



October 25, 2016

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NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary announces funding for six Ocean Guardian Schools in Washington and Oregon

NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary announced that six pre-K and K-12 schools in Washington and Oregon were awarded Ocean Guardian School Program grants to promote ocean conservation at the school or in their local community.

An Ocean Guardian School makes a commitment to protect and conserve its local watersheds, the ocean, and special ocean areas, such as national marine sanctuaries. The school makes this commitment by proposing and implementing a school- or community-based conservation project.

Grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per school depending on the project and available funding. A school may reapply for funding for the same project for up to five years. Projects must support one of five project pathways: watershed restoration, marine debris, schoolyard garden/habitat, reduce/reuse/recycle/rot/refuse/rethink, and energy and ocean health. The 2016-2017 recipients are:

Washington

- Blue Heron School, Port Townsend, to support watershed restoration activities that help students understand how they can make a positive impact on watershed restoration and salmon habitat;
- Crescent School, Port Angeles, to support schoolyard garden activities that get students involved in growing food for personal and community use using ocean friendly practices;
- Robert Gray Elementary School, Aberdeen, to support reduce/reuse/recycle/rot/refuse/rethink and energy and ocean health activities that teach students about the importance of clean ocean, water and air for humans, animals and the environment.

Oregon

- Harbor Lights Middle School, Bandon, to support watershed restoration activities that will provide opportunities for students to be stewards of their local watershed and learn how human impacts can affect the health of the creek, estuary and ocean.
- Siuslaw Middle School, Florence, to support watershed restoration activities through their after-school Marine Advanced Technology Education Remotely Operated Vehicle (MATE ROV) Club and monitor and increase education about the water quality of their local watershed.
- Warrenton Prep Preschool, Warrenton, to support schoolyard garden/habitat activities and train environmental stewards by creating a garden using ocean and

watershed friendly gardening practices and techniques, as well as creating healthy environment for local wildlife by creating a native plant habitat.

This is the second year of Ocean Guardian School programming in Pacific Northwest. At the end of a funded project period, if program requirements have been met, schools will be recognized by NOAA as an Ocean Guardian School and receive an official Ocean Guardian School banner. Four schools in Washington received awards during the 2015-16 school year: Blue Heron School in Port Townsend, Crescent School in Port Angeles, and Miller Junior High School and Robert Gray Elementary in Aberdeen.

[Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary](#) is administered by NOAA and was designated in 1994 as the first national marine sanctuary in the Pacific Northwest. It encompasses approximately 3,188 square miles off the Washington coast, extending from Cape Flattery to the Copalis River. Significant natural and cultural resources include 29 species of marine mammals, large populations of nesting seabirds, shipwrecks, and some of the most spectacular wilderness coastline in the lower 48 states.

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