



The Gray Family Foundation Invites Proposals for the 2017 Environmental Education Program

Grant Deadlines

Online application opens: Thursday, December 1, 2016

Due date for applications: Friday, January 20, 2017

Grants awarded: May 2017

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. The Gray Family Foundation (Gray FF) Environmental Education program seeks to promote the inclusion of environmental education in K-12 environments and increase outdoor experiences for youth. As a result of our investments in environmental education across Oregon, we anticipate:

- more active youth stewardship of our natural and built communities,
- the systematic integration of environmental education in the K-12 system,
- environmental education non-profits and programs will be able to increase service to their communities,
- and, that the field of environmental education will increasingly reflect the diverse populations of Oregon.

Up to \$400,000 is available this year from Gray FF for projects that align closest with our goals and priorities.

In 2017, the Gray FF Environmental Education grant program will continue to accept applications for both student field experiences (previously referred to as community field trips) and educator professional development. However, we are changing our application process to allow programs or projects to seek funding for either or both student field experiences and/or educator professional development. It is not our expectation that applicants must provide services in *both* of these areas. We encourage you to explore what strategies best serve the needs of your specific audience(s) and your priorities.

An additional change in 2017 is an expansion of target audiences to now include 3rd through 8th grade students and all educators including K-12 teachers, K-12 administrators, pre-service teachers and informal educators.



Eligibility

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

Scope of Proposals Sought

The Gray Family Foundation seeks proposals that stimulate or promote the teaching of environmental education in K-12 environments and increase outdoor experiences for youth. Project funding can support student field experiences for 3rd through 8th grade students and/or educator professional development.

The foundation will give priority to projects that seek to increase one or more of the following areas:

- Educators' (K-12 teachers, administrators and informal educators) preparedness to integrate EE across subjects.
- Environmental educators' preparedness to support K-12 needs utilizing best practices and rigor.
- K-12 professionals' preparedness to use the natural and built community and systems as a context for learning.
- K-12 students' ability to collaborate, problem solve and apply critical thinking to local and global environmental issues.
- K-12 students' preparedness for success in careers inside and outside of the environmental field through increased participation in environmental education,
- Diversity of students and communities engaged in outdoor and environmental education learning experiences.

Preference will be given to proposals that commit:

- Dedicated staff time;
- K-12 administrative support;
- Expertise in environmental education, K-12 instruction, or community culture;
- And, service to communities of color or historically marginalized populations.

We will consider grant requests from \$5,000-\$30,000 per year for projects and traditionally fund 20%-40% of the total project budget. Gray FF is interested in reviewing proposals for a range of funding levels that best serve the specific needs of the community the project or program will serve.

Application Procedure and Review Process

Environmental Education Program applicants may submit a proposal through an online system which will be available via our website on **December 1, 2016**. The on-line application will require submitting brief organizational and project backgrounds, a program description, answering narrative questions, sharing a project timeline, and a detailed project budget ([template provided](#)).

Specific narrative questions (required):

1. What do you hope to accomplish through this project?
2. How does this program support your organization's goals and build upon your staff and organization's strengths?

3. What was your process for researching and designing your particular approach?
4. How will you know the project has been successful?

Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a volunteer committee that will make recommendations for funding to the Gray FF board. Awards will be granted in advance of the 2017-2018 school year. Projects will be reviewed and scored using the following criteria:

1. Excellence. Projects which show significant promise of excellence and impact on students. We seek projects that employ best practices related to their intended activities.

In evaluating proposals that include **student field experiences**, we seek projects or programs that:

- ✓ Provide direct experiences addressing local and global environmental issues.
- ✓ Are academically and emotionally appropriate for the intended audience.
- ✓ Align to state and/or national standards.
- ✓ Foster student's knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors towards environmental systems and issues.
- ✓ Extend learning from the field to the classroom and the classroom to the field.
- ✓ Make use of interdisciplinary instruction to extend beyond environmental science to include social science, arts, and other subjects as appropriate.
- ✓ Employ culturally appropriate strategies for engaging diverse audiences.

In evaluating proposals that include **educator professional development**, we seek projects or programs that:

- ✓ Improve educators' ability to integrate EE across subject areas including science, social science, and arts.
- ✓ Prepare K-12 professionals to utilize the natural and built community and systems as a context for learning.
- ✓ Promote the use of best practices in environmental education such as project-based learning, cooperative learning strategies, service learning and inquiry-based instruction.
- ✓ Enables educators to understand and articulate the benefits of environmental education to K-12 environments.

2. Project Feasibility and Fit. Lead organization demonstrates capacity to carry out the project including an appropriate budget, clarity of project goals and design, support from leadership and appropriate qualifications of the project's personnel. Lead organization may utilize partners through new and existing educational networks to carry out the work.
3. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Projects that bring greater levels of equity, diversity, and inclusion to the program such as:
 - ✓ Projects focused specifically on reducing socioeconomic, geographic and racial inequities in student success.
 - ✓ Projects that foster innovative public/private relationships and that serve low-income communities and communities of color.
 - ✓ Projects that include culturally appropriate strategies for engaging diverse audiences.

Reporting Requirements

The 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 complete an online grant report. This report will be brief and include the progress you made in addressing the Gray Family Foundations priorities

(listed in “Scope of Proposals Sought”) and your project’s identified goals. Future funding requests and annual renewals of multi-year funds 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 503-552-3511 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.