

AWESOME 3000

3,017 registered runners and 600 volunteers gathered at McCulloch Stadium on May 5 to demonstrate why we call this event “awesome.” This 36-year-old Awesome 3000 that takes place the first Saturday of May — rain or shine — has become an integral part of growing up here. This year’s event was graced with ideal temperatures and gentle clusters of clouds.

The Awesome 3000 is one of the largest timed youth runs in the country, giving students weeks of Statesman Journal articles on goal-setting, healthy eating, and smart exercise. On the day of the event, as students cluster in their age groups on the football field and parents and friends fill the stands, the air buzzes with anticipation and pre-race jitters.

Runners warm up on the turf with exercises ranging from jumping jacks to games of duck-duck-goose. When it’s their turn at the starting line, the sound of the starting gun by Olympic Decathlete, Dave Johnson sends them dashing out of the stadium, through Bush’s Pasture Park, and back into the stadium where each runner is greeted with cheers, high-fives, and medals.

This annual rite of passage shines a spotlight on kids of every age and ability, while also funding SKEF’s Innovation Grants. SKEF distributes the grants to classroom teachers with innovative and creative projects or programs that make a difference in the lives and educations of their students. The Innovation Grant application cycle is open now. Get information at SKEducationFoundation.org



PHOTO CREDIT: OREGON STATE TREASURY

Every participant walks away from the Awesome 3000 with something. Every runner gets a medal, plenty of high-fives, and a sense of achievement. Many walk away with new books. And this year, 27 also walked away with \$50 Oregon ABLE Savings Plans.

State Treasurer Tobias Read and Executive Director of OR ABLE Savings Plan, Michael Parker greeted the Awesome 3000’s special-needs runners to congratulate them on finishing the race and to help them start saving for their future. The Oregon ABLE Savings plan is managed similarly to a 529 college savings plan, allowing individuals with disabilities to build a small nest egg without risking their benefits. Account holders can withdraw money for qualified expenses, such as accessibility technology, housing, or caregiving.

Congrats to this year’s 27 run participants who are now savers and investors as well.

Thanks to our Awesome 3000 Sponsors, Partners, and Supporters who help the Awesome 3000 stay true to its name:

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Mission Statement

The Salem-Keizer Education Foundation is a catalyst for the enhancement of the education and development of all Salem-Keizer youth by providing resources for creative and innovative programs and materials, educating and mobilizing the community, and sustaining collaborative partnerships that support its goals.

Privacy Statement

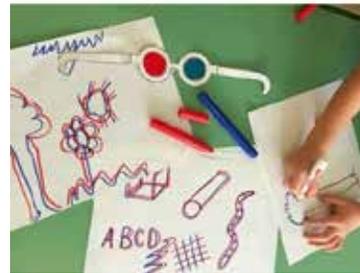
Salem-Keizer Education Foundation never sells, loans or exchanges the names, addresses or other information about our donors or others who receive our mailings.

COME SEE SKEF AT THE MARION COUNTY FAIR STEAM STAGE

Be sure to make your way over to Columbia Hall when you visit the Marion County Fair. It runs July 12, 13, 14, and we'll be on the STEAM stage helping kids make great projects that teach the elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Math to take home.

Our projects will include colorful fireworks paintings made with salt, animal-shaped plantings to grow at home, a ferris wheel that spins, DIY 3D glasses and the Books are Awesome Mobile.

There's no cost to participate in the projects, and we'll be hanging out and making projects all day, 9-5. See you there!



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT DONETH & STURDIVANT WEALTH ADVISORS



DONETH & STURDIVANT
WEALTH ADVISORS

Looking out his office windows on a sunny Tuesday, financial advisor Derek Gilbert watches the clusters of walkers, joggers, and cyclists crossing Salem's newest footbridge. "We've been here a few weeks; we're still hanging pictures," he says of his firm's new digs in the Park Front building, with a front-row view of Salem's Riverfront Park. "So many people use this park and that bridge. It's just really nice to watch."

A well-appreciated community park is just his kind of thing. A volunteer firefighter, father, financial advisor, and past board member for organizations like the Gilbert House Children's Museum, Derek Gilbert is community-minded.

It's fitting, then, that he's part of a company eager to step up as a major sponsor for this year's Lemonade Day. "At Doneth and Sturdivant Wealth Advisors," he says, "We're fortunate enough to have the capacity to give back. Therefore, we want to share that – helping causes that positively impact the community." In choosing local organizations

to support, Gilbert thought of the local children he knows who have participated in Lemonade Day. He has a good friend whose daughter has participated several years, and he stops by her lemonade stand to support her business. "Just seeing the thought that went into it, how much passion goes towards it, that was an eye-opener," he says. "She built her stand and taste-tested her product. I could see how proud and engaged she was."

As wealth advisors, the principals at Doneth and Sturdivant saw Lemonade Day as an easy fit for their company. "The kids have to write a business plan and have a concept of the ins and outs of a business," he says of the program's emphasis on teaching kids to be entrepreneurial, fiscally responsible, and charitable. The program directs kids to spend a portion of their lemonade stand earnings, while reserving portions to donate and save. "The spend some, save some, share some" message couldn't be more in-line with our values. We definitely endorse that message.

AWESOME 3000 VOLUNTEER PROFILES

Some of the busiest volunteers were on the turf of the football field, corralling nervous runners and leading them through warm up exercises to work out the pre-race wiggles. “I’m with **Dutch Bros** and we wanted to see how many people we could get out here,” **Haley Fagundes** said, between answering questions from antsy runners. “Six more minutes until the next run,” she tells them, and two third-graders nervously flap their arms at the announcement. “They have so much energy this morning, I just try to keep them moving but hope they don’t get worn out before the run starts.”

Accompanying his fiancée, who manages a south Salem Starbucks location, **Justin Goff** was experiencing his first-ever Awesome 3000. “I think it’s absolutely cool,” he said. Goff and other **Team Starbucks** volunteers fanned out near the finish line, where they could dish out high-fives and encouragement as runners covered their final few yards. “Standing here towards the end, you see them sort

of light up when they realize they’re about to finish. It’s just really awesome.”

Local running enthusiast **Janna Curtis** is a longtime event volunteer. “I started when my daughter was in third grade. I was not here last year because she was graduating from college.” At her first Awesome 3000, she remembers, “I was 200 pounds, and I realized I was encouraging these kids to run but I could barely walk around.” Curtis committed to her own fitness and running goals, and now helps other women catch the fitness bug. The Awesome 3000 was a catalyst to her life change, and now she watches as the race impacts the lives of runners, especially the special-needs athletes. “It’s wonderful to just watch the kids; it’s all about the experience, when you see these kids who worked so hard and they’re coming across the line. The smiles on the faces are absolutely priceless.”

SPOTLIGHT ON SUMMER CAMPS

There’s still time to register for summer camps, but hurry! They fill up fast.

At two locations — Highland Elementary or Leslie Middle School — kids from kindergarten to 5th grade can delve into everything from exploring Japan to perfecting their soccer skills. Other offerings include Tinkerspace, Beginner’s Chess, Backyard Chemistry, Survival Camp, Edible Science, and Garden to Table.

Campers can choose morning, afternoon, or full-day camp schedules, which include snacks and lunches. Summer camps are a great way to prevent summer slide, keep brains and bodies active, and explore art, science, gardening, or fitness. For sign-up information, go to SKEducationFoundation.org

iLUMIDANCE + CODING WORKSHOP

JULY 9-13, 2018

RAINBOW DANCE THEATER
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SALEM-KEIZER EDUCATION FOUNDATION



TECHNOLOGY → LIGHT → PERFORMANCE

WHAT:
FOR ENTERING GRADES 6-8

\$75

DAY 1: VARIABLES- learn to use Blockly visual coding language to create your avatar

DAY 2: LOOPS- learn to use loops in Blockly to create a lighting sequence

DAY 3: FUNCTIONS- write a code that creates fun and exciting effects for your avatar

DAY 4: CONDITIONALS- use conditionals in Blockly to synchronize lighting effects with music

DAY 5: PERFORMANCE- work with your team to prepare your avatar dance performance

WHEN:
JULY 9-13th
10.00-12.30pm

WHERE:
SKEF
223 Commercial St.
Salem, OR 97301

Made possible by:



SALEM-KEIZER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

From *Rainbow Dance Theater*, and the creators of iLumiDance, SKEF is hosting a workshop for middle schoolers that combines the fundamentals of coding with art and dance performance. Over the weeklong workshop, students will acquire the skills to utilize computer programming in the creation of their own unique electronic light-wire puppet. This innovate, project-based learning opportunity is not one to be missed! Space is limited.

WAYS TO SUPPORT SKEF THIS SUMMER

The school year is just finishing, but at SKEF, summertime isn't downtime. We're running summer camps and sports, oodles of summertime events, and we're thinking ahead to next school year. Here are ways you can get involved while you get in some summer fun:



Take the Kids to Hop Jack's at Keizer Station. The restaurant donates 50 cents to SKEF for every kids' meal sold. In a short time, that's added up to \$700 and counting. The company's outreach coordinator, Brian Saraceno-Oliveri, says, "At Hop Jack's, we are a part of our communities. When we considered how we could make the greatest impact as a restaurant company, combatting hunger was a natural choice. Our dedication to children and our partnerships with organizations like the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation is really a nod to our founder's mother who was an educator for many years. Our littlest guests love finding out that every time they eat at Hop Jack's they are donating money to make sure that other children are well fed as well!" Mac & Cheese with a side of feel-good! How easy is that?

Donate your bottle refunds. It's easy to take part in the BottleDrop Give program. Stop by SKEF Monday-Saturday and pick up a blue BottleDrop collection bag. Fill it up and drop it off at a redemption center. Just like that: more space in your garage, more money for SKEF's programs.

During the month of August give to the School Supply Drive. Our School Supply Depot lets school counselors grab the supplies their students need to keep them active and learning through the school year. It's a much-needed boost for so many students whose families can't provide it all. During your shopping trips, pick up an item or two and drop it at a collection location. Then you're on your way.

WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Derek Gilbert is a financial planner with Doneth and Sturdivant Wealth Advisors. He likes spending time with his family and volunteering in the community. A long-time volunteer firefighter, he's now lieutenant at the Clear Lake Fire Station in Keizer. He also served five years on the board at Gilbert House Children's Museum and currently serves on the board of Leave A Legacy, which helps people support nonprofits by donating through their wills or estates. Derek's company stepped up to become a major sponsor of this year's Lemonade Day event and hosted a pod of lemonade stands in their parking lot near Riverfront Park.

Breanna Kailey grew up in Salem — "I'm a Saxon," she's quick to point out — and she and her husband have two children in Salem-Keizer schools. She works as a commercial lender for US Bank, where she's worked for 14 years. "My kids have participated in the Awesome 3000, so I've been familiar with SKEF," she says, "but I never knew the full scope of all the programs and how much the community and the schools rely on SKEF. It's such a great organization." She knows people who talk about the direct benefit they receive from SKEF, "they say it's the one organization whose help is visible in their lives. They get a new free book and they know it's from SKEF. I look forward to telling more people about what a great organization this is."

We thank outgoing Board Members for their service: **Lloyd Fobi, Jackie Franke and Diane Childs.**

Congratulations to our 2018-2019 officers:

- President:** Brent Neilsen
- Treasurer:** Chuck Swank
- Secretary:** Erich Paetsch
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ASPIRE Mentors Needed...for students just like these



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

SKEF is honored to be the steward of several scholarship programs that give outstanding Salem-Keizer students a boost on the ladder to their futures. Here's a rundown of this year's scholars and their accomplishments.

The Connor James Memorial Scholarship honors Connor's memory with a scholarship to the members of his beloved Sprague Lacrosse team. **This year, Sprague graduating senior Caleb Cooper** received a \$3000 Connor James Memorial Scholarship. He's enrolled to study chemical engineering at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

The James family also awarded \$3000 to the Sprague Lacrosse team to purchase rain gear for the upcoming season.

The Friends of the Arts Scholarship perpetuates the passion of an anonymous arts advocate. The scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating Salem-Keizer student who will study for a career as a visual arts secondary-level teacher. This year's recipient is graduating senior **Megan Rygh**. She's enrolled at Western Oregon University where she'll apply the \$3000 Friends of the Arts Scholarship to pursue an arts education degree with the goal of teaching.

The Guido Caldarazzo Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a young man or woman in our community who has overcome adversity to become a positive part of their school or community. Graduating **McNary High School senior Ivy Parker** received the \$1000 scholarship this year, which she'll apply to her tuition at Pacific University. She plans to become a physical therapist. She's a successful scholar with a 3.98 GPA and volunteer roles with Family Building Blocks, the Iris Festival, and the Adopt-a-Celt program which provides meals and gifts to families in

need. Ivy has lived with a foster family since she was 14. Her AP Science teacher, Jeremy Everitt, praised her "depth of knowledge, willingness to extend, and inquisitiveness" in even the most challenging science classes. Pacific University has awarded her hard work and dedication as well, with an \$18,000 renewable Presidential Scholarship.

The John Moe Scholarship honors the memory of a music lover who wanted to make the world a better place and held a special interest in supporting students of all abilities. The scholarship in his name recognizes the achievements of graduates from the Community Transition Program (CTP). These funds can apply to housing, job-search or transportation expenses, or other expenses that help them on their way to success.

CTP graduate Christian Menning received \$250. He completed all three years of the Independent Living Program, earned his food handlers permit, and gained work experience at Subway. He hopes to use the funds for work clothes and a bus pass.

CTP graduate Jacobi Wayne Eaton received \$500. In his time at the transition program, he gained work experience at Salem Hospital, learned to use the bus to get around Salem, and got an apartment. He plans to use the funds to buy some things he needs around the apartment.

CTP graduate Quincy Howe received \$1000. In his three years in the transition program, his teachers say he learned to independently get around Salem on the bus system and gained work experience at Roth's, Safeway, Walgreen's, and Rite-Aid. Quincy plans to use his scholarship money for work supplies. His dream is to own his own candy store.

It's Time For Summer Fun!

**"Don't put off until
tomorrow, what you
can enjoy today!"**

~Josh Billings

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and Smoothies, too!



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Open M - F 8:30am to 5:30pm
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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:



STARBUCKS

Question: What do you do when it's a couple of days before your biggest fundraising event of the year and a you need a big job done in a hurry?

Answer: Call the Starbucks team!

When SKEF Volunteer Services Director Valerie Steele was in a pinch, with just a couple days until the Shoot for the Stars Gala. She called on **Kacie Shirley**, who manages the south Salem Starbucks drive-through. The Starbucks team had already signed up to help with the gala, but Steele was proposing a dramatic change of plans.

"Instead of being our Friday set-up crew, could you be the Saturday event crew? It's longer and more involved," Steele said, knowing it was a huge request. But the Starbucks team didn't hesitate. They said yes! Three Starbucks employees even got prior training on the data-entry system for the gala's auction. The team spent a long Saturday afternoon and evening helping the gala run smoothly.

During the month of April, when Starbucks observes its Global Month of Service, the Salem-area team wanted to do as much as possible. They reached out to SKEF, wondering what April projects might benefit from their volunteer help.

"I gave them a list of like seven things," Steele laughs while remembering. "It was exceptional! I thought they'd be able to do one or two. But they came back promising to do almost every one!" Their work spilled over into May,



when the team assembled and delivered thousands of runner packets for the Awesome 3000, and then showed up on event day.

The Saturday Awesome 3000 event happens to fall on the busiest day of the week at most of the local Starbucks stores. "But we made sure it worked out," Shirley smiles. The team served coffee and cocoa at the run, and cheered runners at the finish line. It was hard work and the team put in some long days, and they said they'd do it all again. "Investing our time and energy into SKEF was an easy choice," says Shirley, "it's an incredible organization that helps shape and mold our future leaders."



Reduce Summer Slide and Boost Your Scores with Our Coaches

To schedule appointment, call
503-364-2933.
Visit skeducationfoundation.org
or email us at
info@skeducationfoundation.org
for details.



SALEM-KEIZER
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION



Help us reach every child, every day



Why become a monthly giver?

Becoming a monthly giver means SKEF will have a foreseeable source of income we can rely on to support our programs and the kids who flourish from them.

Monthly giving is the easiest way to support SKEF. Here are some benefits:

- You are in control. You can start by mailing in the form on this page, change, increase, decrease or stop anytime by phone at 503-364-2933.
- You will have peace of mind knowing more of your gift will go directly to support kids.
- You will receive less mail because we don't need to send you reminders.
- You will never have to find another stamp or write another check.

Your donation will go directly to support every child every day to be able to participate in:

- AVID Field Trips
- K-12 Salem-Keizer Art Show
- Instruments for Kids
- Free Hot Suppers
- Enrichment Academy
- Lego Robotics
- Salem-Keizer Spelling Bee
- Awesome 3000
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
- School Supplies
- Summer camps
- Awesome Youth Sports
- Bazillion Books for Kids
- Gardens
- Scholarships
- ...and much more!



Please sign up today to be a Monthly Giver!

MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM DONATION FORM

Yes! I want to donate to the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation.

MY INFORMATION

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE # _____

IT'S EASY TO GIVE

PLEASE ACCEPT MY:

MONTHLY DONATION OF:

\$5.00 \$10.00 \$20.00

OTHER \$ _____

Please deduct my checking account by using: *(signature required – sign below)*

A voided check or

A check with your first monthly gift

Please use my Debit/Credit Card:

VISA MasterCard Discover

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Credit Card# Exp. Date

Signature

I/We authorize Salem-Keizer Education Foundation to deduct the above amount from my checking account or credit card on the 25th of each month.

MY ONE TIME DONATION OF: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Salem-Keizer Education Foundation

Thank you for your support!



Save THE DATES 2018

JULY 12, 13, 14
Marion County Fair

JULY 30
Volcanoes Cares

AUGUST 3
Ty Curtis School Supply Drive
Benefit Concert- Half Penny

AUGUST 1
WTSB First Wednesday

AUGUST 1-31
School Supply Drive

SEPTEMBER 11
Back to School Lunch

CONGRATULATIONS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS!

These awesome writers put their pens to work and crafted winning “Why College is Awesome” essays. These winning essays were selected from 424 applications from 23 schools. For their excellent work, they each got a \$529 Oregon College Savings Plan to boost them along their way to their awesome college plans. Contest winners brought their families to the Awesome 3000 on May 5th to watch as Salem-Keizer Schools Superintendent Christy Perry, Executive Director of Oregon College Savings Plan, Michael Parker and Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read handed out their awards and savings plans.

When asked “Why College is Awesome,” these creative young writers stated a wide range of answers. “It’s the opportunity to become a ballerina,” “learning life skills like cooking and cleaning,” and “not being told what to do by parents.” You can read each winning essay at SKEducationFoundation.org

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

- Kindergarten:** Ava Dewar and Madison Tank, both of Candalaria Elementary
- 1st Grade:** Janet Chen, Candalaria Elementary; Luke Neria, Lee Elementary
- 2nd Grade:** Avery Varner, Sumpter Elementary; Kaden Orizotti, Abiqua Elementary
- 3rd Grade:** Harrison Buckingham, McKinley Elementary; Lillian Neria, Lee Elementary
- 4th Grade:** Isabella Fonseca, Four Corners Elementary; Kimberly Sanchez, Hayesville Elementary
- 5th Grade:** Kiara Peterson, Chavez Elementary; Nathalie Perez Guevara, Miller Elementary
- 6th Grade:** Bella Rivera and Jacob Morin, both of Crossler Middle School
- 7th Grade:** Isaac Stearns and Logan Fisher, both of Walker Middle School
- 8th Grade:** Eryn Baker, Walker Middle School; Javier Ramirez Perez, Leslie Middle School
- 9th Grade:** Ady Argueta and Elvis Amaro, both of Early College High School
- 10th Grade:** Julie Chen, South Salem High; Marcelina Sherman, Sprague High School
- 11th Grade:** Autumn Gomoll and Sergio Ruiz-Diaz, both of McNary High School
- 12th Grade:** Kellie McSweet and Sophie Paul, both of South Salem High School