



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE EDUCATION GRANTS GET YOUTH OUTDOORS**

*League announces grants totaling more than \$100,000 to 39 school organizations in California and Oregon to expand redwood education opportunities*

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** (October 27, 2009) – [Save the Redwoods League](http://www.savetheredwoods.org), the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting ancient redwood forests throughout their natural range, today announced its [2009 education grant recipients](#). The League awarded more than \$100,000 to a total of 39 schools, park interpretive associations and nonprofit organizations in California. These education grants allow children and adults to study and experience redwood forests in ways otherwise not possible.

"The threat of up to 60 redwood state park closures earlier this year underscored the importance of access to redwoods," said Jennifer Benito, director of outreach for Save the Redwoods League. "The League's education grants program helps inspire the next generation of redwood stewards by making it possible for young people across California to visit and connect with these forests."

This year, two of the League's largest grants will help enhance educational opportunities at California State Parks. These include the following:

1. Sonoma County-based [Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods](#), which received \$4,000 to support its school programs at Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve and Austin Creek State Recreation Area. These programs help students from the Bay Area learn about coast redwood ecosystems, with a special emphasis on the importance of healthy watersheds.
2. [California State Parks' Outdoor Youth Connection Program \(OYC\)](#). The League awarded \$4,000 to the California State Parks Foundation to support this program. OYC connects California youth with the great outdoors, their community, and their own leadership potential, giving them experience in outdoor activities, teambuilding, and camping. The League grant will make it possible for OYC participants to organize and lead outdoor trips and projects in California state redwood parks.

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**WALK AMONG GIANTS<sup>SM</sup>**

## A comprehensive listing of the grants follows, organized by county.

### Alameda

- Community Resources for Science received \$2,000 for the project *Increasing Redwoods-based Science Instruction in K-5*, which funds a redwoods science forum for Alameda County teachers and supports resources for redwoods-focused science instruction.
- EarthTeam Environmental Network received \$4,000 for the *Redwood Eco-Stewards Project*, which allows East Bay high school students to learn about the human and natural history of redwoods and participate in forest restoration at Sausal Creek.
- St. John Catholic School received \$1,000 for the *Outdoor School in the Redwoods* program, which makes it possible for 8th grade East Bay students to learn about redwood forests at a week-long environmental education program.

### Contra Costa

- Youth Enrichment Strategies received \$3,000 for the *Family Camps in the Redwoods* program, which supports two-day camps for Richmond children and their families who participate in redwood education and habitat activities together.

### Del Norte

- Del Norte County Unified School District received \$3,000 for the *Environmental Science Education Field Trip* program, which helps fund field trips to the redwoods for students throughout the school district.

### Humboldt

- Humboldt Area Foundation received \$1,162 for the *Ride to the Wild: Funding Bus Transportation to Natural Areas in Humboldt County* program, which provides much-needed bus transportation for teachers and students to visit redwood forests.
- Humboldt State University Natural History Museum received \$2,200 to conduct a *Sharing Nature Seminar*. Led by author Joseph Cornell, the public seminar will include a two-day workshop on redwood ecology and the history of human interaction with redwood forests.
- The Ink People Center for the Arts received \$3,000 for the *Our Rainforest: Our Web of Life* project, which funds multidisciplinary outdoor lessons in redwood ecology for 4th - 6th grade students in nearby old growth redwoods.
- Lafayette Elementary School received \$1,820 for the *Headwaters Forest in Our Backyard* project, which supports field trips to the Headwaters Forest Reserve for 5th grade students.
- Northwest Film Forum received \$3,000 for the *Redwoods Documentary* project, which funds post-production work to complete an educational redwoods documentary film for broad public viewing.
- Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation received \$2,000 for the *Animals of the Redwood Forest: Mobile Zoo Discovery* project. The grant will support the addition of a mobile zoo discovery cart to the Zoo's Secrets of the Forest interpretive center, featuring skulls, scat, and animal tracks.

### Marin

- Awen Grove received \$2,000 for the *Youth Quest* project, which provides redwood ecology outdoor sessions for middle school youth in local after-school programs.
- The Baum Foundation received \$1,500 for their *Redwood Heritage Project* in which Bay Area youth ages 13-18 plant redwood seedlings in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme's Billion Tree Campaign.

- Canal Child Care Center received \$3,000 for the *Marin Redwood Project*, an after school program which demonstrates the benefits of conserving the redwood forests to children and their families.
- YMCA Point Bonita received \$3,000 for the *My Home, My Community, My World* program, in which participants learn about redwood forest characteristics and ecology, including a field trip to Muir Woods.

### **Mendocino**

- California State Parks Foundation received \$4,000 to support the *Outdoor Youth Connection* program, which helps fund outdoor training and leadership programs in redwood state parks for underserved youth ages 14-17.
- Mendocino Area Parks Association received \$1,500 for *Equipment for Redwood Ecology Programs in Hendy Woods SP*. The grant supports the purchase of cameras and other equipment needed to enrich education presentations to park visitors.
- Mendocino County Promotional Foundation received \$2,000 for the *Northern California Redwood National Heritage Area* program, to help support a 3-county effort to lay the foundation for a National Heritage Area in the North Coast region.
- Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association received \$3,000 for the *Residential Outdoor Science School* program, which supports scholarship funds for 4th - 8th grade students to attend the five-day residential outdoor school.
- Willits Kids Club received \$2,500 for the *Great Trees of Willits* project, which enables students in after-school and day camp programs to participate in local hikes—photograph and catalogue redwoods in their communities—and to share their knowledge with others through various media.
- Yokayo Elementary School received \$2,000 for the *Classroom in the Redwoods: Residential Outdoor Science School* project, which enables 6th graders to attend outdoor school where they learn redwood ecology concepts.

### **Monterey**

- Santa Lucia Conservancy received \$2,000 for the *Monterey County Redwood Education Project*, which brings underserved youth to Santa Lucia Preserve for hands-on education and interactive experiences with the redwood forest.

### **Sacramento**

- Larchmont Elementary School received \$2,500 for the *Larchmont Grade 6 Visit to the Redwoods* program, making it possible for 6th grade students to learn about redwood forests during a week-long outdoor school visit.

### **San Francisco**

- Balboa High School received \$2,500 for *California Redwoods and their Significance*, a project that consists of an in-class redwood unit and service-learning field trip to Yosemite for special education students.
- San Francisco Botanical Garden Society received \$4,000 for the *Redwood Trail Guided Walk* project, which supports the training of docents to help engage K-5 students in exploring the Garden's Redwood Trail, as well as field trip transportation for San Francisco youth.
- Wilderness Arts and Literacy Collaborative received \$3,000 for the *Struggling for Sustainability: Preservation, Restoration, and Environmental Justice* project, which supports a multi-disciplinary redwood educational program for Balboa and Downtown high school students, including both in-class lessons and field trips to local redwood parks.

### San Joaquin

- Center for Land-Based Learning received \$4,000 for the *Building Appreciation and Understanding of Sierra Redwoods* project, which enables urban high school students to study giant sequoia ecology through the South Stockton FARMS Leadership program.

### San Mateo

- Vida Verde Nature Education received \$2,500 for the *Vida Verde School-Year Education Program*, which helps fund 3-day, overnight camping experiences in the redwoods for Bay Area inner-city, minority and low-income youth.

### San Mateo & Santa Cruz

- Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools received \$3,000 for the *Environmental Education for Underserved Students* program, which provides financial support to Northern California students from economically disadvantaged families to attend outdoor school in the redwoods.

### Santa Clara & San Mateo

- The Environmental Volunteers received \$2,500 for the *Huddart Park Forest and Foothills Ecology Field Trips* program, which provides urban youth from the San Francisco peninsula region with hands-on learning experiences in the redwoods.

### Santa Cruz

- UCCR Web of Life Field (WOLF) School received \$2,500 for the *Building Redwood Stewards* program, which provides financial support to lower-income K-8th grade students to attend outdoor school in the redwoods.

### Siskiyou

- Scott Valley Unified School District received \$2,000 for the *Three Days in the Redwoods* project, which supports curriculum development and a field trip to coastal and inland redwood forests for 6th-8th grade students.

### Sonoma

- Caritas Creek Environmental Education Program received \$3,000 for the *Redwood Education Intern* project, which provides funding for an education intern to develop and conduct educational activities designed to deepen students' scientific understanding and personal connection to the redwood forest.
- LandPaths received \$3,000 for the *In Your Own Backyard Redwood Restoration Project*. This project funds a native riparian redwood grove restoration project, implemented by 11th and 12th grade students as well as the 6th graders they are mentoring, through an education collaborative with local schools and regional parks.
- Muscular Dystrophy Association received \$850 for the *MDA Coastal Redwoods Environmental Education Project*, which supports the development of hands-on art projects, music and nature walks in the redwoods for 6-17 year old youth with muscular dystrophy during a week-long summer camp experience.
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods received \$4,000 for the *Redwood Ecology and Watershed Program*, which helps expand school programs at Armstrong Redwoods SNR and Austin Creek SRA and serves schools throughout the Bay Area.
- West County Community Services received \$2,500 for the *Guerneville After School Program*, which funds after-school activities focused on redwoods for low-income, rural K-8 students

who participate in hands-on experiential lessons, docent-led park tours, interactive projects and a weekend camping trip.

### **Stanislaus**

- Empire Elementary School received \$3,000 for the *Learning Through Redwoods* project, which helps students learn about the redwood forest in the classroom and then participate in field trips to California redwood parks.

### **Tulare**

- WildPlaces received \$2,500 for the *Sequoia Forest Days* program, which brings several diverse groups of youth into Giant Sequoia National Monument for educational programs and service projects through five Sequoia Forest Day events.

Since 2000, Save the Redwoods League has awarded more than 220 grants totaling more than \$855,000 to schools, park associations, and environmental educational organizations across California. Please visit [SaveTheRedwoods.org/education](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org/education) for more information and to download an application.

### **About Save the Redwoods League**

For more than 90 years, Save the Redwoods League has been dedicated to protecting the ancient redwood forests so all generations can experience the inspiration and majesty of redwoods. In 1850, there were nearly 2 million acres of ancient coast redwood forests in California. Today, less than 5 percent remains and faces threats from unsustainable logging practices, poorly planned development and global climate change. Since its founding in 1918, the League has protected more than 181,000 acres of land. For more information, visit [SaveTheRedwoods.org](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org) or to sign up for monthly updates please visit [SaveTheRedwoods.org/signup](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org/signup)

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