



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Northwest Arkansas Land Trust (NWALT) and Ozark Natural Science Center (ONSC) Announce New Partnership for Educational Programming at Kessler Mountain Nature Center and Outdoor Classroom**

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — The Northwest Arkansas Land Trust (NWALT) and Ozark Natural Science Center (ONSC) are pleased to announce a new partnership aimed at enhancing educational opportunities at the Kessler Mountain Nature Center and Outdoor Classroom.

Through this partnership, ONSC will take on the responsibility of conducting educational programming at the Kessler Mountain Nature Center and Outdoor Classroom, allowing NWALT to focus on its core mission of land preservation.

This collaboration aligns with the missions of both organizations to foster a deeper appreciation and stewardship of the natural environment in Northwest Arkansas.

The Kessler Mountain Nature Center and Outdoor Classroom features a ½-mile interpretive loop trail, a native plant and rain garden, and a 1,500-square foot indoor nature center. The Center and Classroom is a valuable resource for environmental education and community engagement.

Through this partnership, NWALT will continue occupying offices adjacent to the Center and Classroom premises. ONSC will use the premises to conduct educational programming, including school field trips, day camps, workshops, classes, and events.

“After providing 10 years of educational programs at Kessler Mountain, NWALT is realigning its efforts to better concentrate on its mission of preserving and protecting land.” said Grady Spann, Executive Director of NWALT. “We’re pleased that ONSC will take over the educational component and we are providing assistance to make the transition seamless.”

This partnership represents a significant step forward in providing high-quality environmental education to the residents of Northwest Arkansas. By combining the strengths of both organizations, Kessler Mountain Nature Center and Outdoor Classroom will remain a vibrant and engaging resource for the community.

“Our partnership with NWALT is allowing ONSC to broaden our reach and serve more students in Northwest Arkansas.” said Rose Brown, Executive Director of ONSC. “We will use the trails and classroom to continue the excellent programs that were started by NWALT, as well as to expand programs to include other school districts and grade levels.”

These educational offerings will complement existing programs at ONSC's main campus near Huntsville, AR, as well as ONSC's Lake Fayetteville location in Springdale, AR.

**About NWALT:** The Northwest Arkansas Land Trust is dedicated to the permanent protection of land to benefit the quality of life for the people of Northwest Arkansas. Through conservation and stewardship, NWALT works to safeguard the region's natural heritage. Learn more at [www.nwalandtrust.org](http://www.nwalandtrust.org)

**About ONSC:** Ozark Natural Science Center is committed to enhancing the understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the Ozark natural environment. ONSC provides immersive, hands-on experiences that connect people of all ages to the beauty and complexity of the natural world. Learn more at [www.onsc.us](http://www.onsc.us)

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