

Center for Geography Education in Oregon



Annual GeoFest 2025

Western Oregon University
Richard Woodcock Education Center
March 8, 2025

Partnered with



Sponsored by



**2025 C-GEO (with special partner OCSS)
Annual GeoFest Conference**

8:30am – 9:00am
9:00am – 9:30am
9:40am – 10:30am
10:35 – 11:25am
11:30 – 12:20pm
12:20 – 1:10pm
1:15 – 2:05pm
2:10 – 3pm
3:00- 3:30pm

Coffee & Registration
Intro & Keynote Speaker
GeoFest Round 1
GeoFest Round 2
Lunch
GeoFest Round 3
GeoFest Round 4
GeoFest Round 5
Closing session

	RWEC 205 (Computer Lab)	RWEC 201	RWEC 202	RWEC 204	RWEC 208	RWEC 101
Rd 1	** (M/H) Extreme Weather, Aging Infrastructure (Tyson Brown)	** (E) Place-Based Resource Stewardship (Rina Miyamoto-Sundahl)	** (M/H) Inspiring Climate Change Solutionaries: An Inquiry-to-Action Model (Kacey Dewing)	** (M/H) Understanding the Climate Crisis from an Oregon Lens (Katie Pearson & Amanda Coven)	K12) Environmental Cooperation as a Path to Peace in the Middle East (Dori Gerber)	NOTE: 2-HOUR WORKSHOP ** (K-12) Linking Local Climate Change with the 2024 Social Science Standards (Amit Kobrowski & Jenoge Khatter)
Rd 2	** (K12) GIS Data: Great Cloud Pixel Challenge (Peder Nelson)		(E) Fourth Grade Lesson Plan - Comparing Portland, Oregon, and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (Don Duong & Krystal Mariano)	** (E) Climate and Sustainability Connections in Elementary Settings (Tana Shepard)	(M/H) Teaching the History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict Using Primary Sources (Dori Gerber)	** (K-12) Linking Local Climate Change with the 2024 Social Science Standards (Amit Kobrowski & Jenoge Khatter)
Rd 3	** (K12) Exploring OregonView ways to make digital geography meaningful. (Peder Nelson)	(K-12) C-GEO Student Atlas of Oregon Feedback and Information Session (Janelle Wren & Allyson Hamlik)	(M/H) Israel, Hamas, & Student Activism: Using Human Rights Education & Tribal Critical Race Theory to Frame Recent Conflict (Sean Corrigan)	** (E) Klamath Basin Townhall (Amy Sabbadini)	(M/H) Structuring a Holocaust Unit with Anne Frank's Diary (Heidi Kaufman)	
Rd 4	** (M/H) Environmental Justice Through Local Histories (Tim Swinehart)	(K-12) Preserving Heritage, Unveiling Resilience: The History of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (Cheyanne Heidt)	** (K-12) Responding to the Cultural Roots of the Climate Crisis (Sarah Anderson)	** (M/H) Deschutes River Townhall (Amy Sabbadini)	(M/H) Teaching the Seeds of Violence in Palestine-Israel (Bill Bigelow)	
Rd 5	(K-12) Vietnam's Cultural Landscapes: Lesson Plans and ArcGIS StoryMap (Lauriel Amoroso & Hillary Brown)	** (M/H) Using the C-GEO Climate Change Atlas (Kerrie O'Brien)	(E) Compare and Contrast Images from Portland Assembly Center to Your Home (Theresa Just & Ann Campbell)	(E/M) Demonstrating Connections Between Agriculture and Geography (Jade Davidson & Evelyn Tedrick)	** (K12) "Water is Life" Along the McKenzie (Jenoge Khatter & Marie Middleton)	

Acronyms

K12 = session for K through 12th grade educators

E = session primarily for elementary educators

E/M = session primarily for elementary and middle school educators

M/H = session primarily for middle and/or high school educators

** denotes Climate Change session

Keynote Speaker (9am-9:30am)

Justin Fasana, former forest manager of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

Climate Change and Natural Resources on Northwest Tribal Lands

The keynote address focuses on how Indigenous Peoples of the PNW are addressing natural resource issues in response to climate change and conflicting stakeholder interests, presented by the previous forester for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

SESSION TITLES AND ABSTRACTS

ROUND 1 (9:40-10:30am)

Title: Extreme Weather, Aging Infrastructure (Tyson Brown)

Abstract: Extreme weather caused by climate change is putting the nation's aging infrastructure at risk. This session will explore how cities in Oregon are developing plans to adapt their infrastructure to handle extreme changes in our climate.

Title: Place-Based Resource Stewardship (Rina Miyamoto-Sundahl)

Abstract: Discover how third graders in a dual immersion Beaverton School District classroom engaged with a place-based social studies curriculum emphasizing natural resources and stewardship. This session explores hands-on activities, local examples, and student reflections connected to climate change concepts of environmental awareness and responsibility.

Title: Inspiring Climate Change Solutionaries: An Inquiry-to-Action Model (Kacey Dewing, *Institute for Humane Education*)

Abstract: Learn to use a Solutionary Framework to guide students to investigate climate change concerns, ideate solutions, and then implement them in the real world. Through this innovative approach, students become changemakers for a brighter future.

Title: Tackling Climate Change in Oregon: History, Resources, and Student Empowerment (Katie Pearson, *Oregon Historical Society* & Amanda Coven, *Classroom Learning Project*)

Abstract: Join Civics Learning Project's Amanda Coven and the Oregon Historical Society's Katie Pearson to learn about the history of climate change in Oregon and classroom-ready resources that encourage students to leverage (local) government to

take action. Participants will engage with primary and secondary source documents that highlight Oregon's contributions to climate change and its efforts to mitigate it, and leave with resources that will encourage students to examine the choices, stakes, and solutions of climate change from an Oregon perspective.

Title: Environmental Cooperation as a Path to Peace in the Middle East (Dori Gerber, *Institute for Curriculum Services*)

Abstract: This presentation focuses on environmental challenges in the Middle East, specifically water scarcity. Explore how Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians are collaborating through peaceful transboundary cooperation and innovative technologies to address these challenges.

Title: Linking Local Climate Change with the 2024 Social Science Standards (Amit Kobrowski, *Social Science Specialist ODE* & Jenoge Khatter, *OCSS President*)

NOTE: THIS WORKSHOP RUNS CONCURRENTLY THROUGH ROUNDS 1 & 2

Abstract: Engage in a K-12 workshop focused on making climate change connections with the 2024 Oregon Social Science Standards, led by OCSS President Jenoge Khatter and ODE Social Science Specialist Amit Kobrowski. After an overview of the standards, participants will break into facilitated group work as grade-level teams.

ROUND 2 (10:35-11:25am)

Title: GIS Data: Great Cloud Pixel Challenge (Peder Nelson, *Oregon State University*)

Abstract: This lesson will lead students through the process of using your mobile device observations for geographic understanding of our home planet, earth.

Title: Fourth Grade Lesson Plan - Comparing Portland, Oregon, and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (Don Duong & Krystal Mariano)

Abstract: This fourth-grade lesson plan provides a 50-minute exploration of the geographical and cultural differences and similarities between Portland, Oregon, and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Students will engage with concepts of place and culture as defined by the Five Themes of Geography.

Title: Climate and Sustainability Connections in Elementary Settings (Tana Shepard, K-12 *Climate, Energy, Conservation specialist 4J/EWEB Education Partnership Program*)

Abstract: This presentation introduces an interdisciplinary elementary school program exploring local food waste, school gardens, electric vehicle technology, and salmon ecology, conducted in collaboration with a local utility agency.

Title: Teaching the History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict Using Primary Sources (Dori Gerber, *Institute for Curriculum Services*)

Abstract: This session traces the development of the Arab-Israeli conflict and peace process from the late 19th century to the early 2000s, providing context for deep and nuanced understanding of this complicated topic. A collection of standards-aligned and content-focused resources to support instruction will be shared.

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ROUND 3 (12:20-1:10pm)

Title: Exploring OregonView ways to make digital geography meaningful (Peder Nelson, *Oregon State University*)

Abstract: This session will have participants engaging with physical materials that start out online and in the digital space. Examples include 3dimensional printing of landscapes and interacting with sunlight!

Title: C-GEO Student Atlas of Oregon Feedback and Information Session (Janelle Wren & Allyson Hamlik, *C-GEO Steering Committee Members*)

Abstract: C-GEO first created a Student Atlas of Oregon in 2010. Many maps need updating, and initial work has been started to begin this process. During this session, you will have time to explore the Student Atlas, discuss with others how to use it, and give appreciated and crucial feedback for the update process so that the Student Atlas is focused and valuable for Oregon teachers.

Title: Israel, Hamas, & Student Activism: Using Human Rights Education & Tribal Critical Race Theory to Frame Recent Conflict (Sean Corrigan, *Southern Oregon University*)

Abstract: This presentation outlines how human rights doctrines and Tribal Critical Race Theory can be used to promote diverse perspectives and critical analyses of recent events in the Middle East, and related activism in North America.

Title: Klamath Basin Town Hall → Elementary Version (Amy Sabbadini, *Civics Learning Project*)

Abstract: This presentation guides educators through the steps of creating and facilitating engaging town hall simulations, with a focus on inquiry around complex interspecies issues facing the Klamath Basin. Participants will gain ideas for empowering students to practice participatory democracy and fostering a classroom culture of civil discourse. Developed by the Civics Learning Project.

Title: Structuring a Holocaust Unit with Anne Frank's Diary (Heidi Kaufman, *OJMCHE*)

Abstract: Through an exploration of Anne Frank's *Diary of a Young Girl*, this session focuses on how to structure a Holocaust unit and how to create a positive learning environment for the study of violent histories.

ROUND 4 (1:15-2:05pm)

Title: Environmental Justice through Local Histories (Tim Swinehart)

Abstract: Can we help connect students with the places we live through local histories of environmental (in)justice? This workshop will engage participants with poetry, writing, and imagery about the Willamette River's superfund site in the Portland Harbor and encourage discussion about how similar lessons might be applied in other communities around Oregon.

Title: Preserving Heritage, Unveiling Resilience: The History of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (Cheyanne Heidt, *Curriculum Specialist, The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde*)

Abstract: "Explore the history, culture, and resilience of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde through stories, videos, and photos, highlighting their journey of survival, cultural revival, sovereignty, and ongoing efforts for justice and recognition.

Title: Responding to the Cultural Roots of the Climate Crisis (Sarah Anderson)

Abstract: The current environmental crisis stems from a particular way of being human in the world. Without addressing the cultural assumptions embedded in geography and climate change education, we are in danger of perpetuating world views that ultimately harm the Earth. In this session, we will explore six principles of eco-social-cultural change, including what they entail, where they came from, and how they might be applied to geography education. Be ready to stretch your thinking—extraordinary ideas are necessary in a time of extraordinary challenge.

Title: Deschutes River Town Hall → Secondary Version (Amy Sabbadini, *Civics Learning Project*)

Abstract: This presentation guides educators through the steps of creating and facilitating engaging town hall simulations, with a focus on inquiry around complex issues facing the Deschutes River. Participants will gain ideas for empowering students to practice participatory democracy and fostering a classroom culture of civil discourse. Developed by the Civics Learning Project.

Title: Teaching the Seeds of Violence in Palestine-Israel (Bill Bigelow, *Rethinking Schools/Zinn Education Project*)

Abstract: There is a throughline from the dispossession of Palestinian peasants in the late Ottoman Empire and early British Mandate to today's violence in Gaza and the West Bank. Participants will engage in this classroom-tested mystery/mixer activity to explore the roots of today's violence in Palestine-Israel. We meet early Zionists, Ottoman officials, Palestinian peasants and journalists, British leaders, a member of the Jewish Bund, and President Woodrow Wilson to search for the "seeds" of today's violence.

ROUND 5 (2:10-3pm)

Title: Vietnam's Cultural Landscapes: Lesson Plans and ArcGIS StoryMap (Lauriel Amoroso & Hillary Brown)

Abstract: Join two educators who participated in C-GEO's 2024 International Advanced Institute to Vietnam as they share their lesson plans and StoryMap from the experience. Themes include transportation studies, river deltas, and cultural landscapes.

TITLE: Using the C-GEO climate change atlas (Kerrie O'Brien, *Memorial Middle School*)

ABSTRACT: Participants will explore C-GEO's *Atlas of Oregon Climate and Climate Change*, see a model lesson using the atlas, and have the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues around the state on how to use the atlas.

Title: Compare and Contrast Images from Portland Assembly Center to Your Home (Theresa Just & Ann Campbell)

Abstract: In completing this activity, elementary students with special education support will be able to compare and contrast areas in three pictures from the Portland Assembly Center to the exterior and interior of their own homes.

Title: Demonstrating Connections Between Agriculture and Geography (Jade Davidson, *Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom* & Evelyn Tedrick, *Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom*)

Abstract: In this workshop, participants will examine three lessons that connect agriculture to geography: Earth as an Apple, Columbian Exchange of Old and New World Foods, Development Conundrum. Walk away with increased understanding of using agriculture in the classroom!

Title: "Water is Life" Along the McKenzie (Jenoge Khatter, *OCSS President* & Marie Middleton)

Abstract: Explore a lesson on the critical role of water for Indigenous Peoples along the McKenzie River. Students investigate historical and contemporary water injustices and brainstorm creative solutions. The lesson encourages student expression through diverse sharing formats. Introduces work of Oregon Educators for Climate Education (OECE) and the OER Open Commons.