



December 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.

A Note from Nancy Bales, Executive Director

As we bid farewell to 2014, the staff and board of the Gray Family Foundation would like to thank all of our partners and grantees for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. Your work enables us to achieve our vision and mission in communities around Oregon.

In 2014, the Gray Family Foundation awarded approximately \$1.3 million in grants to 118 nonprofits working across the state. We are looking forward to continuing to support this work in 2015. Our first 2015 grant cycle, Teacher Professional Development, is currently open and accepting applications through January 15, with two additional grant cycles to follow in the late spring and early summer supporting Outdoor School and Community Field Trips. You can find information on all of these below, and on our [website](#).

We'd also like to invite you to participate and contribute your voice to one of the listening sessions on outdoor education being held across the state in December and January. We've included information in this newsletter about those sessions. We hope to see you there.

And, finally, I'd like to extend my very best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to all of you from all of us here at the Gray Family Foundation.

Initiative Update

Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition Public Gatherings

The Gray Family Foundation wants to help spread the word about a series of

regional gatherings taking place throughout Oregon to talk about outdoor education, with a focus on outdoor school programs. Please help spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and the organizations you know care about outdoor education in Oregon.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute sponsored these community meetings in order to gather thoughts and input about outdoor school education which has inspired so many kids to be resourceful, self-empowered, and independent learners.

This is your opportunity to help shape education in Oregon by sharing what you think outdoor school should look like moving forward.

The gatherings are being held:

December 13 - Bend
January 10 - Medford
January 17 - Newport
January TBA - Portland
January 24 - Eugene

For locations, times, and registration visit www.oregonoutdoored.org.

Notable News

Oregon Sustainable School Awards

The Oregon Department of Education and Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative are accepting applications from schools and districts for the Oregon Sustainable School Awards. Applicants are also evaluated for nomination to the U.S. Department of Education 2015 Green Ribbon recognition program. This Award recognizes 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.

Award applications are accepted until January 12th, 2015. For additional information on the application process, the information calls, or the application schedule, please visit www.sustainableschools.org.

Mary Rellergert Forestry Education Award

The Mary Rellergert Forestry Education Award is an annual award recognizing excellence in forestry education. Recipients can be formal or non-formal educators and organizations, or programs that provide forestry education in the state of Oregon. This award is designed to recognize significant contributions to the advancement of public information, education, and understanding of forestry.

[Award applications](#) are accepted electronically until January 9, 2015.

Supporting Future Landowners and Our Forests

A recent Associate Press [article](#) highlights issues surrounding the national impacts of aging landowners on forest conservation. An OSU program called "[Ties to the Land](#)" is being implemented in other states to help forest-owning families build on the past, while planning for the future.

White House Launches Climate Education and Literacy Initiative

The Office of Science and Technology Policy kicked off this new initiative with a convening of key leaders in the education community in hopes of advancing national climate change education. Read more about specific administration commitments in this [press release](#).

BEETLES National Leadership Institute Applications Open

The Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning, Expertise and Sharing [National Leadership Institute](#), for residential outdoor science school leaders, is an all-expenses paid trip to California for 5 days of FREE professional learning and networking (August 2-7, 2015).

Grant Cycle Updates

Environmental Professional Development for K-12

[Open application online](#)

Due January 15th, 2015

Awarded in May

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

Open online April 15th, 2015

Due June 15th, 2015

Awarded in September

Community Field Trips for 5th through 8th graders

Open online May 15th, 2015

Due July 15th, 2015

Awarded in October

GFF 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.

Stay Connected

1221 SW Yamhill St., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97205
503.552.3500; grants@grayff.org

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