

# The Sun Foundation

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## The Sun Foundation

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## Mission

To strengthen and advance the arts and environmental sciences in rural and urban communities by providing quality and innovative programs, services, publications, research, re-granting financial support, and cooperative efforts for the general public, underserved groups, schools, Illinois artists and local arts organizations.

## Community Arts Access

The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, awarded the Sun Foundation a \$9,500 grant for community and public arts programs for re-granting in Bureau, Marshall, Stark and Woodford counties. With this grant and matching community funds, the Sun Foundation awarded \$11,500 to 14 schools, arts organizations and community groups throughout Woodford, Bureau, Marshall and Stark counties.

## How to Help

Tax-deductible donations to support the programs and financial-need scholarships can be made online at [sunfoundation.org](http://sunfoundation.org) or via postal mail to the address above. For in-kind donations and volunteer opportunities, please contact us at [info@sunfoundation.org](mailto:info@sunfoundation.org).



The Sun Foundation for Advancement in the Environmental Sciences and Arts, Inc. is dedicated to investing in educational opportunities for children and the general public by:

- *Providing innovative and environmental sciences and arts programs;*
- *Engaging audiences and students with outstanding artists, engineers, architects, geologists, archeologists and scientists; and*
- *Promoting in-depth knowledge, creativity, firsthand learning and stewardship.*

## CLEAN WATER CELEBRATION ENVIRONMENTAL CLASSROOM

This April, the Sun Foundation completed the 26th annual Clean Water Celebration, which has engaged more than 58,000 middle-school students, their teachers and the public in ways to become stewards for the planet's natural resources, locally and globally.

The 2018 theme, "Plastic Debris from Rivers to the Sea," featured Marcus Eriksen, Research Director and co-founder of the 5 Gyres Institute, as keynote speaker. Eriksen studies the ecological impact of plastic marine pollution and recently published the first global estimate of plastic floating in the world's oceans. His work became the cornerstone for a U.S.-based campaign to eliminate plastic microbeads in cosmetics, resulting in the Microbead-Free Waters Act.

In addition, dozens of interactive exhibits, breakout sessions and workshops by artists and scientists were presented. The Clean Water Celebration promotes stewardship and helps schools meet their state learning

goals and standards. Awards are given to schools, individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions in community water-quality projects.

The program is made possible by a volunteer committee, Illinois American Water Company, grants, public donations and other sponsors.

## ART AND SCIENCE IN THE WOODS

Art and Science in the Woods will take place June 11-15, 2018 at the Sun Foundation's Art and Nature Center. In nature's classroom, 460 students ages six to 18 learn and have fun in the beautiful Illinois River Valley. Students will be taught by inspiring artists, engineers, archaeologists, geologists, scientists and survival skills instructors, while taking in the natural beauty of the outdoors. Students will study in six habitats: a freshwater marsh, oak-hickory forest, million-year-old fossil beds, restored wetland and prairies, and ponds.

One hundred volunteers serve as teaching assistants, medical staff, and maintenance and administrative assistants. Sharon Obery, program coordinator, and dedicated staff will provide support for Art and Science in the Woods' 44th year.

The program now serves the third generation, reaching 20,220 students. Several former students, now professionals, have returned to become instructors for the program. This year, through grants and public donations, the Sun Foundation will be providing 100 financial-need scholarships for students to attend the program.

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