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THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION AWARDED A PRANA EXPLORER GRANT TO INSPIRE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE AMONG YOUTH

This year, 1,798 Americans will have the opportunity to get outside and enjoy ongoing outdoor experiences, thanks to prAna Explorer Grants. As part of these nationwide grants, the Three Rivers Park District Foundation received \$5,000 to support its work to engage girls ages 9-12 from underserved communities in a "Girls Outdoor Adventure Camp."

The grant program is funded by prAna and administered by the Outdoor Foundation. "Outdoor recreation is often out of reach for minorities and those in underserved communities due to a lack of awareness, access and resources," said Andre Walker, prAna's Brand Engagement & Partnerships lead. "We're thrilled to partner with the Outdoor Foundation to give this underrepresented audience the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities and ultimately develop a lifelong passion for the outdoors."

Three Rivers partnered with Minneapolis-based East Side Neighborhood Services and Division of Indian Works to bring 19 girls out to the parks for a week of outdoor adventure designed to highlight the confidence and problem solving skills young girls would need to start the new school year.

The girls recently visited several Three Rivers parks where they learned teamwork and problem-solving skills through outdoor adventures such as canoeing, camping, pond study, survival skills, and nature-based art. "This camp was a great success," said Amanda Fong, Community Engagement Supervisor for Three Rivers Park District. "The girls were really able to show their strengths in making observations, working as a team, problem solving, and being resilient through challenges. Our goal was to facilitate experiences that showcased their strengths and helped bridge the connection to finding similar success in school."

"We're very thankful to prAna and the Outdoor Foundation for believing in this camp and helping us bring it to life," said Chris Boyer, Executive Director of the Three Rivers Park District Foundation.

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prAna Explorer Grant funding will bring 12 nonprofit organizations' project ideas to life and build partnerships that ensure sustainable outdoor recreation program offerings. Projects will engage underserved youth, who as a result of positive, consistent exposure to outdoor recreation will become comfortable with and aware of local outdoor play opportunities and learn how to self-organize outdoor outings in the future.

"The Outdoor Foundation believes in supporting innovative on-the-ground projects that make lasting change," said Ivan Levin, Deputy Director of the Outdoor Foundation. "Thanks to support from prAna, we are investing in localized projects that increase outdoor participation and ultimately create healthier, more active communities."

2017 nonprofit grant recipients include: Betties 3Sixty; California State University, Northridge Foundation; City of Dreams; Climbing for Life; Environmental Charter High School; Mount St. Helens Institute; Outdoor Outreach; Promises2Kids; Seven Tepees Youth Program; The Loppet Foundation; Three Rivers Park District Foundation; and Women's Wilderness Institute.

Projects were chosen based on their innovation, likelihood of increasing outdoor participation, number of youth impacted, sustainability, partnership potential and budget factors.

About Three Rivers Park District Foundation

Three Rivers Park District Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports Three Rivers Park District in a variety of ways. The Foundation's mission is to connect *everyone* to the wonders of our parks. Founded in 1986, the Foundation has provided funding for scholarships, unique programming and the Parks on the Go outreach van, allowing Three Rivers to bring park experiences directly to the people.

About Three Rivers Park District

Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system that manages park reserves, regional parks, regional trails and special-use facilities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Park District offers facilities for every season, including picnicking, swimming, creative play, boating, fishing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, golf, camping and sledding; extensive trails for hiking, biking, in-line skating, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as program sites for nature, recreation, historic and farm education.

Three Rivers Park District's mission is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system. The Park District owns and operates more than 27,000 acres and serves nearly 11 million visitors a year.

About the Outdoor Foundation

Founded in 2000, the Outdoor Foundation is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to inspiring and growing future generations of outdoor leaders and enthusiasts. Through youth engagement, community grant-making, and groundbreaking research, the Foundation works with young leaders and partners to mobilize a major cultural shift that leads all Americans to the great outdoors.

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In just five years, the Foundation has invested \$4 million into 785 not-for-profit and college programs that have connected 200,000 young people to the outdoors. Importantly, 90¢ of every dollar goes directly into this critical work.

About prAna

Founded in 1992 in a Carlsbad garage, prAna began creating stylish, highly functional clothing for yogis and climbers in a sustainable way. Since then, prAna has continued to push innovation in design and sustainability in the apparel industry, while inspiring adventures near and far. The prAna Explorer Grant Program represents one of the company's core values: SEVA, the act of selfless service to the benefit of the community. To learn more about prAna and the Sustainable Clothing Movement, visit prana.com.

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