



2017-2018

Biennial Report

Dear Readers:

Friends of OSD would like to take this opportunity to thank the many family members, friends, foundations, community organizations and businesses that have helped us support the students and staff of the Oregon School for the Deaf.

Without your assistance, we would not have been able to fund the innovative projects that have transformed lives.

We appreciate your support more than you know.

Board of Directors

2017-18 Board of Directors

Lyra Behnke, Director

Linda Couoh, 2017 Vice President, 2018 President

Charlotte Iliff, 2017-18 Secretary

Jamie Lafady, Director

Judy Lorenzen, 2017 President, 2018 Vice President

Elisa Maroney, Director

Bill Moncsko, 2017-18 Treasurer

Damara Paris, Director

Roshani Shay Curtis, Director



In 2017-2018, Board members

- donated 306 hours of service valued at \$16,051.76
- drove 2,963 miles valued at \$765.94
- spent \$2,183.75 in unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses and other dedicated volunteers
- donated 57 hours of service valued at \$2,937.58

***Thank you, volunteers,
for 2017-18 in-kind contributions totaling
\$21,939.03***

Who We Are

Friends of OSD (FOSD) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit formed by a small group of committed individuals in November 2006 to assist the Oregon School for the Deaf (OSD). We believe the School has a vital part to play in the education of deaf and hard of hearing children in Oregon. Our mission is to support this unique school and the children it nurtures by soliciting and distributing funds to enhance the School's programs and projects.

FOSD was created not to replace or supplant the responsibilities of the State of Oregon which has administrative responsibility for the School. Rather, FOSD operates as an independent nonprofit to assist OSD by *enhancing* the educational experience for students beyond the basic level of State funding, helping an already strong program reach even higher goals.



A center of deaf culture for 148 years, OSD's student enrollment (kindergarten through age 21) remained steady at about 120 for the 2017-18 school years. Students come from 43 different school districts across the state. About 60% are residential students who live in dormitories during the week. Students are provided the same subjects and diploma options as those offered in Oregon's public schools.

The Friends of OSD Board identified four initiatives as the focus of their efforts. The following explanations better define each initiative:

- **Education** – Projects that enhance the education of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and their families: participation in the Academic Bowl and Space Camp; driver permit tutoring; and the Family Learning Program.
- **Cultural Activities** – Projects that relate to deaf culture and/or the arts: American Sign Language classes; artist-in-residence; and special speakers who are deaf, such as those who participate in the Middle School LIFE program.
- **Innovative Programs** – Projects that incorporate new learning methods or experiences: participating in robotics competitions and micro-lending experiences; new skills programs/equipment for special needs students; and a school-wide positive behavior reinforcement program.
- **Minor Capital Improvements** – Minor projects that upgrade portions of dated facilities and which are not mandated State responsibilities: assisting in the installation of a lift for the swimming pool; professional-quality equipment and remodeling for the Career Technical Education approved TV broadcast studio.

In an effort to utilize board meeting time more efficiently, several work groups have been established: **Fundraising, Grants** and **Public Outreach**

Board members voluntarily join groups that most closely match their areas of interest and expertise, and each group provides regular reports at board meetings. These work groups are expanded as needed by enlisting the help of others from the community.

Advisory Council

In 2014 an Advisory Council was formed to lend support and advice to the FOSD Board of Directors. Advisory Council members include:

Larry Austin

Lisa Heydemann

Jill Bailey

Rocky Jastak

Meredith Brodsky

Chad Ludwig

Mary Bunn

Kevin Marshall

Jerry Curtis

Tom Pfaff

Verne Duncan

Logan Poynor

John Freeburg

Pam Rimmer

Tim Rocak

While the Board of Directors has legal responsibility to make policy decisions that guide the work of FOSD, the mission of the Advisory Council is to:

- lend their names to endorse the work of FOSD;
- lend their expertise to advise FOSD when needed;
- participate in projects, events and activities according to their interests and abilities; and,
- meet once a year to consider FOSD's annual report and to respond with relevant comments, advice, guidance and suggestions for the good of the organization.

Advisors have neither the same authority nor the same legal responsibilities as the Board of Directors and can neither control nor compel the Board to act. They are considered as ambassadors of FOSD and are valued for their advisory role and support of the organization.



Educational Enrichment Awards

*Enhancing the Educational Experience
of OSD Students*

The Educational Enrichment Awards (EEA) Program provides funds for projects and activities that are outside the budget responsibility and/or capability of the School.

FOSD was able to continue making Educational Enrichment Awards during 2017-18

thanks to grants from

***O.C.F. JOSEPH E. WESTON PUBLIC FOUNDATION,
JUAN YOUNG TRUST,
WILLIAM S. WALTON CHARITABLE TRUST,
and
fundraising efforts of Friends of OSD.***

Open to all OSD staff, instructions and application forms can be accessed from the FOSD website. There now are three types of EEA applications:

- “Expedited Awards” of \$500 or less.
- “Board Review Awards” of \$501-\$1,500, which require a more detailed proposal narrative with emphasis on the purpose, goal, benefit and evaluation component.
- “Special Projects” requests that exceed \$1,500.

Board members individually reviewed and scored all applications against established criteria and approved the following proposals during 2017-18.

Family Learning Program

For the past 4 years, FOSD has been funding the Family Learning Program in which families of students are invited to come to OSD for a weekend of workshops, special speakers and activities. About one third of OSD students come from homes where Spanish is the primary language, so in 2017 the Program focused on resources especially for these families in the areas of literacy, sign language, and transition services when leaving OSD.



Parents were asked what they learned from the weekend, and here are some of their responses:

- *I learned how to help my daughter develop her talents and abilities, realize her possibilities, and achieve her dreams.*
- *I learned about OSD's Construction Technology Academy. and I now have a sign language book that I can study.*
- *I learned about places I can go to get help.*

In 2018 the Family Learning Program evolved from a weekend activity into a monthly FACTS night (Families Connected with Teachers and School night). Typically scheduled in conjunction with another School activity, such as an athletic event, families gather at OSD to share a meal, meet OSD staff, and learn more about a particular area of the School. This program change has received a positive response from parents.

ASL Spelling Bee, 2017

Students arrive at OSD with a variety of language backgrounds and abilities. Some know English; some do not. Some know American Sign Language (ASL); some do not. While they continue to work on English and ASL development, they also develop an OSD Visual Dictionary. Once a year, students compete in an *ASL Spelling Bee*. Words for the competition are chosen from the OSD Visual Dictionary.



Students work hard all year to increase their vocabulary, improve their reading and writing, and develop research skills in appreciation of both English and ASL. Students themselves made recommendations for the highly-sought-after awards, and FOSD was proud to provide the following prizes:

1st Place - Play Station 4

2nd Place - Quadcopter Drone

3rd Place (four ties) - Dutch Bros Gift Cards



Oregon Shakespeare Festival Trip



Thanks to a grant from *Juan Young Trust*, FOSD was able cover the cost of tickets, lodging, food and backstage tours for 12 students to travel to Ashland for both the 2017 and 2018 *Oregon Shakespeare Festival*. These overnight trips were the culmination of *Poetry Out Loud*, a national recitation competition in which OSD has participated since 2009. Oregon was the first state to welcome deaf students, and OSD was the first deaf school in the nation to compete and bring a Champion to the national competition.

Poetry Out Loud participants go through an interview process to be selected for the Ashland trip. The Oregon Shakespeare Festival is internationally renowned. The actors are the crème de la crème of the theater world, complemented by the best performance interpreters in the business. Students also meet peers from all over Oregon as other students come to see the interpreted shows.

During the Festival, education continues as students:

- predict the plot before, at intermission and after each play.
- question the plot, outcomes and literary devices to uncover hidden meanings.
- clarify, through discussion with other students, parts of the plays that are difficult to understand.
- summarize the main events, characters and logical outcomes after each play.

For some of the students, this was the first time they had been outside the Willamette Valley. A video of their discussions and other activities of the trip was used as a model for other teachers at OSD as an example of practical applications and life skills students were exposed to during these learning opportunities.

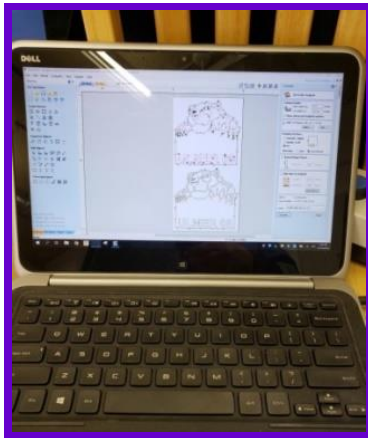


To experience the Oregon Shakespeare Festival is to immerse one's self in culture. For these OSD students, opportunities such as this help establish habits and pathways to other similar life-enriching experiences in the future. Perhaps as adults, students will look back and find that this was the experience that brought significant meaning to their education at the Oregon School for the Deaf.

What's a CNC Router?

OSD Construction Technology Academy teacher, James Smith, brought a fresh, new vision to prepare graduates for employment. But he needed a professional grade piece of technical equipment to do that, and he turned to FOSD for help.

More and more, the construction and manufacturing industries depend on technology. These businesses are in need of workers who know how to operate Computer Numeric Control (CNC) systems.

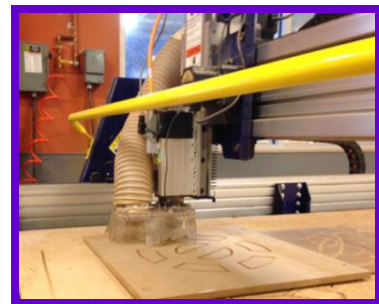


In CNC production,
the item or product
is designed on a
computer,

then sent
electronically
to a “robotic”
router head



that can cut, drill, machine
and carve a variety
of materials—wood,
plastics, metals, etc.



CNCs can produce items that are consistently precise and of high quality. They improve productivity by reducing waste, frequency of errors, and the time required to get the finished product to market.

In 2017 the Center for Community Innovation in Salem announced an opportunity for nonprofits to participate in a Nonprofit *Share Tank* event, modeled after the TV show *Shark Tank*. FOSD applied and was chosen as one of 4 presenters. This initial fundraising effort resulted in nearly \$6,000 earmarked for the \$45,000 router purchase.

Thanks to additional financial support from the following, the CNC router was purchased and installed in September, 2018, and is already producing amazing items for use around the School.

*Papé Family Foundation
The Salem Foundation
The Pyree Family
Measure 98 Funds
Individual donors
and other fundraising efforts of Friends of OSD*

*Special thanks to
ShopBot Tools, Inc.
for donating the set-up and training by
Sallye Coyle*

and for sharing our belief that helping Oregon's young people with hearing impairments become productive members of society is a worthwhile goal.

With the CNC router in place, OSD's students now have the opportunity to be more fully prepared to compete for jobs in the workforce with self-confidence, having been trained on the very equipment that they will see on the job.

A vision becomes reality



The CNC router is now successfully installed, up and running in the
OSD Construction Technology Academy.



Visitors at the
Construction Technology Academy's
November 15, 2018, Open House
examine items
students already have produced on
OSD's CNC Router

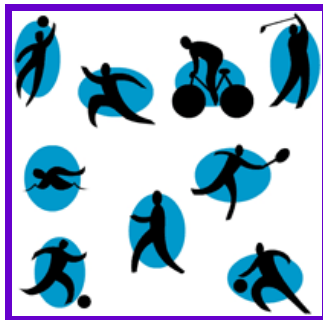
Jog-A-Thon

The OSD Jog-A-Thon was held on campus June 8, 2017, with proceeds used to replace and enhance equipment in the Physical Education Department.



In preparation, students practiced their communication skills by seeking sponsorships from family and friends and by independently reaching out to businesses and community organizations, providing information about this event and their school.

Besides the incentive prizes for participants provided by Friends of OSD, it is hoped that the Jog-A-Thon itself and the new PE equipment will instill a lifelong desire to maintain a healthy lifestyle through exercise and physical activity.



Alternative Seating



FOSD purchased wobble stools and large rubber balls to help elementary and middle school students modulate their sensory systems.

These items provide movement through muscle and joint input and have shown to improve student behavior and attention for greater academic success.

Flying Hands Competition 2018

Every year the Washington School for the Deaf hosts a *Flying Hands* competition focusing on American Sign Language (ASL) Poetry, Storytelling and De'VIA (Deaf-centered art). Deaf students, kindergarten through 12th grade, from across the Northwest and southern Canada are invited.

The competition encourages participants to develop their linguistic competence, their expressive communication skills, self-esteem, and their own Deaf identities.



Friends of OSD provided the registration fees for 25 OSD students to participate, resulting in

TWO 1st place winners

ONE 2nd place winner

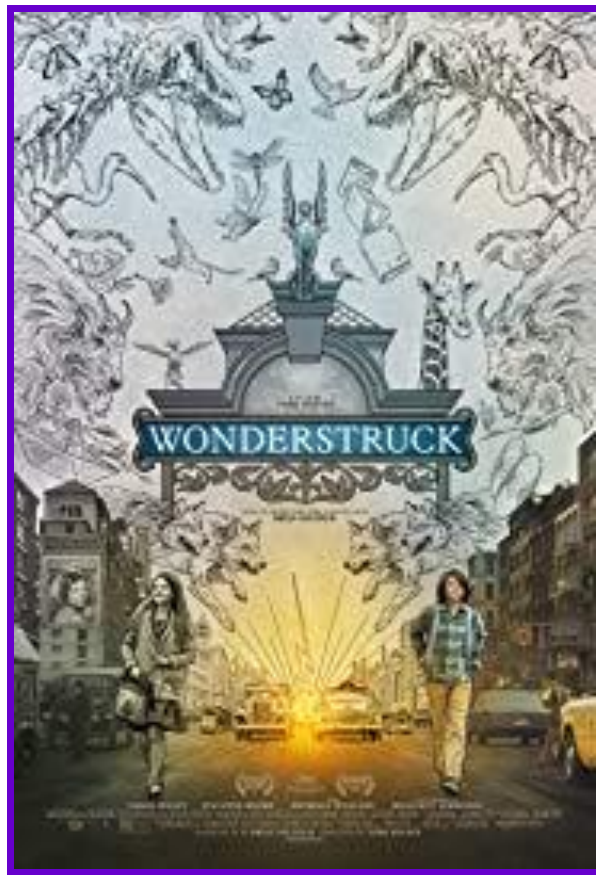
ONE 3rd place winner

in their age categories.

“Wonderstruck” Viewing

OSD’s English Language Arts instructor looked to FOSD to provide 30 Middle School students with a rare learning opportunity. Salem Cinema was showing the captioned movie *Wonderstruck*.

This film adaptation of a novel by the same name explores the somewhat fictional, somewhat magical mystery of collecting and preserving things across time and the messages that can be either hidden or conveyed.



The story takes place through the eyes, but not the ears, of two 12-year-olds-- because both are deaf. Before seeing the movie, students read the book as a class-- even though the reading level was quite challenging--so that they were able to see how the book was translated into film.

A number of the students are interested in a career in the field of filmmaking, and seeing the link between literature and movies made a big impact.

Garden Tours

Twenty World History, Art and Gardening students and chaperones visited the Portland Japanese and Lan Su Chinese Gardens in Spring 2018, with tickets provided by FOSD.



Before the tours, classes focused on the history of gardens, art and agriculture across the Ancient World. During the tours, students paid close attention to the guides and took notes on the use of plants, flowers, rocks and water in the garden designs.

Each student created one short, simple poem in both English and ASL while visiting the gardens. Each student also sketched a scene from each garden, which they later developed into watercolor art after returning to OSD.

Students used ASL to record their impressions of the tours in a video and completed a written “reflections” worksheet.



Surrounded by the water features, plants, stone walls and other amazing structures, all of the students were struck with a feeling of respect for culture and language.

They expressed gratitude for finding a little bit of peace in this sometimes crazy world.

CAMPERSHIPS

In 2014 an anonymous donor made a generous contribution to Friends of OSD for the purpose of providing a summer educational and respite opportunity for OSD students. With input from the donor, it was agreed that Camp Taloali would be an ideal location.

Camp Taloali is located in the foothills of Oregon's Cascade Mountains about 20 miles east of Salem. The Camp borders the North Santiam River and encompasses 111 acres of beautiful pine and fir forestland.

Programs are specifically designed for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Children of Deaf Adults, siblings and signing friends. Activities provide campers with a variety of challenges and achievements as well as arts and crafts, theater and communication, camping and outdoor skills, horseback riding, nature study, rope courses, environmental awareness, campfires and totem pole building.



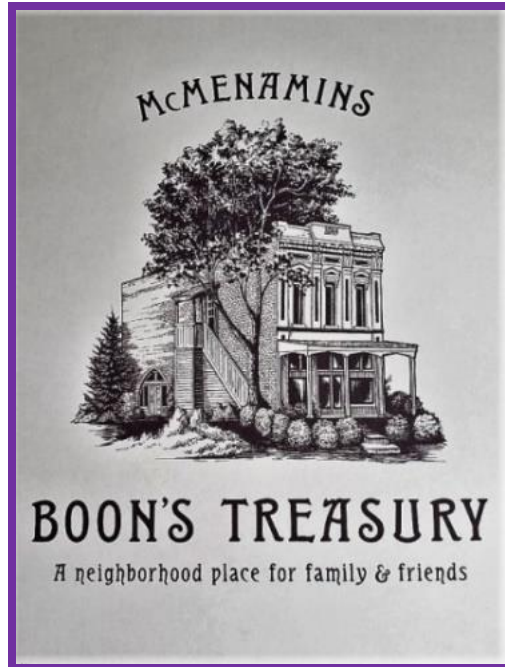
*For more information about Camp Taloali
go to www.taloali.org*

In 2017-18 FOSD awarded 11 camperships for OSD students, ages 6-18, thanks to our very generous donor.

All interested OSD students are encouraged to apply.

FUN WITH FUNDRAISING

Family and Friends Night



Boon's Treasury-McMenamins sits on the northern side of downtown Salem and features delicious pub food and handcrafted ales, wines and spirits. In both 2017 and 2018, Boon's hosted a fall "Family and Friends Night" with a portion of the profits going to FOSD to support activities, projects, and other innovative programs at the School.



From 5:00 p.m. to closing, it was nearly a full house as families and friends gathered to support FOSD, to partake of menu items and just enjoy time together. Boon's management presented FOSD with checks totaling more than \$2,500 and invited us to come again in 2019--and we already have made plans to do so!

Vine Gogh

In 2017 and 2018, the Vine Gogh Artist Bar in the Portland area partnered with FOSD for “paint-in” fundraisers.



Local artists, Vine Gogh colleagues and ASL interpreters led about 40 would-be artists in creating their own versions of “Santiam River” (2018) and “Starlit Haystack Rock” (2017) which they took home at the end of the afternoon.



This fun event raised nearly \$900, and we look forward to a repeat opportunity to add to our art collections in 2019.

Season of Sharing



Each year The Oregonian newspaper invites agencies that provide social and human services in Oregon and southwest Washington to apply for their *Season of Sharing* fundraising campaign, and so we did!

We were asked to list our most urgent needs, how these needs relate to education or literacy, and include ideas for human interest stories. In November, we were notified that FOSD had been selected as one of 10 nonprofits that would be featured in their Thanksgiving *Season of Sharing* publication.

FOSD was featured in an article with information about funding for the CNC router, the Shakespeare Festival trip, and other Educational Enrichment Awards. An Oregonian reporter interviewed OSD teacher Gayle Robertson about taking her OSD students to interpreted plays at the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, for which FOSD provided funding.

***The 2018 Season of Sharing generated
more than \$4,000 in donations
to Friends of OSD.***

It's so easy!

FOSD Board member, Roshani Shay Curtis, registered FOSD for a number of “passive” fundraisers whereby users generate donations to FOSD simply by taking advantage of corporate giving opportunities.

Fred Meyer Community Rewards Project



Fred Meyer donates \$2.5 million per year to nonprofits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Users can go to

www.fredmeyer.com/community_rewards

and link their Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Friends of OSD by searching for our name or our nonprofit number (93165). Rewards Cards also are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store. Each time the customer shops at Fred Meyer and uses their Rewards Card, a percentage of their purchases will be sent to FOSD as customers continue to earn their own Rewards Points, Fuel Points and Rebates.

In 2017-18, this passive fundraiser earned \$1,400 for FOSD.



iGive – and you can too!

iGive.com is a free service for online shoppers and the causes they support. iGive.com features over 1,900 online stores including Expedia, JC Penney, Staples, Best Buy, Banana Republic, PETCO, Apple, Macy's, and hundreds more. (For a complete list of participating stores, visit: <http://www.iGive.com/shop>.) Please consider turning your everyday online purchases into donations for FOSD by registering at **iGive.com**.



Do you or your friends or family shop at Amazon online? If so, you can easily generate support for FOSD by shopping on **Amazon Smile** (the same products, same prices, same service). Go to

<http://smile.amazon.com>

where you may select **Friends Of Osd** (note specific capitalization) as your charitable organization. Amazon will remember your selection; and every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation from the Amazon Smile Foundation to FOSD.

**In 2017-2018, smile.amazon shoppers
generated nearly \$200 for FOSD.**



GOOD Projects

After signing up at www.goodsearch.com, Friends of OSD will receive a 1¢ corporate donation each time users search the Web with **Goodsearch**.

Likewise, by signing up at www.gooddining.com, a percentage of your restaurant bill from thousands of participating restaurants will be sent to FOSD.

Go to www.goodshop.com and use **Goodshop** for online shopping and FOSD will receive a percentage of every purchase. In addition, users can access over 100,000 money-saving coupons.

Honorary & Memorial Donations

Friends of OSD provides an opportunity to remember and honor individuals through charitable giving. Significant events have included graduations, weddings, birthdays, deaths, employer matching programs, and a variety of other special recognitions.

Using information from a completed donation form, available on our website, we send an appropriate acknowledgement to the person or family being remembered.



**Please visit our website at
www.friendsofosd.org**

TECH TALK

Special thanks to Joshua Lindley for assisting us with our website.



147 COMMERCIAL St NE SUITE 5, SALEM, OR 97301
503-383-1550 or joshua@joshualindleyconsulting.com

Our website now is loaded with information and includes a student-produced video that demonstrates all the ways FOSD contributes to the School. Please check it out at www.friendsofosd.org



Our website also provides a link to FOSD's Facebook page. Facebook has proven to be a quick and easy way to post activities and events, photos, announcements and other information for our 500+ followers.

Thanks to the Board's Public Outreach Committee, we now have a PowerPoint presentation that Board members and others can use to help spread the word about Friends of OSD.



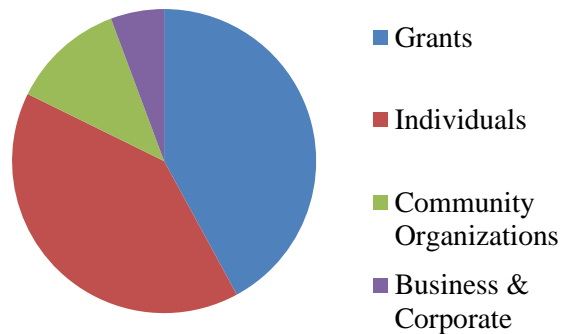
We always are looking for service clubs, community organizations and other groups who would give us a few minutes on their programs to provide information about who we are, what we do, and why. If you know of such opportunities, please contact us.

Funding to assist the Oregon School for the Deaf

The sole purpose of Friends of OSD is to assist the Oregon School for the Deaf. FOSD started the 2017-18 biennium with \$46,673.85 in the bank and ended with a balance of \$44,382.83.

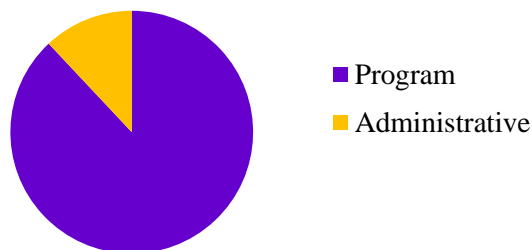
95% of all grants and donations go directly to programs that benefit students. A modest 5% administrative assessment covers the expenses of doing business as a nonprofit (office supplies, postage, annual fees, interpreters, insurance, etc.).

2017-18 Income Sources



\$19,200 Grants 42%
\$18,352 Individuals 40%
\$ 5,495 Community Organizations 12%
\$ 2,594 Business & Corporate 6%

2017-18 Expenditures



\$50,426 Program 87%
\$ 6,829 Administrative 13%



*Enhancing the Educational Experience
for OSD Students*

PO Box 15053 Salem, OR 97309

**Please visit our website at
www.friendsofosd.org**