



Field-based Natural History Courses In and About the Klamath Siskiyous

November 27, 2017

Dear Friend of Siskiyou Field Institute,

Seasons sprint by at SFI. Leaves have gone from brilliant to brown. As drizzle turns to downpour, Deer Creek brims with rain, and salmon move in. Out the window of our Keneda House, a deer and her fawns grazing at the edge of the oaks raise their heads as turkeys gobble. In the distance, fog hugs the fields. Above, mountains once veiled in summer's smoke are capped in wintry white.

We've entered the seasons of Thanksgiving and gift-giving. At Deer Creek Center, we're especially grateful for the school buses packed with students that continued to arrive this fall! In November, 63 students from Howard Elementary School participated in our Siskiyou Outdoor School, including a number who had never before traveled far from Medford. While at our Deer Creek Center, students explored serpentine outcroppings and discovered the darlingtonia fen. We were especially touched when school principal Javier del Rio made a surprise visit during the evening's bonfire program and joined an exciting night hike, demonstrating his commitment to the students and how he values their outdoor experience.

We're also thankful for a generous pledge from some very special SFI friends who will match every dollar contributed, up to \$10,000, between now and January 15, 2018. We'd like to invite you to take this opportunity to double your donation by contributing now and help us raise \$20,000 as a celebration of SFI's 20th anniversary. In 2018 we begin our third decade of offering natural history education programs to connect people with the wonders of the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion!

During 2018, SFI will also ramp up our capacity to serve more young students in our residential camp programs. That means expanding our camp activities, training Illinois Valley high school students as camp counselors, partnering with Oregon Caves National Monument and Southern Oregon University's Environmental Education graduate program on curriculum development, building a camp kitchen near our pavilion to improve meal service and adding bunkhouses that can be used by students year round.

Also, in celebration of SFI's 20th anniversary, our adult education program will repeat some peak learning experiences from 1998 and offer some totally new adventures and professional training in geology, botany, birding and ecology.

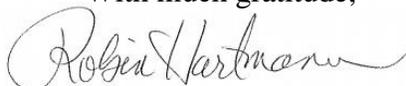


Be on the lookout for our new catalog next spring and special pre-season field courses that will whet your appetite for learning in 2018.

To make all this happen, we continue to need the help of friends and supporters – people like you who share our belief that both young people and adults need enrichment opportunities to uplift and meaningfully connect them with the natural world. **Please consider donating today so that we can meet our goal of doubling the generous \$10,000 challenge match!**

On a gift-giving note, we have plenty of dates open this winter for lodging, as well as some winter adult education classes, so please think of us when you search for a gift for that special someone or when you make holiday getaway plans.

With much gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Hartmann". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping tail.

Robin Hartmann, Executive Director