

The Lookout

News of the Tillamook Forest Center

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Tillamook Forest Center

*Inspiring people to
connect with the
Tillamook State Forest*



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Adventure with accessibility in mind



Photo courtesy of Wheel the World

Are you looking for an accessible destination for your next adventure? Look no further than the Tillamook Forest Center! The TFC is proud to announce that it is now officially a Verified Destination with Wheel the World. Wheel the World is the leading travel platform for travelers looking for accessible and accommodating travel destinations.

Some highlighted features at the TFC included the incredible views of the Wilson River for any ability level, ADA accessible trails surrounding the building, and easy access to our Forest Education Pavilion where educational interpretive programs are held.

To get more information about accessibility at the Tillamook Forest Center visit our [website](#) or visit our Verified Destination page on Wheel the World's [website](#).

A gate to celebrate



The TFC's scenic suspension bridge over the Wilson River is a favorite of visitors, and the gate is also something to celebrate. To commemorate the 50th year anniversary of Oregon's Percent for Art in Public Places Program, the [bridge gate](#), was selected as one of fifty publicly accessible works of art showcased in this year's [50 for 50 campaign](#). Created by Eric Robertson, the functional gate represents a new tree growing from a nurse log, which is a fallen decaying stump providing nutrients for the new growth.

This fall, the TFC is offering many open "gates" to celebrate the forest: in this edition you'll read about our new exploration backpacks, creative classes, and more. Consider yourself invited to celebrate the many gates to new adventures in the forest this fall.

From the Director: Embracing opportunity



In the coming weeks, crisp mornings, low fog, and a rosy colored Kings Mountain will greet the TFC team as fall settles in the forest. Soon, teachers will be scheduling forestry field trips and school buses will roll in with students eager to explore the forest. Our valued community will join us for fall interpretive programs highlighting seasonal cycles and traditions. Behind these offerings is a dedicated team led by the Statewide Interpretation Coordinator. For the past year, Natalie Sanman served in

this role with passion and commitment. I am thrilled to announce that Natalie has accepted the permanent position.

Natalie brings 13 years of experience in the field of Interpretation and Environmental Education, she is a Certified Interpretive Guide, and holds degrees in both Wildlife Conservation & Management and Environmental Education & Interpretation from Cal Poly Humboldt.

Natalie can be easily talked into trying nearly any outdoor activity, and she has been lucky to have had many opportunities to recreate throughout her career. Some of her favorite things she has tried are highlining and rock climbing. You'll also find her water coloring, a hobby she picked up from her grandma, floating on a river or lake, and soaking up the sun is an activity she'll never turn down.

She enjoys working with the staff, volunteers, and visitors at the Tillamook Forest Center, and learning the operations of Oregon Department of Forestry. Natalie has a deep love of public service and her favorite quote that drives her work is: "Do all you can with what you have, in the time you have, in the place you are." – Nkosi Johnson

Please help me congratulate Natalie in her new role!

Find yourself volunteering in the forest

Volunteers support the Tillamook Forest Center by greeting visitors, keeping the trails groomed, and assisting with field trips. While this summer is winding down, we are already planning for fall and next summer. Site host applications are currently being accepted for the 2026 summer season. Site hosts stay at the TFC for the season in their own camper or RV. Day volunteer applications are also being accepted for this fall. Day volunteers must be able to commit to one shift a week for a minimum of three months. Think you'll find yourself volunteering in the forest soon? If so, our [website](#) for more information and to complete an application.



Rain, Rain, Come and Play!



Celebrate the return of the rainy season with a fun-filled weekend of activities during Rain Festival! Release a fish into the creek, participate in a mushroom walk, try your luck with the salmon migration game, or show off your rainy weather fashion in the photo booth. If you prefer dry, indoor activities, why not join us for a drawing class with local nature artist Dorota Haber-Lehigh or make a holiday wreath from fragrant forest boughs? Starting September 24th, we will have themed Exploration Backpacks for kids available to borrow during your visit. Check out our [website](#) for more information. Come find yourself in the fall forest!

mark your calendar



Fall Hours
September 3rd - November 30th, 2025
10 am - 4 pm
(closed Mondays & Tuesdays)

Save the Date
Mushroom Drawing Workshop | November 1st
Rain Festival | November 15th - 16th
Holiday Wreath Making | November 28th - 30th

Take A Child Outside Week
September 24th - 30th
Exploration backpacks available!
Check out at the information desk

Winter Closure
Starting December 1st

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