

National Park Service and Outdoor Foundation Award Grant to California Council of Land Trusts

Sacramento, CA (April 3, 2017) – The [National Park Service](#) and the [Outdoor Foundation](#) announced recipients of the 2017 Challenge Cost Share Grant Program, for projects that promote urban outreach, youth engagement and connecting people to the outdoors. California Council of Land Trusts is proud to be one of 19 selected projects from 134 applicants. More than 12,000 youth are expected to be engaged through the Challenge Cost Share Grant program.

The [California Council of Land Trusts](#) (CCLT) received \$10,000 to support three premier events during its annual [Take It Outside California!](#) weekend, a statewide initiative to connect all Californians to great outdoor places and experiences. *Take It Outside California!* focuses on reaching urban youth and families from underrepresented communities who often do not have access to the amazing outdoor recreation areas that our state has to offer. As part of this grant over 160 youth and their families are expected to visit California National Parks in partnership with three land trusts:

- [John Muir Land Trust](#) will bring students from urban and economically-challenged communities throughout Contra Costa County to visit the “outdoor classroom” at John Muir National Historic Site.
- [San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust](#) is partnering with Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission’s Local Conservation Corps, to bring corps members and their families to Cesar E. Chavez National Monument.
- [Mojave Desert Land Trust](#) will partner with [Outdoor Outreach](#) to bring youth to Joshua Tree National Park for a weekend of camping and conservation education.

“In its inaugural 2016 year *Take It Outside California!* presented 50 events statewide held by 30 organizations, involving over 6000 participants. Those 50 events were exciting, and truly impressive for a new program. With the support from Cost Share Challenge Grant this year, we anticipate more events, organizational partners, and Californians connecting with nature and the outdoors to make this year even better,” said Ane Deister, CCLT Executive Director.

The Challenge Cost Share Program supports National Park Service parks, National Trails and Wild and Scenic Rivers that are aligned with partners that promote urban outreach, youth engagement and/or connecting people to the outdoors.

“The Outdoor Foundation is thrilled to once again partner with the National Park Service to reconnect Americans to their national parks and engage a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts and stewards,” said Ivan Levin, deputy director of the Outdoor Foundation.

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The California Council of Land Trust's mission is to build a statewide land trust community equal to the challenge and privilege of conserving our extraordinary land and water resources for all Californians. We serve as a unified voice for more than 150 land trusts working in local communities throughout California. www.calandtrusts.org

Take It Outside California! is a statewide initiative to connect all Californians to great outdoor places and experiences. Join us every year on the first weekend of May. www.takeitoutside.com #TakeItOutsideCA

Please contact Natalie Keeve with any additional questions.
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