

The Dental Foundation of Oregon
P.O. Box 2448
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www.SmileOnOregon.org



Our kids need help

You see their smiles every day. It's clear that some of the kids at your school or community center need help with their teeth. But their needs are even more serious and immediate than you might have thought.

The oral health of Oregon's children is among the worst in the nation. The Oregon Department of Human Services estimates that more than 100,000 children in the state don't have dental insurance.* To make matters worse, nearly 56 percent of 6–8-year-olds have dental decay. And those numbers are even higher in low-income households — the families who have the most trouble getting dental care.

*2007 DHS Smile Survey

For more information about organizing a Tooth Taxi visit, or to make a donation, please visit the website www.SmileOnOregon.org to learn more about our program and requirements, download the request form and find program manager contact information.

We thank our sponsors: the Dental Foundation of Oregon, OEA Choice Trust, ODS, and our many other generous partners and individuals!



BRING DENTAL HELP TO THE KIDS YOU CARE ABOUT

HOST A VISIT FROM THE TOOTH TAXI

Everyone smiles when the Tooth Taxi rolls into town!

The Tooth Taxi is a 38-foot, state-of-the-art mobile dental clinic that includes two operatory units. Launched in 2008 to respond to the oral health crisis in our state, this dental office on wheels is a direct service project of the Dental Foundation of Oregon.

Annually the Tooth Taxi visits approximately 50 sites, serves 3,000 children and provides more than \$700,000 in donated dental services.



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TOOTH TAXI TO THE RESCUE

The Tooth Taxi brings dental care directly to children by visiting schools and other community sites. Our dental staff assess each child's oral health and provides comprehensive care. They also provide oral health education through classroom presentations; teaching kids how to prevent tooth decay and how a healthy mouth can affect overall health.

The Tooth Taxi provides comprehensive dental care, free of charge, including:

- Exams
- X-rays
- Sealants
- Cleanings
- Fillings
- Minor oral surgery

“The Tooth Taxi staff provide a great service to the kids of our community. They're great with kids and it's a safe, welcoming environment. I'm proud to host the Tooth Taxi at my school.”

Principal Matthew Ihle, Chenoweth Elementary, North Wasco County SD

Making dental care fun

When the Tooth Taxi rolls into a school's parking lot, kids learn how to have fun with oral health. Patients watch movies, get prizes and enjoy a unique experience. Besides getting the immediate care they need, they also learn how to prevent tooth decay.

Patients get a dental hygiene kit containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, a mirror and a timer to encourage them to brush longer. Plus, your school or community center's library will receive a pack of four books related to dental health.

Healthy teeth can change lives

When a child has good oral health, it means more than just not having cavities. It means that child can live his/her life without pain from tooth decay or infections that threaten their overall health.

Take the case of a fifth grader who was treated by Tooth Taxi staff at Metolius Elementary School. The student had extreme early periodontitis (inflammation and infection of the ligaments and bones that support the teeth), and without the cleaning and early intervention provided during the Tooth Taxi's visit, the patient could have had gum recession or even lost teeth.

Be a hero for the kids you love

One of the best parts about the Tooth Taxi is that it doesn't cost anything for schools, kids or their parents. Our skilled staff provide all the dental services and education. The Tooth Taxi is fueled by donations from corporations, foundations and many individuals who care deeply about improving children's oral health.

But we need your help. Coordination provided by school or community center staff members, like you, is one of the most important parts to making the Tooth Taxi work. Because we can't screen or treat patients without consent, we need your help getting paperwork out to parents and guardians and then getting it back before the Tooth Taxi arrives.

Thanks to the principals, teachers, nurses and office staff who coordinate Tooth Taxi programs, we see results like the 16-year-old Woodburn boy who had never been to a dentist and received dental care for the first time ever, or the kindergartener who had decay in 14 teeth and was able to receive care after a visit to the Tooth Taxi.



Schedule a Tooth Taxi visit

1. Submit a request form and choose a primary contact person at your site to help organize the Tooth Taxi visit. This should be someone who is able to commit the time needed to prepare for the event. If your site is selected, the Tooth Taxi program manager or an OEA Choice Trust representative will work with you to coordinate a visit.
2. Identify the patients. We rely heavily on you to tell us who needs help the most! We give priority to children who have no dental insurance, have never been to a dentist or have an urgent need.
3. Send consent forms home with students. Collect and prepare Tooth Taxi forms in advance of the Tooth Taxi visit.

“I am so thankful to have this program available for our students. Thank you for the work you did to make this happen for everyone.”

Principal Lori Greenfield, Sunrise Elementary, Greater Albany SD

