



From Executive Director, Nancy Bales

As outdoor school programming wraps up in schools across the state for 2017, I am pleased to share with you the full report from a study, completed by researcher David Keyes, Ph.D., on Outdoor School in Oregon. As Oregon launches the first in the nation statewide outdoor school program, we sought an assessment of the current state of this long running program prior to school districts have access to dedicated state funding. This report provides an in-depth look at current participation, the length of programs, and some of the barriers, as well as benefits to students. Dr. Keyes uses a mix of quantitative and qualitative data. This mix-method approach gives us a broad and deep understanding of the current state of Outdoor School in Oregon by identifying both the who, what, where and when of Outdoor School, as well as the how and why. We welcome your comments and questions on the report.

[Read the full report>>](#)



Grantee Success Story: Springfield Education Foundation

Lane County, Oregon:
A one-of-a-kind high school program grows
young journalists, naturalists and leaders.

Learn more about the [Journalist Learning](#)

[Initiative.](#)

[Read the full success story>>](#)

Launch Your Project with a Partners in Conservation Grant

Get the funding you need to launch your conservation project. East Multnomah Soil and

Watershed Council's annual grant cycle for the 2018 Partners in Conservation (PIC) grants program is coming up. **Applications are due by 4pm on Thursday, December 15th this year.**

In order to be eligible for funding, projects or events must be located within the District service area (all Multnomah County east of the Willamette River) or serve its residents. Projects must show a clear public benefit in one or more of the following: habitat restoration or watershed health, soil erosion prevention/control, soil health, water quality, water conservation, and/or environmental education.

[Learn more and apply](#)

#OptOutside on Black Friday with FREE entry to Oregon and Washington State Parks

In Oregon and Washington, the fee-free holiday applies to the parks that usually charge a \$5 parking fee. That includes popular park sites like Smith Rock, Silver Falls and Fort Stevens. Let's #optoutside.



[Read more>>](#)

Upcoming Gray FF Grant Deadlines

Environmental Education

Online Application Opened: October 1, 2017

Application Due: December 1, 2017

Grant Award Notification: February 2018

[Read More](#)

Launching an Outdoor School Program

LOI Deadline(s): Rolling deadlines (January 15, April 1, July 1, October 1)

[Read more](#)

[Learn more about our grantmaking](#)



The Gray Family Foundation is founded on the belief that fostering an understanding and appreciation of our natural world is a crucial part of a child's education. By supporting programs such as Outdoor School, geography education and professional development for teachers, we seek to give Oregon students a greater understanding of the world outside their classroom. Learn more at www.grayff.org

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