

April 2014

NEWS & NOTES

www.grayff.org

The Gray Family Foundation seeks to fulfill John and Betty Gray's faith in the human spirit. The Gray family acknowledges their responsibility to give back to the systems that nurture all of us: our culture, our natural environment and our communities.

Outdoor School for All Update

The Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition is currently holding organizing meetings across the state. The next meeting will be in Portland on May 6th.

You can find details on this and other upcoming events here:

<http://www.outdoorschoolforall.org/> and here:

<https://www.facebook.com/OutdoorSchoolForAll?fref=ts>

These events are an opportunity to find out how you can support efforts to fully fund Oregon's Outdoor School program.



If you missed the meeting in your area, the Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition will be hosting a conference call this Friday, May 1st at 4PM, providing regional and important updates on the bill.

To join this call, simply dial the toll free number below or log in online:

Toll Free Conference Call: 888-613-6313

OnlineLogin: <https://www.uberconference.com/outdoorschoolforall>

**Thank you to all who have written letters in support of HB2648 and SB439.
We are making a difference in Salem!**

Grant Opportunities

Outdoor School Programs for 5th and/or 6th graders

Open online April 15th

Due June 15th

Awarded in September

Community Field Trips for 5th through 8th graders

Open online May 15th

Due July 15th

Awarded in November

The Gray Family Foundation makes grants to schools, government agencies, and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. Approximately \$750,000 will be available for the 2015 grant cycle. The average grant size is \$13,500.

Download the full [2015 Environmental Education Program RFP](#).

Please refer to our [website](#) for descriptions of grant categories, evaluation requirements, successful projects funded, and amounts granted.

Notable News

Outdoor Education Advocates Gather at Riley Creek

Over a dozen Outdoor School advocates gathered at Riley Creek Elementary School in Gold Beach on Friday night to support Outdoor School. Outdoor Education, or Outdoor School, is a week long program aimed at 5th and 6th graders, in which the students leave the school setting for a camp type experience, concentrating on the study of science and nature in a natural environment. Read the full article here: <http://currycountyreporter.com/index.php?sid=2&cid=1&story=11009>

A Project As Big As The World Itself!

Join National Geographic for a global snapshot of biodiversity! The Great Nature Project is ongoing, but from May 15th to 25th, 2015, the goal is to motivate people to explore biodiversity wherever they are and document as many species as possible. Everything observed between May 15th and 25th and uploaded to greatnatureproject.org (or using the iNaturalist app) will be counted for the global snapshot. National Geographic will do this every year to track changes and patterns!

Teacher Creates Wildside for Students

Sixth grade teacher David Scharfenberg is the recipient of the 2015 SOLVE Citizenship Award for his outstanding work restoring natural area surrounding the school. Read more about David's outdoor education program here: <http://koin.com/2015/04/22/teacher-creates-wildside-for-students/>.

Stay Connected

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