

2015 Grant Recipients

Children in Nature Grant Recipients:

Conservation Heritage (Rwanda): promotes positive conservation and wildlife attitudes within communities living in close proximity to mountain gorilla habitats. This was the first year the program took students to visit mountain gorillas and we happily provided the funding for them to do so. Local community members rarely get this opportunity because of the expense of gorilla trekking permits. It is predominately an activity for tourists. Papoose Conservation Wildlife Foundation was delighted to offer a grant to allow Rwandan students to visit mountain gorillas, offering them the opportunity to observe these majestic animals found just outside their communities, ultimately contributing to their appreciation of nature and wildlife, and the long term survival of this iconic species.



Free The Bears (Cambodia): Free the Bears works to eliminate the illegal trade in bears while stabilizing their populations in the wild and increasing public awareness. Funding was awarded to provide an educational children's story book focused on connecting children with local bear species. Books are treasured in this country, therefore the story about bears and Nature will inspire youth to understand and honor their local wildlife, which are severely threatened by the illegal wildlife trade.

Children & Nature Network (San Diego): works to create a world in which every child can play, learn and grow in Nature. We provided Children & Nature Network a grant to make thirty-five Nature walk backpacks full of everything a family would want to help them with Nature walks. These backpacks were loaned to families at a local San Diego elementary school. Backpacks were almost always in use and sometimes there were waiting lists to check them out! This year the Backpacks will be available at another school for a new group of students and their families.



Outdoor Outreach (San Diego): connects underserved youth to the outdoors, instilling value and inspiring action to care for the region's sensitive ecosystems. Outdoor Outreach received a grant to provide students the opportunity to experience Nature as part of an overnight surfing and camping trip.

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After a full day of surfing at Silver Strand State Beach, Outdoor Outreach brought the Adventure Club students to San Clemente State Beach to camp overnight. For many of our youth participants, this trip marked their first opportunity to camp at a California State Beach. Youth learned how to set up their own tents, cooked dinner, and spent the evening around the campfire. The second day provided youth with another opportunity to enjoy the beach and swim in the ocean. Students also engaged in a lesson on Leave No Trace ethics, which emphasizes the importance of protecting the environment where we enjoy recreation activities. Outdoor Outreach weaves environmental education and stewardship lessons into all of our programs. As a result of positive outdoor experience, such as catching their first wave on a surf outing, our youth are inspired to protect the environment, share what they learn, and contribute to their communities as environmental stewards. One participant shared: "The Adventure Club helped me to think about the environment. The things we do now will make a difference in the future."



Applied Conservation Grant Recipients:

New Georgia Monkey Faced Bat (Soloman Islands): Endemic to the Soloman Islands recent studies show the endangered New Georgia Monkey Faced Bat may reside entirely in old growth forests within an ecosystem under dire threat of largely unregulated logging. Funding was awarded (in coordination through the Lubeex Bat Foundation) to assess the nesting areas of the New Georgia Monkey Faced Bat. This project will establish the habitat criteria for this endangered species which is essential for its long term conservation and survival. Data collection is still underway, but researchers were ecstatic to share the finding of the Guadalcanal Monkey Faced Bat (*Pteralopex atrata*) for the first time in 25 years!



Giant Armadillo (Brazil): We proudly support Dr Arnaud Desbiez's very successful study of the giant armadillo in Brazil. Truly a giant among armadillos at 5 feet long and 110 pounds, due to its nocturnal behavior and low population densities, very little was known about this species and its natural history prior to this project. The Giant Armadillo Project was awarded funds to support it's research expansion into the Cerrado biome, a region of high human impact. The study expansion focuses on the effects of human development on giant armadillo populations, in order to provide data to further protect the species in the future.



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