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STUDENT STEWARDS TO LEAD SPRINGBROOK PARK TOURS

LAKE OSWEGO – The future of Springbrook Park is looking bright, thanks to a group of student stewards at Uplands Elementary School.

On Friday, April 7, three student volunteers in the fifth and sixth grades will lead students from younger grade levels in a tour of Springbrook Park, which is adjacent to their school. The student leaders will discuss the logging history of the park, trees as habitat for birds, invasive species, and their ongoing stewardship work.

Once a week, an average of ten Uplands students volunteer recess time to help the Friends of Springbrook Park and the City of Lake Oswego restore native habitat by removing invasive English Ivy and maintaining trails. Now those students are taking the time to demonstrate their leadership, increase awareness, and educate fellow classmates about the park.

Dr. Karen Lachman, Principal of Uplands Elementary, came up with the idea of using the tours to develop a greater relationship between the students and the park. The student leaders are excited to have an opportunity to share their love for the park as they introduce others to the “outdoor classroom.”

Students will go through leader training to learn the route and the designated stops of the tour. Volunteers from the Friends of Springbrook Park helped create the route and information to be presented on the tour. Training will provide structure for the tours, but the students will have the chance to share the information in their own words.

The student tour is part of a series of events planned throughout Lake Oswego to celebrate Oregon Arbor Week. While this event is intended for the students of Uplands Elementary School, anyone is welcome to participate in a tree planting at Springbrook Park the very next day from 9 a.m. to noon.

Learn more about Arbor Week events at <http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/plan/ArborWeek.htm>, or contact Natural Area Volunteer Coordinator Annie Bergelin at 503-534-5742 or abergelin@ci.oswego.or.us.