### **What are the different teacher training opportunities?**

Training is required to teach:

Hunter education, Boater education, NASP archery, ATV Safety, Trapping

Most state departments of natural resources or fish and game provide these trainings and others free of charge or for a nominal fee.

NASP® specific dates and locations: NASP® - National Archery in the Schools Program - BAI Manager ([naspbai.org](http://naspbai.org))

The OTF offers various opportunities for professional development—see [Shop - Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation \(gootf.com\)](http://Shop - Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation (gootf.com))

#### **What is the best class size?**

For safety purposes the OTF recommends a 20:1 ratio of students to teachers with a maximum of 25 students.

#### **What are the top units for secondary schools?**

In order of preference from student surveys: angler education, NASP® Archery, orienteering, outdoor cooking, survival skills, hunter education/wildlife conservation

#### **What are the best units for elementary schools?**

The OA elementary curriculum has eight specific units for K-5th grade. The ten elementary units include: hiking, camping, orienteering, angler education, NASP, wildlife conservation, survival skills, fauna flora, water safety and paddle sports (kayak, etc). While any of these units can be taught K-5th grade, the OTF specifically wrote the NASP® unit for 4th and 5th grade.

#### **What certifications are offered in the OA curriculum?**

Depending on a state's requirements, students may earn certifications in:

- hunter education
- boater education
- ATV safety
- trapping
- CPR/first aid

Teachers must be certified for students to earn certificates, except for CPR/first aid, which a school nurse, athletic trainer, or other community medical professional may assist with.

#### **What resources are available to get students involved in outdoor activities?**

The OTF website will soon list resources to help students continue outdoor activities, but one of the best resources is your state department of natural resources or fish and game.

#### **What are the curriculum and customer support options?**

Every unit has STEM, career, cross-curricular, and community projects listed in the unit overview.

All lessons include modifications for different learners.

All lessons, as well as the scope and sequence, have the new Outdoor Pursuits standards updated and aligned to the National PE SHAPE Standards.

Outdoor Adventures Managers are assigned to schools to provide customer support with the curriculum, equipment, and opportunities.

Monthly newsletters with announcements, new lesson ideas, student programs, grants, and teacher training.

Staff/Professional Development – half and full day in person

Staff/Professional Development videos

OTF has two Outdoor Adventures Support Ninjas – [Bonnie@GoOTF.com](mailto:Bonnie@GoOTF.com); [Amy@GoOTF.com](mailto:Amy@GoOTF.com)

### **What is the key to a successful OA program?**

The teacher!

Successful OA classes around the country are taught by teachers with no prior outdoor experience and teachers who have been lifelong outdoor recreationists. The key is dedication and commitment to learning and passing on knowledge and skills to the students. Teacher training, professional development, and the design of the curriculum all work to ensure the success of every OA teacher.

### **What do principals say about OA?**

“The Outdoor Adventures program has been a great addition to the programs available for our students. It has provided opportunities for students in so many areas. The course provides an excellent option for all students to obtain PE credit, but for us, it has proven to be much more than a PE credit. As a byproduct of the course, we have started three clubs that continue growing in interest. The archery, competitive shooting, and fishing clubs have become extremely popular among students in our district. Students from middle school to seniors have found a niche that gives them a place to belong. The vision of providing a safe and productive activity for our students who had nowhere to go after school has become our school's state championship-winning archery team. Our students can be found in the archery arena practicing early in the morning and after the final bell. Students have been committed to practice, but what I see more as an administrator is parents of the middle school students excited about their students' involvement, resulting in a willingness to bring them to early morning practice, which allows them to be involved in ways they had not been in the past. The students are committed to building strong teams that continue to grow and include all levels of students. All the barriers have disappeared when they are together. Our program has grown to over 600 students participating in the Outdoor Adventures courses each year, after only being in existence for three years. The key to the success of our program begins with an excellent educator who is committed to the well-rounded success of all our students, regardless of their economic standing or rank in their class.”

--Jill Stafford, Principal, Lowery Freshman Center

### **What are some additional funding options for an Outdoor Adventures class?**

- Local businesses and individual donors.
- District education foundation grants – typically support new programming and increased success if implementation is throughout a specified level, district-wide or K-12 implementation.
- District technology or textbook funding for curriculum purchase.
- Title IV, Part A - Allowable Activities and Use of Funds: Support a healthy, active lifestyle, including nutritional education and regular, structured physical education activities and programs, that may address chronic disease management with instruction led by school nurses, nurse practitioners, or others to help maintain the well-being of students. Instruction, programs, or activities in languages

other than English or environmental education. Other activities and programs to support student access to, and success in, a variety of well-rounded education experiences.

- Donors Choose - <https://www.donorschoose.org/>
- Local conservation or outdoor recreation chapters/groups/businesses such as: Delta Waterfowl, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Safari Club International, Sierra Club, Wildlife Conservation Society, The Nature Conservancy, Coastal Conservation Association, local hiking groups, fishing groups, outdoor gear shops.
- State agencies: Many states have grant programs to help purchase conservation education programs like Outdoor Adventures.
- Other possible grant sources:
  - <https://www.usgrants.org/>
  - <https://www.fundforteachers.org/about-us.php>
  - <https://mccartheydressman.org/teacher-development-grants/>
  - <https://we.riseup.net/giip+grants/jordan-fundamentals>
  - <https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/funding-information>
  - <https://corporate.target.com/sustainability-esg/community-engagement/corporate-giving?platform=hootsuite>
  - <https://www.nationalrecreationfoundation.org/our-grants/outdoor-grants/outdoor-grants/>
  - <https://www.keenfootwear.com/keen-grants.html>

#### **Can an athlete take Outdoor Adventures P.E. class at the same time (Texas specific question)?**

The following response is specific to Texas schools. Athletes can enroll in Adventures/Outdoor Pursuits Section 116.63 during the same semester with local school approval. In the past, athletes could not enroll in a P.E. class the same semester as athletics. In the UIL Side by Side Manual 2010, page 11....

“May a student enroll in more than one physical education class in the same school day? The Texas Administrative Code does not prohibit a student from enrolling in any number of state approved courses. However, UIL rules specifically prohibit students from being enrolled in more than one physical education and/or athletic class; Exception (with local school approval): PE Class: Adventure/Outdoor Pursuits; PE Substitute: JROTC, Cheerleading, Drill Team, Marching Band.”

#### **Who do I contact to get more information?**

- Director of Education – Scot McClure 469-805-2390 Scot@GoOTF.com
- Outdoor Adventures Coordinator – Tari Garner – 816-739-1107 Tari@GoOTF.com
- Info@GoOTF.com