



June 2014

## NEWS & NOTES

[www.grayff.org](http://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.

### Staff Transitions

Eric Vines accepted the role of Executive Director of the World Forestry Center and left the Gray Family Foundation as of May 19th. The Gray Family Foundation is on a healthy, stable trajectory. We've been developing our vision, started planning our new grant programs in geography and camp maintenance, and we have new technology systems in place that will make our grant-making systems smoother.

Rana and Lara will continue in their roles, managing our existing and evolving programs as we bring on the new Executive Director.

The foundation is currently in the process of hiring a new Executive Director. As soon as that individual is identified, we will send out the happy news!

Until then, please contact [Lara](#) or [Rana](#) with any questions or concerns.

### Notable News

Philomath Outdoor School highlighted in the Corvallis Gazette-Times

We were thrilled to see our partner, Philomath Outdoor School, get their moment in the sun!

We are also excited to announce that Jennifer Grube has been nominated to the Council for the Oregon Environmental Literacy Program. They met in June for two days of strategic planning and will be looking for more participants to engage in various focus areas for the work ahead.

Other members of the team are in place throughout the state. A list of OELP Council members can be found [here](#).

Here's a snippet of the article:

"Jennifer Grube, the outdoor school's director for the last 13 years, said during the five days of outdoor school students are separated from cell phones, computers, technology and makeup, so they can connect with the outdoors without distraction.

"This is probably the only week of their lives when they have that," she said.

The 96 sixth-graders who attended outdoor school this year were divided into groups with other students in their cabins for some camp duties such as setting tables in the cafeteria, and into field study groups for other educational activities and games. According to Grube, the outdoor school had 36 staffers, including sixth-grade teacher Philomath High School students who volunteered as cabin leaders and led games, and college students, mostly former Philomath students, who taught educational lessons.

Grube said forming the students into cabins and field study groups gives them a chance to get to know classmates beyond their normal social circle. She added that the games, songs and activities that make up the camp experience help students grow and gain life skills like communication and teamwork that go beyond traditional education.

"They get to shed stereotypes here," she said.

Paul Miller, a sixth-grade teacher at Philomath Middle School, said the outdoor school experience gives students a chance to bond with their classmates and have a nature learning adventure.

"It's a great experience for the kids," he said. "They get out to experience things they never have before." "

Click here for the full

story: [http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/education/article\\_569e1d02-d563-11e3-8568-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/education/article_569e1d02-d563-11e3-8568-0019bb2963f4.html)

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Great Resources Supporting Environmental Education  
Just a few of the many!

Barriers to Getting Children Outdoors: <http://youtu.be/kDfMJivTX70>

A nice introductory video presentation by April Gutierrez originally presented at the 2014 Oregon Wilderness Conference

Natural Childhood: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/document-1355766991839/>  
by Stephen Moss/National Trust of England

Children & Nature Worldwide: An Exploration of Children's Experiences of the Outdoor and Nature with Associated Risks and

Benefits: <http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/CECCNNWorldwideResearch.p>

**Grant Cycle Updates**

We closed our May grant deadline for our Outdoor School Funding Category. We received 40 applications. If you didn't apply on May 5th and have concerns about your program, please contact us. Our grants committee will meet to review this grants in July, and grant award checks will be mailed out in August.

### Next Cycle?

Our grants calendar for 2015 will be updated via our website in the coming month. Please check the calendar as the dates may change from previous years.

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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