

Introducing our new look, the fir cone

It's a story that Oregon children can hold in the palm of their hand: the story of the mice and the Douglas fir cone. As the tale goes, a great fire scorched the forest, and the mice needed a place to take cover. The Douglas fir took the mice in, providing protection and seeds for food. Today, children can still see tiny "mice tails" poking out from the fir cone and learn to identify a Douglas fir tree—an early connection to this place we call home.



Like the forest, Gray Family Foundation continues to grow and evolve. We felt it was time to update our branding and mark to reflect where we've come from and where we want to be in the future, as we continue to advance John and Betty Gray's belief that understanding and appreciating our natural world is a crucial part of a child's education.

Enter the Douglas fir cone. [Read more here.](#)

Focusing on connection to place

A huge thank you to the 35 Geography Education grantees who gathered with us in Portland on March 6th. It turned out to be our last in person gathering for a while. We appreciated the opportunity to learn from each other and engage in discussions on the future of geography education in Oregon.

A special thanks to those who shared their work and led discussions including: Cottonwood School of Civics and Science, Salem-Keizer School District Indian Education Program, Alder Creek Community Forest, the Center for Geography Education, Confluence, and the Oregon Department of Education American Indian/Native Alaskan Advisory Committee.

To download a list of Gray Family Foundation's current Geography Education grantees, [click here.](#)

Announcing our 2020 Environmental Education Grantees

This year, we awarded 38 new and renewal grants totaling more than \$600,000 to providers

across the state. ([download the list](#)) We are grateful to each of these organizations for their work engaging youth and educators in connecting with and learning in the outdoors.

To help ensure our grantmaking priorities and decisions are aligned with community strengths and opportunities, we use a community-driven grant review process. This year our process included input from leaders in nonprofits, education, and direct practitioners from across the state. For more information about our grant review process, you can visit our website [here](#).



[Visit our website](#)



Grantee Stories: Camp ELSO

Snap. A digital camera captures a tranquil moment in the Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge, located about 15 miles from downtown Portland. Behind the camera, a young student reviews the scene she's just captured—her very own creation. [Read more.](#)

**Some
available
funding
sources**

[Oregon Community Foundation Covid-19 Response Fund](#)

[Grantmakers of Oregon and Southwest Washington Resource Connector](#)

[Ninety-nine girlfriends Collective Giving Impact Awards \(Metro region\)](#)