



Requests Letters of Interest for the 2018 Camp Maintenance Fund Program

Timeline

Letters of Interest due: September 29, 2017

Notification of formal invitation to apply sent by: November 20, 2017

Submission deadlines (*matching requirement must be secured prior to submission*): April 2, 2018 or September 28, 2018

Statement of Purpose

Since 2007, the Gray family has supported students and teachers in connecting with outdoor environments through a variety of environmental literacy experiences. Founded in 2012 as a supporting organization of [The Oregon Community Foundation](#), the [Gray Family Foundation](#) works to encourage greater civic engagement in Oregon through investments that promote environmental literacy.

The Gray Family Foundation is based on the values, beliefs, and lifework of John and Betty Gray, whose wide-ranging philanthropy and social contributions helped make Oregon the exceptional place it is today. John Gray identified the ongoing maintenance of residential camp facilities as a critical factor in preserving a full range of options for kids to get outside. Since 2014, the camp maintenance grant program has built upon this original vision, annually investing directly into the improvement of existing facilities at Oregon's outdoor residential camps throughout the state. The Gray Family Foundation works directly with outdoor school programs and their network of camps to identify those facilities that have maintenance and improvement needs, serve outdoor school, are geographically dispersed, and reflect the Gray Family Foundation's values regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Up to \$450,000 is available this year from Gray FF for projects that align closest with our goals and objectives. We will consider grant requests from \$20,000-\$50,000 per proposed project(s). The grant requires a 50% cash or in-kind match - one grantee dollar matching two Gray Family Foundation dollars. Gray FF is interested in reviewing requests for a range of funding levels that best serve the specific needs of the project.

Eligibility

We will consider letters submitted by non-profit camp facilities or school, districts, or 501(c) non-profit organizations submitting on behalf of an organizational camp serving Oregon. Priority will be given to organizational camp facilities that are currently hosting outdoor school programs or actively working towards becoming a host site for outdoor school programming. In addition, preference will be given to camp facilities that are licensed in the state of Oregon as an organizational camp. Grantees are not eligible to receive funding two years in a row. Any sponsored projects should align with the applying organization's mission. For additional questions, please contact Gray FF staff at grants@grayff.org.

2018 Funding Priorities

The Gray Family Foundation seeks letters of interest describing projects to repair or upgrade existing camp facilities (maintenance). Capital projects for new construction will not be considered.

The foundation will give priority to maintenance projects that seek to:

- Improve facilities that serve outdoor school programs;
- Improve facilities to better meet ADA requirements;
- “Green” camp facilities;
- Increase the energy efficiency of camp facilities;
- Increase facility resiliency to local natural hazards; and
- Improve stewardship and usability of the camp site.

The following elements are not required, but preference will be given to projects that demonstrate:

- Dedicated staff and volunteer time;
- Expertise in facilities maintenance and needs of outdoor school programs;
- Willingness to host students, teachers, and parents from diverse communities and lifestyles;
- Willingness to share best practices with peer grantee network; and
- Commitment to hosting outdoor school programs or are actively working towards becoming a host site for outdoor school programming.

The foundation will not fund:

- Capital projects for new construction
- Purchase of additional property
- Organizations who received funding the previous year
- Deficit funding or elimination of operating deficits
- Annual fund appeals or endowment funds
- Religious activities
- Grants or loans to individuals

There is a 50% match requirement for the project (one grantee dollar matching two Gray Family Foundation dollars). We have found matching grants for camp maintenance projects to be an effective mechanism to help organizations build community support while raising additional money for projects. The matching applicant dollars may come from the camp, individual donors, other grants from foundations or government groups, donated materials, and/or committed volunteer (donated) labor valued at the Oregon state volunteer rate (\$22.75/hour). The matching dollars must be secured prior to receiving Gray FF funding.

Letters of Interest Format and Fund Review Process

The first step in the grant process is to submit a letter of interest. The letter is limited to a maximum two pages in length. The projects most likely to move forward will clearly, succinctly, and successfully address the following:

1. What is your purpose as a camp (*Core Values? Mission Statement?*) and who are you accountable to? (*Board of Directors? Affiliated Organization?*)
2. Describe the camp facility. (*What is the physical footprint? Capacity? How many campers do you serve annually? How many weeks of outdoor school programming do you currently host?*)

3. Describe your proposed project(s) and the grant amount requested. (*How does it impact the camper's experience?*)
4. List the contact information of one individual who has agreed to be a reference for your camp facility. (*This individual will preferably be able to represent the student's/youth's experience. They may or may not be contacted in the grant review process.*)

Please send your letter of interest to grants@grayff.org with the subject line, "LOI for Camp Maintenance Fund 2018" by the grant deadline listed.

Review Process

Letters of interest (LOIs) will be reviewed by foundation staff alongside a volunteer committee. In addition to the letter submitted, the review process may include site visits, phone interviews, and reference feedback. Projects will be reviewed using the funding priorities above. In addition, foundation staff will consider the following:

- ✓ Geographic distribution of the entire grant portfolio
- ✓ Camp facility's capacity to, and interest in, hosting outdoor school programming
- ✓ Camp facility's ability to raise the matching requirement
- ✓ Stated need of proposed projects

Within eight weeks of LOI submission and after a thorough review, a selection of residential camp facilities will be invited to formally submit a proposal for funding.

Reporting Requirements

The Gray Family Foundation appreciates the opportunity to bear witness to your successes and lessons learned. You will have one year from the time the grant is awarded to complete your project. At the end of your grant, you will be expected to complete a grant report. This report will be brief and include the progress you made in addressing the Gray Family Foundations priorities (listed in "2018 Funding Priorities") and your project's identified goals. Future funding requests will not be considered without timely reporting.

Questions?

More information about Gray FF grants programs can be found on our website www.grayff.org.

If you have other questions, you may contact the Gray Family Foundation at 503-944-2144 or 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.