

Gray Family Foundation Youth Leadership Convening

Earlier this month, we were thrilled to hold our first in-person convening since the COVID-19 pandemic began, gathering our Youth Leadership grantee cohort. As background, in 2019, we launched a Youth Leadership for the Environment Initiative which included multi-year funding for 20 organizations from around the state focusing on engaging high



school age youth in environmental-related leadership and career development and community organizing. As part of this initiative, we also launched a learning cohort, which Gray FF co-lead with staff from two participating organizations—CAPACES Leadership Institute and Wallowa Resources. The cohort has been convening regularly throughout the past two years with a focus on networking, as well as capacity-building related to equitable evaluation, storytelling, and effective practices in youth engagement. The convening in Eugene was the first opportunity for all of these organizations to gather in person.

Twenty-two staff from the cohort organizations participated in an impactful training from Mandy Davis of [Trauma Informed Oregon](#), a lively storytelling workshop with [Valentina Ortiz](#), and in numerous opportunities to learn and connect with each other. We were inspired and energized hearing from this group working with youth across Oregon!

OSU Extension's Outdoor School Program has announced a new director

The Outdoor School Team and the OSU Extension Service announced [Dr. Spirit Brooks](#) as the new Outdoor School Program Director as of January 3, 2023. Spirit has served as interim director since June 2022, and prior to that as the Research, Evaluation and Assessment Coordinator for the Outdoor School program. As an educational anthropologist, Spirit is committed to research practices that are rooted in collaboration and are community centered. Her research is focused on equity in outcomes in outdoor education for youth from marginalized identities and communities, particularly Indigenous youth. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in critical sociocultural studies in education, an M.A. in

anthropology and women and gender studies and M.Ed. in college student services administration from Oregon State University, and a B.S. in political science and anthropology with a focus on environmental justice from the University of Oregon. Gray Family Foundation is thrilled to welcome Spirit to her new role.

Gray Family Foundation Fall Grant Award Recipients

Gray Family Foundation is excited to share that our board approved grants totaling \$503,156 to 27 organizations this fall cycle. Awards were made in our Environmental Education, Camp Maintenance, and Outdoor School programs as well as Climate Education and Justice and Action Fund to Advance Equity initiatives. We are honored to share in this work and look forward to the opportunity to continue to learn in collaboration with our grantees. [Click here](#) to see our grant recipients.

If you have questions about our grant priorities or any of the projects listed on our grant list, please reach out to Nell Tessman, Program Officer, at ntessman@grayff.org.

Blue Sky Executive Director Search

The search for [Blue Sky's Executive Director](#) continues and we want to ensure that everyone who is interested has an opportunity to apply! We encourage you to let your network know that it's not too late to be considered in the New Year. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and the position will be open until filled.

2023 Grant Deadlines

2023 Competitive Grant Program Deadlines

(More details are available at: <https://grayff.org/grants/>)

Environmental Education – Applications open January 15, 2023. Applications due March 31, 2023.

Outdoor School and Camp Maintenance - Rolling applications. January 20, 2023, May 5, 2023, August 4, 2023, & October 20, 2023.