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SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE EDUCATION GRANTS GET YOUTH OUTDOORS

*League announces grants to 31 schools and organizations in California and Oregon
to expand redwood education opportunities*

SAN FRANCISCO (September 30, 2008) – Save the Redwoods League, the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting ancient redwood forests throughout their natural range, today announced its 2008 education grant recipients. The League awarded more than \$100,000 to a total of 31 schools, park interpretive associations, and nonprofit organizations in California and Oregon. These education grants allow children and adults to study and experience redwood forests in ways otherwise not possible.

“Many young people in California have never seen a redwood tree,” said Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director of Save the Redwoods League. “The League’s education grants program creates opportunities for students to experience majestic redwood forests at a time when young people are getting outdoors less and less. By making it possible for young people to visit and learn about these fragile forests, we hope to inspire the next generation of redwood stewards.”

Save the Redwoods League’s education grants program helps people of all ages get outdoors to learn critical lessons about the environment and redwood forests. San Francisco County-based Wilderness Arts and Literacy Collaborative (WALC), www.walcsf.net, which helps low-income, inner-city students of color achieve greater academic success by integrating environmental education with ethnic and social justice studies, received one of largest grant awards of 2008. The

League awarded a \$5,000 grant to make it possible for WALC students to visit and study the redwood forest.

The League also awarded \$5,000 to EarthTeam Environmental Network to fund their Redwood Eco-Stewards Project, which will create an opportunity for East Bay high school students to participate in forest restoration at Sausal Creek in Oakland and learn about redwoods history.

2008 Save the Redwoods League Grant Recipients (listed by county)

Alameda

- EarthTeam Environmental Network received \$5,000 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.

Calaveras and San Joaquin

- Center for Land-Based Learning received \$4,000 for the *Leaders for the Future* program, which allows high school students to study redwood ecology through the South Stockton FARMS Leadership program.

Contra Costa

- Mt. Diablo High School received \$3,000 for their *AP Environmental Science Redwood Field Studies* program, which provides low-income students the opportunity to collect water quality and forest ecology data during field studies at Mt. Diablo High School. Results will be posted on YouTube.
- Richmond Elementary Schools, Inc. received \$2,000 for the *Redwoods In Our Backyards* program, in which K - 3 students compare the ecologies of Armstrong Redwoods and Austin Creek and participate in a field trip to both parks.
- Youth Enrichment Strategies received \$4,000 for the Fall 2008 *YES Family Camps* program, which supports two-day family camps for Richmond families at YMCA Camp Loma Mar.

Del Norte

- Del Norte County Unified School District received \$3,000 for the *Environmental Science Education Field Trip Grant* program, which helps fund field trips to the redwoods for students throughout the school district.
- Manila Community Services District received \$3,000 for the *Manila 4-H Recreation Forest & Coastal Dune Forest Discovery* project, which provides outdoor education and activities for Eureka youth to foster an appreciation, awareness and understanding of local redwood and coastal dune forests.

Humboldt

- Dow's Prairie School received \$2,950 to fund the *Wolf Creek Outdoor School Trip 2008*, a weeklong trip for 5th graders to Wolf Creek Education Center at Redwood National and State Parks.
- Fortuna Middle School received \$3,000 for the *Fortuna MS 5th and 7th Graders Journey to the Redwoods* program, which funds a redwood ecology trip to Wolf Creek Outdoor School and Mendocino Woodlands Outdoor School.
- Humboldt Area Foundation received \$2,500 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 redwood forests.

- Humboldt County Office of Education received \$3,000 to support the *Redwood Environmental Education Fair*, a two-day environmental education fair that teaches students about the environment and helps teachers become familiar with community resources.
- Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation received \$3,000 for the *Redwood Forest Edventures 2: An interdisciplinary journey for grades 3-5* program. The grant will support updates to existing curriculum about redwood forest ecosystems and create an online educational video presented on Earth Day at the annual Zoo event.

Klamath, OR

- Sage Community School received \$1,270 for the *Southern Oregon Students Visit & Learn about Redwoods* program, which allows students to take a three-day trip to the redwoods.

Marin

- Canal Child Care Center received \$3,000 for the *Marin Redwoods Project*, an after school program which demonstrates the benefits of conserving the redwood forests to children, families and staff.
- Salmon Protection & Watershed Network received \$4,000 to support their *Salmon Grow on Trees!* school and public programs that connect salmon spawning to redwood forest ecosystems.
- YMCA Point Bonita received \$4,000 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

- Grace Hudson Elementary School received \$3,000 for the “*Get 'em off the pavement and into the redwoods*” program in which 6th grade students from a dual language immersion school in Ukiah spend five days living and learning in the redwoods.
- Mendocino Area Parks Association received \$3,000 for *Educational Equipment for Redwood Forest Ecology Programs in Hendy Woods SP*. The grant will support the purchase of computer equipment that is needed to develop summertime presentations for park visitors.
- Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association received \$4,000 for the *Residential Outdoor Science School* program, which supports scholarship funds for 4th - 8th grade students to attend the five-day residential outdoor school.
- Redwood Valley Outdoor Education Project received \$2,000 for the *Exploring the Web of Life in a Redwood Forest Ecosystem* program, which allows 6th graders to learn about the components of a healthy, sustainable redwood ecosystem and gather data during a visit to a redwood forest.
- Yokayo Elementary School received \$3,000 for the *Residential Outdoor Science School (ROSS)* program which allows 6th graders to attend ROSS outdoor school where they learn about redwood ecology concepts.

Sacramento

- Larchmont Elementary School received \$3,000 for the *Larchmont Grade 6 Visit to the Redwoods* program, which makes it possible for 6th grade students to learn about redwood forests at Westminster Woods Environmental Education Camp.

San Francisco

- Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco received \$4,000 for the *Camp Mendocino Redwood Project*, which supports a redwood habitat education program for disadvantaged campers at Camp Mendocino.

- Wilderness Arts and Literacy Collaborative received \$5,000 for the *Flux Equilibrium, Ecological Succession, Interconnections, and Diversity: The Story of the Redwoods* program, which allows students to explore and discuss ecological concepts learned during their forest visits.

San Mateo & Santa Cruz

- Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools received \$4,000 for the *Environmental Education for Underserved Students* program, which provides financial support to Northern California students from economically disadvantaged families to attend outdoor school.

Santa Cruz, San Mateo & Santa Clara

- Sempervirens Fund received \$2,500 for the *Sempervirens Outdoor Education* program, which provides training for docents to become forest ambassadors through leadership of hikes and public meetings.

Sonoma

- Caritas Creek EE Program received \$4,000 for the *Curriculum and Staff Training Enhancement* program. Grant funds will help update and enhance existing redwood education curriculum.
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods received \$4,000 for the *Russian River State Parks Redwood Ecology* program that expands school programs at Armstrong Redwoods and Sonoma Coast State Park.

Tulare & Fresno

- Sequoia Parks Foundation received \$3,000 for the *Rangers in the Classroom (RITC)* program, which enables Park Rangers to visit elementary schools to educate students about natural resource awareness.

Tulare

- WildPlaces received \$3,000 for the *Sequoia Forest Days* program, which educates community members of various ages through three public events at Giant Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia National Forest.

Yolo

- Beamer Park Elementary School received \$3,000 for the *Beamer Park Elementary School Trip to Sempervirens Outdoor School*, a week-long trip for sixth graders to Sempervirens Outdoor School to help students learn about conserving redwood forests.

Since 2000, Save the Redwoods League has awarded more than 180 grants totaling more than \$689,000 to schools, park associations, and environmental educational organizations across California. Please visit www.savetheredwoods.org for more information and to download an application.

About Save the Redwoods League

Celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2008, Save the Redwoods League is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving ancient forests so that all generations can experience the inspiration and majesty of these towering giants. In 1850, there were nearly 2 million acres of ancient coast redwood forests in California. Today, less than 5 percent remain. Since its founding in 1918, the League has completed the purchase of more than 180,000 acres of land. For more information, visit www.savetheredwoods.org.

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