

Connecting Medford High School students with the Fells

By Susan Ekstrom



EAGLE EYE INSTITUTE IS EXCITED TO announce the formation of an EAGLE (Earth Advocates Green Leaders for the Environment) Club at Medford High School this spring. In December community partners, including Friends of the Fells, Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and USDA Forest Service began meeting at Medford High School with Headmaster John Perella and physical education teacher Matt Galusi to discuss ways to engage Medford High School students and staff in exploration of the Middlesex Fells.

The Lawrence Woods section of the Fells abuts MHS, yet is underutilized by students. Eagle Eye and its partner organizations will teach MHS students about the ecology and challenges facing the Fells, while developing trail maintenance, outdoor leadership and teamwork skills through EAGLE Club sessions during weekly gym classes. After eight weeks of direct learning and unstructured time in the Fells, the students will host a public stewardship event, leading work crews of Medford citizens in stewardship projects aimed at improving public access and maintaining the Fells' integrity.

Engaging a core group of High School students in outdoor lessons and activities, specifically tailored to their local woods, will give them the experience, knowledge and inspiration to spend more time in nature. Participating in a long-term stewardship project

will grow respect, appreciation and engagement in the Fells as youth will want to show their friends and family all their hard work. The progress of the stewardship work will generate enthusiasm and motivate other MHS students, teachers and Medford residents to visit the site, ask questions and explore the Fells further. The stewardship event will be a great opportunity for those curious about the Fells and recreating in the outdoors to learn about the various adventures the Fells offers. We hope you will join us for this stewardship event! Date and times will be announced as they are developed.

Susan Ekstrom is Eagle Eye Institute EAGLE Program Manager

TOP: Eagle Eye Fells EAGLE projects combines education with stewardship (Eagle Eye Institute); INSET: Medford High School is perfectly located for Fells learning and stewardship opportunities

