

Hello 2021: Connection to Land and People



As we start 2021, Gray Family Foundation stands with those working to reimagine and create a better and more equitable future for all.

The violent insurrection on January 6, 2021 goes against our most basic values, including our commitment to racial equity and justice and we [stand with our philanthropic partners](#) across the country in unequivocally condemning the events of that day and those that led up to it. What happened last week is a reminder of the tremendous amount of work to be done to build an inclusive and equitable future. We are committed to challenging and working toward dismantling oppressive racist systems.

As we all look anxiously towards 2021, Gray Family Foundation would like to pause to celebrate the accomplishments in 2020. Despite the many challenges of the past year, our grantees continued to serve their communities – bringing nature to students in safe, meaningful ways. From virtual lessons and science kits, to virtual campfires and TikTok stories, our grantees created opportunities for students, educators, and families to experience the outdoors and keep a connection with land and people.

Here are some highlights of our communities' work:

- **Sixth graders in Multnomah County received 7,500 science kits** from the Multnomah Education Service District's (MESD's) Outdoor School staff. Called "Outdoor School Anywhere", staff ordered and assembled kits to provide lessons and activities for students learning from home, including as much outdoors time as possible. Find out more [here](#).
- Friends of Tryon Creek State Park provided a **spooky cultural StoryMap** at Tryon

Creek State Natural Area with interactive stories rooted in Indigenous culture. They also created cultural ecology videos for 3rd – 8th graders that were shared via [YouTube](#).

- **Friends of Owyhee hosted a socially-distanced youth science field camp** that offered students and families from Ontario School District the opportunity to connect and learn in nature. The program director shared about it on their blog [here](#).
- [Vesper Meadow Education Program](#) merged with the [Understory Initiative](#) and have continued making strong progress on their education program, including partnering with regional educators to create **curriculum and online video tools for teachers and parents**. One of their first education videos featured their namesake, [Oregon Vesper Sparrow](#).
- Unable to host programming in the spring and summer, [Camp Tamarack](#) focused on **improving their facilities**. This work included improving trails, building a new garden area, and painting buildings and adding new signage throughout the camp. In the fall Camp Tamarack also provided 15 area schools with virtual/hybrid Outdoor School experience.

Gray Family Foundation appreciates the strength and resolve displayed in 2020. We know there will be challenges ahead but remain hopeful and optimistic of the work our partners will continue to achieve. We look forward to supporting your efforts to continue to create experiences that will transform future generations for years to come. **Thank you!**

Available funding sources

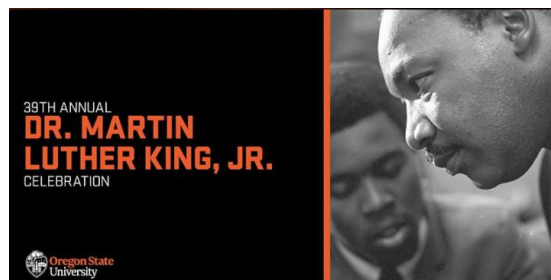
We are now accepting requests for our **2021 Outdoor School Grant Program**. Schools, districts, and program providers are all eligible to apply. [Visit our website here to download our request letter guidance and learn more.](#)

Oregon State University Extension Service's Outdoor School Program is also now accepting applications for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion grants for outdoor school providers and sites. [Find out more here.](#)

The Department of Treasury is reopening its Small Business Association PPP loan opportunity. [Click here](#) and see if your nonprofit is eligible.

Martin Luther King Celebration January, 18, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Oregon State University will be hosting its 39th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration online. This year's event will include Keynote Speaker Angela Davis, political activist, philosopher, academic and author. [Click here](#) to register for this free event.



Additional Resources

- Throughout 2020, Beyond Toxics, in collaboration with NAACP Eugene-Springfield, hosted a series of **webinars called Environmental Justice Pathways**. These webinars addressed a wide variety of topics including how past injustices impact Oregon's current environmental policy and the right to a healthy workplace. All of the webinars can be found [here](#).
- [THIS LAND](#) is a film about land access told through a

journey of inclusion and empowerment. Told from perspective of filmmaker and advocate Faith Briggs, and accompanied by running companions who represent diverse perspectives in what it means to be a land owner, Faith assesses what is at stake if previously protected lands are reduced and if the public is largely unaware. [The film includes additional video and book resources, discussion guide ,and lesson plans for middle and/or high school age youth.](#)

- On January 8th **the Oregon Legislature Joint Emergency Board approved \$10 million** from the Oregon Department of Education Early Learning Division for residential, outdoor, and summer camps that often serve as child care for families and provide youth development and leadership opportunities for older children. OregonASK, Oregon Alliance of YMCAs, Oregon Trails ACA, and Oregon CCCA are seeking to gather data to determine potential grant eligibility and distribution with an equity lens. [Complete this survey](#) by **January 18 at noon PST to be considered.**