

# SMILE Teacher Newsletter

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Oregon State University  
Precollege Programs



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## Quick Links

[Click Here](#) for the 2023 Challenge Resources Google Drive Folder!

[Click Here](#) to register for the Spring Teacher Workshop!

[Click Here](#) for 2023 Winter Teacher Workshop Materials!

## Upcoming Events

- Challenge Events Throughout April.
- Spring Teacher Workshop: May 11 - 13, at H.J. Andrews Experimental Research Forest.
- Summer Teacher Workshop: August 7 - 9, at OSU

[Check out our website:  
smile.oregonstate.edu](http://smile.oregonstate.edu)

## Challenge Reminders

- For clubs participating in the MS Challenge on April 4 and 5, **paperwork is due Friday, March 17.**
- For all other clubs, **paperwork is due Friday, March 24.**

Paperwork includes adult and student waivers, and two registration forms: one for adults and one for students. The registration forms are spreadsheets in your club's folder. *Students can't attend without waivers and registration completed.*

[Click Here](#), for the Challenge Teacher Resources folder, which contains all of the necessary forms.

Contact [Becca](#) or [Kami](#) if you have any questions.

**Bus Driver Lodging** - if your bus driver needs a hotel room, please have your school district make the arrangements and SMILE will reimburse them for the cost.

**Student Information** - Please let us know ahead of time if you have any students with limited mobility so we can plan accordingly. During the Challenge, ensure that you have access to any pertinent student medical information in case of a medical emergency. SMILE staff only has access to students' dietary needs.

## Challenge Schedule



An itinerary will be provided prior to your event, contact [Becca](#) if you need more details at this time.



- **HS** – April 18, at WOU, April 19, at OSU\* - Cave Junction, Four Rivers, Forest Grove, Medford, Nyssa, Ontario, Siletz, Willamina, Woodburn
- **MS** – April 4, at WOU, April 5, at OSU - Dayton, Lebanon, Monroe, Siletz, Woodburn
- **MS** – April 11, at WOU, April 12, at OSU\* - Cave Junction, Grants Pass, Nyssa, Ontario
- **ES** – April 7, at BSU - Four Rivers and Nyssa
- **ES** – April 15, at OSU - Chiloquin, Dayton, Forest Grove, Willamina, Woodburn
- **ES** – April 22, at SOU - Grants Pass and Cave Junction's 5th graders

**Note:** All bedding will be provided to those staying at WOU.

\* Distance clubs have the option of staying a second night in the dorms at WOU.

# The Impact of Challenge Events

SMILE teachers, **thank you** for all of your efforts to prepare your club for this year's Challenge! Whether you've been a SMILE teacher for one year or 15, we know it's been no small task to arrange transportation during bus driver shortages and to get the necessary paperwork in order. So why are Challenges important and what are the benefits to your club members? For some inspiration, we'd like to share some quotes from former SMILE members (now OSU students), about the positive impact of Challenge events. These excerpts came from recent SMILE scholarship applications. Through the Challenge, it is our goal to create an unforgettable, enriching experience for you and your students, and we can't wait to see everyone next month!

"College was something new that I found intimidating, especially because I felt that since no one in my family ever completed that level of education, I would not be ready for it. But with the introduction of the SMILE program, I was able to gain experiences of what college was like. I liked how the SMILE program made attending college realistic for anyone. My favorite part of the program was the Middle School Challenge because that was where I connected with current students at Oregon State. That was where I connected with one student in particular that came from a very similar background. That experience of connecting with someone with a similar background made me realize that I could accomplish the same things other people could, even though I had a disadvantage."

"SMILE allowed me to participate in Challenges that were based on different STEM career fields. It was what allowed me to focus my career in the Agriculture Department. I personally believe SMILE helped me explore my different career options and find what I truly would like to do with the rest of my life."



"The friends I made in my local SMILE club and at the SMILE Challenges are like-minded people I know I never would have even met if I wasn't a member. I can still remember sitting in a large meeting room with the SMILE students and the advisors, eating pizza while 5 and 9 year awards were being passed out and talking with my new friends Issac and Carlos, about our future plans. The friends I made and the realization that I actually could be an engineer on the cutting edge that I always wanted to be, was how the SMILE club impacted me."

"SMILE opened the possibility to travel outside of my town to demonstrate that there is indeed more out there than what I would have known at the time. If it wasn't for SMILE Challenges, I don't believe I would have comprehended the importance of attaining higher education."



"My advisors made STEM fun and encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone by attending the SMILE Challenge. Through the SMILE Challenge, I had the chance to attend Oregon State University (OSU). Walking through campus made me realize that OSU was the place for me. I am now in my third year walking through OSU campus, the same path that I walked when I first came to OSU as a high schooler."

# Spring Teacher Workshop

## May 11 – 13, 2023

Join us at **H.J. Andrews Experimental Research Forest!**



SMILE is pleased to invite you to attend the 2023 Spring Teacher Workshop! Registration is now open until Monday, April 24. [Register Here](#)

During this workshop, we'll engage in hands-on activities both indoors and out and reflect on the year in SMILE. There will be a Share Fair, where teachers can share a favorite activity with each other. We'll also have an awards ceremony to honor the efforts of SMILE teachers. This workshop will take place in a scenic forest setting. Lodging and meals are provided, and travel and sub costs will be covered. Please contact [Becca](#) or [Kami](#) with any questions. We look forward to spending time with you at the workshop!

### Nominations for the 2023 SMILE Leadership and Service Award

Dear SMILE Teachers,

It is my pleasure to announce that we are accepting nominations for the **2023 SMILE Leadership and Service Award**. Teachers are the core of SMILE: SMILE Clubs, students' success, and the vibrancy of our learning community depend on teacher dedication and engagement. This award celebrates an educator who has consistently provided outstanding leadership, service, and engagement in SMILE.

SMILE teachers may nominate candidates for the award, or teachers may self-nominate. To receive this award, the individual must be a current SMILE Club teacher or advisor and have demonstrated excellence in the award criteria below. The award is not based on longevity, but on contributions to SMILE's overall mission and vision. Nomination letters should list specific examples of how the nominee meets the criteria below.

The individual receiving the **SMILE Leadership and Service Award** should demonstrate:

- **Engagement in the SMILE teacher learning community** by participating in workshops, sharing best practices, and mentoring new SMILE teachers.
- **Exceptional service to their SMILE Club students**, by attending Challenge events, utilizing innovative activities, taking students on Club related field trips, and by achieving consistently high rates of student participation in Clubs.

Nomination letters may be submitted in Word or PDF documents, and sent via email. Send nominations to Kami Hammerschmith: [kami.hammerschmith@oregonstate.edu](mailto:kami.hammerschmith@oregonstate.edu). **Nominations are due on Friday, April 28, 2023.**

The award will be presented at the **Spring Teacher Workshop**. The recipient, or recipients, will receive \$300, a certificate, and their name will be added to the award plaque housed in the SMILE Program office at Oregon State University.

If you have questions about this opportunity, please contact Kami at 541-737-0534.

Best regards,

Susan Rowe, PhD/ Director of OSU Precollege Programs and the SMILE Program



# SMILE Lesson Updates & Polar STEAM

The ***Match That Mineral*** lesson presented at the 2023 Winter Teacher Workshop, is updated and available in the Winter Teacher Workshop folder: [Click Here](#). You'll find a new slideshow (pictured right), worksheets, and new extension activities! Be sure to check it out!

MATCH  
THAT  
MINERAL!



If you haven't done the ***SMILE E-Graphiti*** lesson, [Click Here](#), we'd love for you to try it in preparation for the Challenge! Photos of your students' finished products are appreciated; send them to AJ: [amy.mallozzi@oregonstate.edu](mailto:amy.mallozzi@oregonstate.edu)

*Thank you, Willamina Elementary School teachers: Laura Spencer and Tim Overholser, for sending pics of your students' creations, (left).*



**Middle and High School Educators -**  
*Applications to join Polar STEAM are live!*



The Polar Educators program facilitates virtual and field deployments to the Arctic and Antarctic for both formal and informal educators in the United States. The program works with faculty from community colleges and Minority Serving Institutions, middle and high school educators, as well as informal educators who work in science education settings such as museums and science centers. Polar STEAM will foster an integrated approach to science communication with cohorts of participants who engage learners in exploring and understanding critical polar environments and human endeavors at the poles.

**Applications for the 2023 Arctic season are now open and due by Sunday, March 19.**



**For application info visit:** <https://polarsteam.info/application/>  
**For more information on Polar STEAM visit:** <https://polarsteam.info/>



On the Road  
to College

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