



COLUMBIA
GORGE
ECOLOGY
INSTITUTE

COLUMBIA GORGE ECOLOGY INSTITUTE

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MISSION & VISION

MISSION STATEMENT

We nurture ALL children's sense of belonging, wonder, and connection within the greater Columbia River Gorge region through science and outdoor education.

VISION

We envision a Columbia Gorge community that engages youth to connect their curiosity with their natural surroundings so EVERY child can experience the interconnectedness of the world, creating a ripple effect that moves out in widening circles of care and stewardship.

GOALS

We aim to (1) diversify and expand our board of directors, (2) increase financial support, and (3) maintain quality programming. We're also in the process of updating our name to better reflect our work. In 2020 our name will be changed to Gorge Ecology Outdoors, or simply GEO.

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– PROGRAM OVERVIEW –

We're the only Gorge-based non-profit dedicated entirely to connecting youth with the outdoors. In 2019, our supporters:

- Engaged 583 students in our SECRETS program, which is two months of weekly visits with each class as well as a full day field trip to a local natural area.
- Created after school outdoor experiences for 88 youth, encouraging creativity, mindfulness, and recreation in the outdoors.
- Sponsored three sessions of outdoor school for 182 kids in Klickitat County.
- Provided \$15,000 in scholarships for 41 students to enroll in our summer program. Watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkIH9VX9s8o> on our YouTube channel – ColumbiaGorgeEcology.
- Updated our vision (top), mission (on reverse side), name (will go into effect in January), and our goals.
- Prepared to deliver two new programs next year! A non-residential outdoor school for kids that don't attend the residential one, and the other program is focused on a connection with rivers, through river travel!

We're also looking forward to 2021, which will mark 25 years of our programs connecting with youth!

– GIVING OPPORTUNITIES –

DONATIONS

Imagine wandering into the forest for your first time, or using binoculars to observe a hawk, or spending time in the outdoors with friends and exploring nature. We're able to make all of that possible for youth in the Gorge because of our dedicated group of supporters. Here are some great ways to get involved:

- Contribute to our year-end fundraising campaign. Now through December 31st we have a very generous supporter matching all donations up to \$10,000! Please help us embrace this opportunity. A contribution of \$35 goes a long way in our small annual budget. One kid in our programs costs us \$100.

- Set up an automatic monthly contribution through our website. www.gorgeecology.org. It's easy!
- Send us an email to learn about volunteer opportunities.
- Follow us on social media and share our posts with your friends.
- Subscribe to our email list.
- Join our board!

Invest in the kids of the Gorge!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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