

DATE: April 11, 2016

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Award Winning Education Program Coming to Greater Lexington

(Lexington) - Ohio River Foundation (ORF) is pleased to announce that it has received funding from Toyota Motors Manufacturing, Kentucky, to offer its award winning River Explorer education program to teachers and students in Greater Lexington, KY.

Since 2005, more than 25,000 students have logged 75,000 hours participating in River Explorer. In Greater Cincinnati and Columbus more than 5,000 River Explorer students per year investigate and learn about river ecology, pollution, and habitat protection.

For many communities, schools are struggling to help students improve math and science scores. More teachers are using ORF educational programs to help them fill this need for their students.

With schools increasingly facing budget cuts to education they are looking for economically efficient ways to provide their students a rich academic experience. With education being most effective when students participate in the process through hands-on learning, our low cost high impact hands-on river and land-based programs enable schools to provide programs that meet their needs in this changing budgetary climate. Furthermore, the curriculum we use fulfills many of the STEM requirements teachers crave and also adheres to state education standards.

With River Explorer, students are in rivers and creeks investigating and performing field research. They are, effectively, junior scientists for the day, learning from riverbanks and getting into the water and use their hands and nets to catch aquatic creatures. The students hold what they catch and then place them in aquaria and other containers for close study. They also conduct water quality tests, examining different parameters to determine water chemistry values.

“We are excited to be bringing this important educational experience to students in Georgetown, Frankfort, Lexington, and neighboring communities. Toyota has been a great partner helping us to grow the program in Greater Cincinnati to reach thousands of students every year. We look forward to growing the program in Greater Lexington with similar success,” commented Rich Cogen, ORF Executive Director.

To join the staff for its River Explorer – Lexington team, visit www.ohioriverfdn.org for more information. Now in its 16th year, ORF, through its education and conservation activities, assists communities along the river and throughout the 200,000 sq. mile watershed with protecting water quality, restoring habitat, and improving public awareness of the importance of the natural environment in the Ohio River watershed.

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