

Announcing our 2020-2021 Youth Leadership for the Environment grantees

We are excited to announce our new initiative – **Youth Leadership for the Environment**. The goal of the Initiative is to support a healthy, thriving, and sustainable Oregon by empowering high-school age youth to use their leadership skills in the environmental sector, while increasing the number of schools, businesses, and/or organizations where youth can see themselves, their backgrounds, and their life experiences reflected in environmental work. This year's awards totaled \$450,000.

Our 2020-2021 grantees and partners are: APANO Communities United Fund, Beyond Toxics, CAPACES Leadership Institute & Farmworker Housing Development Corporation and Evolve Property Management and Workforce, Children's Forest of Central Oregon & Environmental Center of Central Oregon, Curry Watersheds & Coos Watershed Association, Euvalcree & Friends of Owyhee, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Rogue Climate & Rogue Action Center, Soul River Inc., Tappin' Roots Internship Program (Camp ELSO, Blueprint Foundation, Friends of Tryon Creek State Park, and BEAM Village), and Wallowa Resources.

Please contact us at grants@grayff.org to learn more.



Camp Maintenance Grant Program Update

The COVID-19 pandemic has had far reaching impacts on the outdoor school and camp community in Oregon. According to a recent policy brief from [UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science](#), environmental and outdoor science education program

providers may lose as much as \$600 million in revenue by December 2020 in the absence of proactive federal or statewide relief.

In response to this and recognizing that many camps that host outdoor school will be unable to rely on the same levels of revenue for at least the next year, Gray Family Foundation is prioritizing using our Camp Maintenance fund to support deferred maintenance projects at camps that play a key part in the outdoor school community in Oregon. Camps will be directly invited to apply for funds by our staff and encouraged to use funds to keep maintenance staff employed and work towards safely reopening for

outdoor school when conditions and local regulations permit. We will not be offering a formal competitive/open application process for 2020-21. [Read more here.](#)

2019 Outdoor School for All! Evaluation Report

We are pleased to share the newly released, *Outdoor School for All! Diverse Programming and Outcomes in Oregon, 2019 Evaluation Report* compiled by our partner, Dr. Steven Braun and the Oregon State University Outdoor School program. This report is designed to support outdoor school programs in making positive programmatic shifts to ensure that all students are able to have meaningful and culturally relevant experiences in the outdoors that contribute to their academic success. The evaluation tool utilizes a common measurement system based on legislative requirements, a wide variety of data sources, existing literature/knowledge base, a pilot study and substantial input from stakeholders. [To learn more, we encourage you to read/review the 2019 report.](#)



Grantee Stories: Straub Outdoors

When Oregon launched Outdoor School for All in 2017, Straub Outdoors found itself at a crossroads. The Salem-based organization could continue providing high-quality outdoor school to mid-Willamette Valley schools that were mostly higher-income, with fewer students of color. [Read more](#)

Meet Our New Board Members and Staff!

Mark Redmond, Superintendent of Malheur ESD, joined the Gray Family Foundation board in August. [Read more about Mark here.](#)

Traci Rossi joined Gray Family Foundation's board early in 2020. Traci serves as the Executive Director for Friends of the Children-Portland. [Find out more about Traci here.](#)

Carla D. Coleman joined Gray Family Foundation as our new Administrative Assistant. We look forward to you all having the opportunity to get to know Carla. [Meet Carla here.](#)

2021 Gray Family Foundation Environmental Education Grant Program Timeline

- Online application opens and Request for Proposals posted

on September 15, 2020

- Application due November 15, 2020
- Awards distributed by end of February 2021