

Media Contact
 Ranggin Hedayat
 Reveille, Inc.
 949.394.1454
ranggin@reveilleinc.com



ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$100,000 IN SUPPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Grants to Benefit 14 Nonprofits Committed to Increasing Awareness and Conserving the Environment

Newport Beach, Calif. (January 8, 2019) – The Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) has granted \$100,000 to 14 local nonprofit organizations dedicated to environmental education and conservation of natural resources. Funding will support hands-on education programs that increase environmental awareness and understanding.

“OCCF is proud to channel the efforts and resources of our generous donors and partners toward the common goal of protecting and conserving our environment,” said Shelley Hoss, president, OCCF. “By increasing understanding of the importance of environmental conservation, we can help ensure our natural resources flourish for years to come.”

The grants were awarded from the Environmental Fund within OCCF’s Orange County Endowment, established in 1994 to respond quickly and effectively to the county’s most pressing needs. To date, this fund has awarded more than \$530,000 to local organizations that support environmental education, conservation and preservation.

2018 grantees and projects, include:

Organization	Project
Audubon Starr Ranch	This grant is to support a comprehensive suite of environmental education programs that serve 500–600 youth and 300–400 adults at Starr Ranch.
Bolsa Chica Conservancy	This grant is to support Windows to Our Wetlands (WOW), a traveling wetlands education program focused on reaching classes and students that would normally be unable to venture beyond their school to see local, native habitats.
Bolsa Chica Land Trust	This grant is to support the 3rd grade science education program, Miracles of the Marsh, which is offered to Title 1 schools in OC and is designed to complement curriculum in the classroom.
Charitable Ventures of Orange County	This grant is to support the San Geronio Outdoor Science School. The School operates as a four-day science education program in the San Bernardino Mountains for Title 1 schools in OC.
Crystal Cove Conservancy	This grant is to support the Project CRYSTAL Community Science Program, which immerses under-resourced youth in investigating the most effective methods to restore Crystal Cove State Park.
Environmental Nature Center	This grant is to support the Youth Environmental Education programs that teach science concepts and promote environmental stewardship.

Heritage Museum of OC	This grant is to support the Volunteer Naturalist Program. The core program elements consist of a six week curriculum in which the participants learn Orange County watershed ecology, diversity of plant communities, wildlife, habitat restoration, early cultural history, and interpretation and group management, followed by additional learning sessions.
Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy	This grant is to support the partnership with local Huntington Beach High Schools to allow students to perform hands-on field work as a part of their AP Biology courses.
Laguna Canyon Foundation	This grant is to support the South Coast Wilderness Education Program. Funds would help the program bring thousands of students from Orange County Title 1 elementary schools out into the open space for Next Generation Science Standards-based field trips.
Ocean Institute	This grant is to support the Adopt-A-Class program that enables 250 underserved students from Orange County Title I schools to participate in environment-based science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs.
Orange County Coastkeeper	This grant is to support Kids Ocean Day, an annual, state-wide celebration and call to action for the protection of the world's oceans.
Sea and Sage Audubon Society	This grant is to support Santa Ana elementary school children to learn scientific principles during a hands-on program at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.
The Ecology Center	This grant is to support Eco Labs as a world-class children's laboratory, and integrating ecological experiential learning into their model for a modern community village that celebrates food, agriculture, and a thriving creative culture.
Tides Center/Marine Education Project	This grant is to support Algerian sea lavender removal, which is the most invasive species found in Upper Newport Bay's marsh habitat.

About Orange County Community Foundation

Founded in 1989, the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) works with donors, strengthens the local nonprofit sector and works to find solutions to community needs. Since its inception, OCCF has awarded \$560 million in grants and scholarships and ranks in the top two percent in grantmaking activity among more than 780 U.S. community foundations. For more information, visit oc-cf.org or call 949-553-4202. Be a part of our conversation on [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). View OCCF's 2018 annual report [here](#).