



## ***Invites Letters of Interest for Launching an Outdoor School Program***

### **Statement of Purpose**

From 2014 to 2017, Gray FF has been investing in the successful effort to secure state funding to support outdoor school programs. In November 2016, Oregon became the first state in the country to fund a full week of outdoor education with the passage of Measure 99. In July 2017, Governor Kate Brown signed into law a bill providing \$24M in funding for the next biennium to support 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend outdoor school. Oregon State University Extension (OSU-Extension) is tasked with allocating these secured funds to support this statewide program through grant awards to school districts and education service districts (ESDs). To learn more about these programmatic funds, please visit OSU-Extension's outdoor school site at <http://oelp.oregonstate.edu/outdoorschool>.

Despite the availability of programmatic funds, Gray FF recognizes that not all schools and communities are prepared or eligible to directly apply for programmatic funding from OSU-Extension. The Gray Family Foundation's Launching an Outdoor School Program seeks to increase the capacity of schools and outdoor school providers to deliver high quality outdoor school experiences to all Oregon 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Because of our investments, we anticipate:

- more districts and ESD's will apply for outdoor school programmatic funding from OSU-Extension in future years,
- improved access to outdoor school programs for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> students throughout the state,
- systematic integration of environmental education in the K-12 system will increase,
- outdoor school experiences will increasingly reflect the diverse populations of Oregon,
- and, the outdoor school experience will increasingly represent the diverse perspectives, traditions, knowledge and relationships all people in Oregon bring as active stewards of their natural and built environment.

### **Eligibility**

We will consider proposals submitted by schools, districts, colleges, government agencies or 501(c)3 non-profit organizations serving Oregon. Any sponsored program provider activities should align with the applying organization's mission. For additional questions, [please contact Gray FF staff](#).

### **Scope of Requests Sought**

The Gray Family Foundation seeks requests that serve three categories of programs:

- **Planning grants for schools or districts.** These grants will support the planning required to launch or revise an outdoor school program in geographic regions or amongst communities currently with limited or no outdoor school opportunities. Schools, districts or ESDs can submit a request for a planning grant to support launching an outdoor school program with the intention of applying for programmatic funding from OSU-Extension in the future.
- **Planning grants for outdoor school program providers.** Current or prospective outdoor school program providers may request funds to plan how to better serve all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Oregon students. Specifically, Gray FF seeks to increase the capacity of program providers to deliver high quality, culturally responsive programming to better serve all Oregon communities.

- **Program grants to schools or student groups currently ineligible to apply for OSU Extension outdoor school funding.** Gray FF acknowledges that there are limitations of how OSU Extensions funds may be distributed which may exclude private, charter and home school students from eligibility. Gray FF will accept requests for programmatic grants to help these students participate in the outdoor school experience.

A planning grant may be used to support any necessary activities to launch or revise an Outdoor school program which may include but is not limited to: identifying school, district and community needs and opportunities for outdoor school; program planning; curriculum development; partnership development; staff/volunteer development; and other activities to lay the foundation for implementing a successful outdoor school program.

Gray FF is interested in reviewing proposals for a range of funding levels that best support the scope of work required.

Funding is not eligible for requests that include:

- delivery of outdoor school programming for districts and ESDs eligible through OSU-Extension funding; please refer to [OSU-Extension funding](#) for this purpose
- program delivery support for program providers
- summer camps, day camps, etc.
- planning outdoor school experiences that will serve students outside the targeted 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grades
- capital campaigns, site improvements or acquisitions of land
- purchases or activities that occur prior to grant decision
- deficit funding or elimination of operating deficits
- annual fund appeals or endowment funds
- religious activities
- grants or loans to individuals

## Application Process

Eligible institutions should submit a letter of interest (2 pages maximum) and a budget of applicable expenses for consideration to [grants@grayff.org](mailto:grants@grayff.org) with subject line: "OUTDOOR SCHOOL LOI- Applicant Name"

Specific questions/elements to address in your letter of interest (required):

1. Are you requesting a planning or program grant?
2. Amount of money you are seeking.
3. **What?** What does outdoor school mean to your organization or community? Describe the current and historical status and/or model of outdoor school in your region.
4. **Why?** Why do you need support for outdoor school? Include any persistent boundaries/challenges, emerging opportunities, cultural/regional contexts, and other relevant factors. If you are a school, district or ESD, please include why you do not feel prepared to apply directly to OSU-Extension for programmatic funds at this time.

5. **How?** How do you anticipate approaching either planning, revising or delivering (as applicable) an outdoor school experience? Please describe the activities that will be supported with Gray FF funds.
6. **Who?** Who will be engaged in the planning process or program activities (as applicable)? And, who will benefit from this work?
7. If a school, district or ESD requesting a planning grant, when you would seek OSU-Extension programmatic funds?
8. Contact details for a person who can answer questions.

Specific items that should be included where applicable in your budget (required):

#### Expenses

1. Personnel (e.g. staff, substitutes, etc.)
2. Services (e.g. contractors/consultants, staff development, etc.)
3. Travel (e.g. staff mileage, etc.)
4. Supplies & Equipment

#### Revenues

1. Contributed support (e.g. grants, business or individual donations, in-kind support, etc.)
2. Earned support (e.g. fundraisers, fees, student/family contribution, etc.)

[Please contact Gray FF](#) for assistance or clarification on any part of the application process. If you require submitting your request in an alternative format other than described, please contact Gray FF staff.

## Launching an Outdoor School Grantee Expectations

**Utilize available support resources.** The [“Launching, Managing and Sustaining an Outdoor school Program”](#) guide provides excellent recommendations on approaching the planning and design of an outdoor school program. Gray FF staff and valued partners will also provide learning opportunities in varied formats to support grantees in the successful development of outdoor school programs. It is recommended that grantees utilize applicable opportunities and available resources to support the implementation of best practices in the design and delivery of outdoor school.

**Grant reporting.** Gray Family Foundation appreciates the opportunity to bear witness to your successes and lessons learned. At the end of your grant, you will be expected to submit documentation of final expenses and either an online grant report or a copy of a submitted OSU-Extension OUTDOOR SCHOOL programmatic grant application.

## Grant Deadlines

Foundation trustees meet four times annually to make decisions on Launching an Outdoor school grant requests. The grant review process begins after receiving a completed application and usually takes four to six weeks. If you have a time sensitive request, we generally recommend applying by the following dates and grant awards will be made until funds are fully expended.

Applications received no later than...	Will generally be considered in...
January 15	Mid-February
April 1	Mid-May
July 1	Mid-August
October 1	Mid-November

## Questions?

More information about Gray FF grants programs can be found on our website [www.grayff.org](http://www.grayff.org).

If you have other questions, you may contact the Gray Family Foundation at 503-552-3511 or [grants@grayff.org](mailto:grants@grayff.org).

**Anti-Discrimination Policy:** The Gray Family Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, gender, religion, national origin, political or union affiliation, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or any other protected status recognized by local, state or federal law. Grant recipients must hold similar standards.