

2024 Year End Reflection



As we close out 2024, we wanted to express our gratitude to all of our amazing grantees and collaborators in the important and essential work of engaging youth as active stewards of our communities and natural environments. To celebrate and acknowledge the end of the year, we wanted to share a few highlights from 2024:

- We welcomed two new board members and a new staff member to this work; Lisa Watt, Jon Finney, and Estefania Zavala, our Program Associate.
- We awarded over \$2.5 million in grants across our state.
- We supported Friends of Outdoor School & OSU Extension Outdoor School in convening over 150 outdoor school providers and educators to learn together and from each other at the beautiful Trickle Creek 4-H Camp outside of Salem.
- We hosted two informative virtual “Learning & Networking sessions” led by some of our fantastic grantees; one on Cultural Fire and Fire Ecology and the second on Storymapping and Indigenous Perspectives.
- We convened our Youth Leadership for the Environment Initiative grantees for two-days of learning and connecting in Bend.
- We contributed to Blue Sky Funder Forum’s work on changing the narrative of connections outdoors as being a ‘nice to have’ to vital for our well-being and future.
- We supported and attended the Governor’s Afterschool and Summer Learning Summit and continue to support our grantees engagement in the conversation.
- We presented on “Speaking Youth to Power: Investing in Youth Voices” at the

Philanthropy Northwest's conference, spurring discussions on the importance of investing in youth voice, especially in the environmental sector.

- And, we partnered with EcoRise to map the landscape of environmental education across Oregon through a national project called [Gen:Thrive](#).

We are incredibly proud of the deep connections, trust, and learning that took place in 2024. And, while it's with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to our amazing administrative assistant, Carla Coleman, at the end of this year, we're thrilled for her opportunity to take on a new role within Oregon Community Foundation and are extremely thankful for all she's contributed in the past four years to Gray Family Foundation.

2024 Gray Family Foundation Fall Grant Recipients



We are honored to support the work of schools and community-based organizations around Oregon through our grantmaking. In the last quarter of 2024, the Gray Family Foundation board approved grants totaling \$316,950 to 12 organizations. Grants were made through our Environmental Education, Outdoor School, and Camp Maintenance programs as well as our Action Fund to Advance Equity and Youth Leadership for the Environment initiatives.

If you want to learn more about the amazing work of some of our grantees, check out our success stories [here](#).

We are pleased to share in this work and look forward to the opportunity to continue to learn from our grantees. 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.

Funding and Hiring Opportunities

[Justice Outside](#) has announced a new grant opportunity called Rooting Justice. This program with grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 are supported by the USDA Forest Service to advance racial justice and equity in environmental initiatives. [Learn more](#) about the exciting funding source.

[The Environmental Center](#) is now hiring a Youth Education Coordinator (Bilingual Spanish/English), and a Communications Coordinator. Please [click here](#) to learn more about these positions.

Announcing Gray Family Foundation's 2025 Grant Deadlines

[Environmental Education](#) – We are excited to announce that we are shifting our approach in 2025 to better serve the ecosystem of environmental education providers across the state. Please visit our website for more information. New requests will be accepted on a rolling basis. Details about eligibility and guidelines will be available in early January.

[Camp Maintenance](#) - Rolling applications. January 24, April 18, July 25, and October 13, 2025.

[Geography Education](#) – Please visit our website for more information.

Outdoor School – We will no longer be funding organizations or schools for outdoor school in 2025. We welcome questions on other options that are available within our grant programs, please contact grants@grayff.org for more information.

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