



December 2013

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.

Director's Notes

In my daily work, I find myself frequently called upon to describe the work that we do at the Gray Family Foundation. I rattle off a list of our grant programs so that the development officer with whom I'm meeting can discover if her programs might be a fit for funding, but ultimately I circle back to the core of what we are about. While Environmental Education is what we are known for, getting kids outside is the strategy we are pursuing in order to accomplish a higher bigger goal. We want to help develop a civically engaged population, people who will stand up to protect the features of the state that make it such an attractive place to live. Our belief is that getting kids outside, connecting them with the land, helping them understand their geography and how the cities, towns, mountains, rivers, forests, and estuaries all come together, delivering experiences that create the dynamic engaging place that we we call home, bringing tangible science understanding applied to everyday problems, that these experiences will create the leaders of the next 100 years.

In order to accomplish this goal, in order to reach the majority of our students around the state, we need partners in the form of schools, teachers, non-profits, volunteers, funders, government agencies, and individuals. And we need to find ways to share and communicate the great work that so many people are doing already to help adults and kids experience the wonder of Oregon's environment, natural and built. In 2014, we look forward to continuing the conversations that have started, conversations around secure funding, conversations around multicultural diversity, conversations around effectiveness. We look forward to seeing the wonder that lights up our collective faces when a student suddenly makes the connection between the food he eats and the soil and water in his neighborhood. We look forward to working with you to build an Oregon that all of us will want to call

home.



--Eric
Executive Director, Gray Family Foundation

Notable News

Check Out Gray Family Foundation's New Website!

The Gray Family Foundation has a new website packed full of useful information, helpful resources, and stories of our successful grantees as well as a grants calendar to keep you updated on our progress. We absolutely love it, and hope you'll visit often. See for yourself at: www.grayff.org.

Oregon Sustainable School Awards and U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School Awards – Apply Now

Apply by January 15th for the Oregon Sustainable School Awards. Applicants are also eligible for nomination to the U.S. Department of Education 2014 Green Ribbon recognition program. Application assistance is available once schools/districts register their intent to apply.

This is the 3rd year that the Oregon Department of Education and Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI) will recognize schools for their great work to 1) address environmental impacts, 2) provide for healthy, safe students and staff, 3) educate for environmental and social literacy, and 4) contribute to community sustainability. This year a district-level award was added as well.

All public and private K-12 schools and districts in Oregon are invited to apply. The Oregon awards recognize a school that best addresses all four "pillar" areas comprehensively, as well as top achievers in each of the four areas. Additionally up to four schools and one district that excel across all three Green Ribbon School pillar areas will be selected as Oregon's U.S. Green Ribbon School nominees through this same application process.

Details at: <http://www.sustainableschools.org/sosi/oregon-award-program>.

Questions? Contact Lori Stole, lstole@sustainableschools.org

Grant Cycle Updates

This past week we announced our RFPs for 2014! Read the full RFP's here: [Grants Calendar](#)

Two things have changed:

1) The applicants who apply for our 5th–8th grade field trip RFP will be automatically included in a learning cohort that includes some extra requirements and some extra rewards. This cohort of applicants will be asked to review applications in a process that we hope will lead to more awareness of other organizations and better grant writing. The cohort will also be invited to a one–day professional development training (expenses paid for by the Gray Family Foundation).

2) We moved the Outdoor School application deadline from July/August to May 1. Our thinking for doing so was that the previous deadline was more aligned with the OCF grant schedule than with the teacher schedules. So we hope that by moving the deadline to May, with grant awards by July, the outdoor school organizers will have more time to plan their ODS sessions for Fall 2014 and Spring 2015.

Next Cycle?

The RFP for our Teacher Professional Development funding category as well as for our Community Field Trips for 5th – 8th grade students category is now up and open. The deadline for proposals is February 3rd, 2014.

GFF makes grants to schools, government agencies, and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. Please refer to our [website](#) for examples of recent successful projects and amounts granted.

Stay Connected

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