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Spring 2024 Newsletter

Outdoor Youth Connections

OYC Awards Three Grants in the First Quarter of 2024

Read on to learn more about the exciting programs Outdoor Youth Connections is helping to fund this year! We are honored to support the excellent work of teachers and other leaders striving to provide quality experiences for youth in the outdoors. The next submission deadline for grant applications is July 31st, 2024.

Al Kennedy Alternative High School



In January of this year, OYC was excited to award an unprecedented \$2,500 grant to Al Kennedy Alternative High School in Cottage Grove, Oregon. While

world.

The school serves 81 students, most of whom struggle to adjust to the traditional high school setting. The curriculum emphasizes sustainable crops, ecological awareness, community involvement, and the thread of social responsibility that links them. Lessons are often outdoors, where students grow community gardens (donating their harvests), restore wetlands, participate in sustainable forestry, build trails, raise salmon, plant trees, count fish, keep bees, and share their experiences with elementary students. The grant will be used to buy backpacking equipment so that the school can offer overnight wilderness experiences to their students for many years. OYC is happy to provide this practical support for students to take the next step in their understanding of and relationship with the greater outdoors.

Camp Saturna



Camp Saturna, on the shores of Silver Lake in Whatcom County, runs an outdoor education camp for middle school students. In March, OYC was pleased to award a \$1,000 grant to support its camp for sixth graders

OYC wholeheartedly supports the Camp Saturna objectives, including satisfying legislative mandates, promoting environmental stewardship, and emphasizing leadership development:

- Meeting Washington State environmental education requirements (WAC 392-410-115(6))
- Providing environmental education instruction that follows the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) where applicable and appropriate
- Encouraging team building and leadership skills
- Building a connection between the students and the North Cascades foothills ecology and natural history
- Providing a safe, fun, and dynamic learning environment for participant

Vamos Outdoor Project



Vamos Outdoor Project was formed in 2018 to provide outdoor recreation and education opportunities to Latino, multilingual, and newcomer youth from Skagit and Whatcom Counties. Over 700 youth--most in the migrant farm worker

help fund five backpacking trips in 2024. Each outing accepts ten kids at no cost, providing equipment, food, transportation, and adult supervision with mentorship. The outdoor engagements are structured to break the cycle of daily challenges and help kids realize their capabilities and self-worth.

In other news, OYC is thrilled to lend its support to The Everett Mountaineers as it explores the possibility of reestablishing a Everett Mountaineers Youth Group! Stay tuned for more information on this exciting prospect!

We would like to acknowledge our donors for their generous donations. Such contributions enable OYC to help underserved youth connect to nature in meaningful ways, as reflected in the three grants awarded above. Thank you so much for your support; you are the reason for our success!

Rich Johnston

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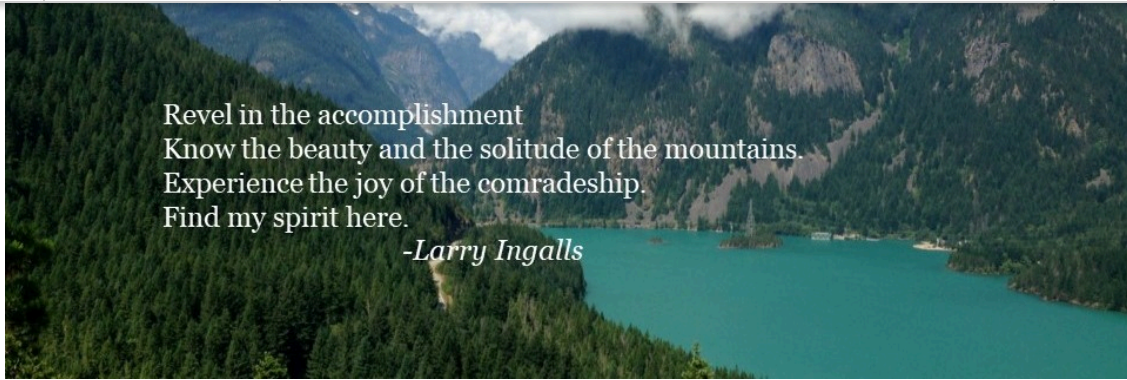
Rick Steve's Europe

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JOIN US!

We connect youth with the opportunities and means to explore, study, and preserve the natural outdoors, promoting personal growth and environmental consciousness. If this vision speaks to you, we can use your help! Our small team of dedicated volunteers needs a Secretary, a Fundraising Coordinator, and an infusion of new ideas! If interested in joining our Board or contributing in other ways, please reach out to [Sandra](#).



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