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**The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council Awards
\$294,000 of Grants to 17 Organizations Dedicated to Getting Youth to the
Outdoors**

Eight Catalyst grants and nine Impact grants given to promote outdoor accessibility to youth and offer leadership opportunities to economically disadvantaged and underserved youth

San Mateo, Calif., June 22, 2009 – An organization that utilizes equine therapy for the emotional and physical healing of underserved youth, a kayaking camp for teens living with HIV/AIDS, an organization that involves youth in the watershed management and habitat restoration along a river, are just a few of the projects that were awarded Catalyst and Impact Fund grants recently announced by the Stewardship Council.

Nine organizations have been awarded a total of \$224,000 in grants through the Impact Fund, and eight organizations have been awarded a total of \$70,000 in grants through the Catalyst Fund to support efforts to make outdoor spaces accessible and safe for youth and families.

The Impact Fund is designed to support more established organizations with the resources they need to get underserved youth connected to the outdoors. In this grant round, 82 organizations requested almost \$3 million in funds.

The Catalyst Fund is open to grassroots organizations whose annual operating budgets are under \$150,000. In this grant round, 28 organizations requested more than \$263,000 in funds.

The Stewardship Council has awarded more than \$6 million in grant awards since its inception in 2005 and intends to grant more than \$14 million over the next few years. By providing funds to youth development organizations and programs, the Stewardship Council is committed to connecting youth to the outdoors, and hopes to positively transform young people academically, personally and socially.

The following is a list of **Catalyst Fund** awards:

San Luis Obispo

Alliance Equine Rescue and Youth Educational Foundation received \$12,000 towards Equine Alliance Therapy for Youth that provides year-round educational, emotional and physical healing for underserved youth while supporting and partnering with other community agencies through an awareness of nature and self, using equine-based experiential learning therapy.

www.equinealliance.org

Bay Area

Healing Waters Wilderness Adventures received \$8,000 for Liquid Camp, a week-long camp for teens living with HIV/AIDS. This program brings youth together with some of the best river kayakers in the world to teach them to white water kayak. They make new friends, learn that they are not alone with their diagnosis and even better, they learn that even with HIV, they can accomplish anything they set their minds to do.

www.hwaters.org

Bakersfield

WildPlace received \$10,000 to support several youth groups from Dolores Huerta Foundation in Arvin, Native Americans served by the Owens Valley Career Development Center in Bakersfield/Kernville, and Project 180 in Bakersfield. They will camp, observe, discover, learn, work, play, and transform together in the Sequoias for four days. Projects include watershed and nature awareness projects, hands-on habitat restoration, community and confidence building, environmental awareness, energy, and documentary film making.

www.wildplaces.net

East Bay and Mendocino County

Living Arts Kinetic Experience (L.A.K.E.) received an \$8,000 grant. In 2009 its goal is to proceed with capacity building initiatives which will make Leonard Lake Reserve more accessible to urban youth groups. The experiential curriculum includes environmental science, orienteering, creative writing, teamwork games, waterfront activities, and mobile technology applications.

www.livingartskineticexperience.org

East Bay and Half Moon Bay

Movimiento received \$10,000 to launch an ongoing series of indigenous youth initiatives, wilderness excursions, art & land crafts workshops, and youth summits for underserved youth ages 13-18 in the Bay Area, based on the already-successful and established programs in the Southwest. They are establishing locations in Oakland and Tunitas Creek (south of Half Moon Bay) and, in partnership with existing likeminded organizations, are creating urban-rural projects that connect young people to land, food, and nature.

www.movimagine.org

Nevada City

Synergia Learning Center received \$5,000 for Finding the Good, a traveling semester for high school students based on the study, practice and promotion of sustainability in the areas of shelter, transportation, energy, food, culture, and environmental conservation. Semesters begin with an intensive wilderness journey. Students and staff travel throughout California, studying and documenting working models of sustainability. Students soon become the educators, bringing their knowledge back to their schools and communities by giving peer-to-peer presentations and leading sustainability initiatives.

www.synergia.us

San Francisco

Take Out Until Completely Healed received \$10,000 for TOUCH Outdoors, a 12-month nature experience for underserved girls (ages 13-18, predominately Samoan, from San Francisco's Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood) at Camp Costanoan, a respite/recreational camp for children/adults, with physical/developmental disabilities. TOUCH participants volunteer at camp

one weekend per month and attend a 2-week summer session, where the girls participate in nature hikes, overnight remote camp, and native habit workshops. A family weekend retreat will expose them to the outdoors to promote healthy living, away from the everyday violence of their communities.

www.touchvbc.com

San Francisco

Willie Brown Jr Academy (WBJA) Garden Program received \$7,000 and, in collaboration with Thurgood Marshall High School (TMHS), is developing a garden project, to promote food security and accessibility to nature in San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood. The Garden Program will create a class with students from both schools for work in both the existing gardens and turning an open space, coined "Freedom Way," into a food-producing, ecologically sound orchard and an outdoor creative learning center.

The following is a list of **Impact Fund** awards:

Central Valley

The Adventure Risk Challenge (ARC) program received \$30,000 to link wilderness to academics, adventure to leadership, environmental science to literacy and confidence to activism. The project, a transformative year-round outdoor leadership and literacy program for English Language Learner (ELL) adolescents, improves language skills, exposes students to a range of natural environments and wilderness experiences, and inspires the confidence underserved students need to envision and accomplish goals, succeed in high school, and become engaged, empowered citizens.

<http://sagehen.ucnrs.org/arc/index.htm>

Bay Area

Aim High for High School received \$30,000 towards the Headland Home project that teaches middle school students respect and responsibility for self, others and for the environment. Aim high is a unique program that combines experiential and self reflection to help students become stewards of their local environments.

www.aimhigh.org

Bay Area

Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC) received \$30,000 towards intensive leadership opportunity for economically disadvantaged and disabled youth ages 14-18 to follow a watershed from the mountains to the sea, while incorporating whitewater rafting, sea kayaking, organic farm stay, and backpacking. ETC provides opportunities to build strong relationships with the environment and transform how students feel about themselves and, against the odds, rise above their challenges.

www.etctrips.org

Monterey Peninsula/Watsonville/Salinas

Girl's Scout of California's Central Coast (GSCCC) received \$20,000 to provide underserved teen girls with adult mentors and to participate in the adventure-based leadership skill building program, the Artemis Leadership Training Adventure Program. Approximately 150 girl scouts will participate in week-long activities that emphasize self development, teamwork, community involvement, environmental responsibilities, social responsibilities and academic excellence.

www.girlscoutsccc.org

Klamath

Mid Klamath Watershed Council received \$19,000 to involve 55 underserved 15-18 year-old youth in watershed management and habitat restoration along the Mid Klamath Watershed. Students will gain a sense of ownership and a strong relationship to the watershed as they work on projects that enhance their community health, and culture.

www.mkwc.org

Bay Area

Project AVARY received \$25,000 to involve low-income teens whose parents are incarcerated in a program to integrate outdoor experience into the youth's life that builds confidence, empathy, effective communication, conflict resolution, teamwork, and encourages adherence to positive social norms.

www.projectavary.org

San Francisco

Seven Tepees Youth Program received \$30,000 to fund a program that encourages youth to develop a personal, familial and community engagement by participating in wilderness trips, student-led park beautifications and recreation activities. All the high school students are mentors to younger students and are engaged in daily tutoring, mentoring, parent education, and counseling services.

www.7tepees.org

Greenville

Sierra Institute for Community and the Environment received \$20,000 to establish long-term stewardship and watershed monitoring sites for 7th through 12th grade students. Students will be integrating classroom and the field to learn sustainability, balance, restoration, monitoring, analysis of vegetation and land recovery.

www.sierrainstitute.us

East Palo Alto

Youth Community Services received \$20,000 to support students who will introduce underserved youth to the Bay area wilderness and the American River. Students learn land and water ecosystem conservation, teamwork through whitewater rafting and gain self-efficacy and confidence from the challenges they face in the outdoors.

www.youthcommunityservice.org

The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) is a private, nonprofit foundation. Established in 2004, its mission is to protect and enhance more than 140,000 acres of watershed lands, and invest in efforts to improve the lives of young Californians through connections with the outdoors. The Stewardship Council brings together the expertise of leading conservation, natural resource management, business, and public officials to undertake this historic conservation effort for California. A unique and collaborative endeavor, the Stewardship Council's Board of Directors unites a broad range of interests to guide the development and execution of a Land Conservation Program and a Youth Investment Program to benefit current and future generations of Californians. Our core values are collaboration, stewardship, discovery, sustainability and leadership. For more information about the Stewardship Council please visit the Web site: www.stewardshipcouncil.org.

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