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This week's industry news

Travel Oregon Awards, K-12 Seafood Pilot Program, Grant Opportunities & More



OCVA at the Travel Oregon Governor's Conference

Last week, the 2024 Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism wrapped up at the Salem Convention Center. Our entire staff attended this year's conference and engaged in conversations about the future of tourism on the Oregon Coast. Arica Sears (*OCVA Deputy Director*) presented on accessibility initiatives on the coast, and led a breakout session along with Finn Johnson (*North Coast Destination Management Coordinator*), on Strategies for Climate Resilience in Destination Management, which delved into how responsible tourism goes beyond singular issues and connects to accessibility, inclusivity, climate and well being.

We're also proud to share that Dave Lacey (*South Coast Destination Coordinator*), was honored with a Partnership Award for his work with Travel Southern Oregon Coast to promote Whiskey Run as the Oregon Coast's most epic mountain bike system. Finn Johnson, North Coast Destination Management Coordinator, also received an Oregon Rising Star Award for his work on the OCVA carbon emissions calculator and North Coast transit plan for lower carbon emissions. These are incredible accomplishments, and we look forward to our continued collaboration with all the partners working towards a future where tourism enriches Oregon's communities, environment, and visitor experiences.

[Read More Here](#)



High school seafood butchery program pilot seeks donations and delivery drivers

Local processors, cooks, and charter boat captains are in critical need of specialized workforce training support necessary to utilize fresh, local, and sustainable seafood species. OCVA and [Oregon Seafare](#) are working to increase specialized workforce training relating to seafood through a [seafood butchery pilot program for high schools](#).

Program organizers are currently **seeking donations for programming expenses, drivers that can help pick up seafood and deliver to schools**, and donations of **specific kitchen equipment** including:

- All-Purpose Cut Resistant Safety Gloves: <https://nocry.com/products/cutguard>
- Cutting boards
- Knife sharpeners/steels

- Aprons
- Filet knives
- Single-door, reach-in fish-only fridges

Any donation is tax deductible and makes a lasting impact on Oregon's future coastal workforce! If you or someone you know is interested in learning more and getting involved, please contact [Maggie Michaels](#).

OCVA + Kind Traveler Every Stay Gives Back Webinar Recording

Earlier this month, we hosted an informational webinar for organizations interested in learning more about the Kind Traveler Every Stay Gives Back program. If you missed it, [watch the recording here](#) to find out how you can help your visitors give back to the coast with every stay. There is still time to sign up as an official launch partner, so reach out to jblotter@kindtraveler.com for more information!

We're Hiring!

Finance and Contracts Manager

Interested in working with our team? We're hiring a Finance and Contracts Manager. Applications are open now through March 22.

This might be the job for you if you are:

- Passionate about the Oregon Coast
- Motivated to enhance sustainable tourism
- Experienced in finance, accounting, and operations management
- Skilled in grants administration
- Excited to make a difference in the tourism industry

For full job description and application information, [visit our website](#).

Industry News

Snowy plover nesting season has begun

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Siuslaw National Forest remind visitors that it is plover nesting season on the Oregon coast from March 15 to Sept. 15. Visitors can help recovery efforts for the threatened western snowy plover by observing recreation restrictions in designated plover areas. Sensitive plover nesting areas will be roped off or identified by signs with rules and limits, such as staying on the wet sand, to help protect the small shorebirds and their exposed nests during this crucial period. [Learn more here.](#)

International Dark Sky Week and a Total Solar Eclipse

April 2 - 8, 2024

International Dark Sky Week is a worldwide celebration of the dark and natural night, and a great opportunity to promote stargazing on the Oregon Coast. [Visit darksky.org](#) to learn more about how you can reduce pollution and prepare for Dark Sky Week.

Earth Day Oregon Spring Cleanup

Saturday, April 13th through April 22nd

Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering with SOLVE Oregon for this collaborative event running from April 13th to 22nd. The Oregon Spring Cleanup supports beach cleanups, river cleanups, neighborhood litter pickups, invasive plant species removal projects, and habitat restoration events all over Oregon and southwest Washington. Events all over the state are now open for registration, so sign up to be part of the coordinated effort to improve the health and cleanliness of our environment. You can even sign up to lead your own event! [Learn more here.](#)

Grant Opportunities

Funds available to improve access to walking, rolling, and public transportation

ODOT will be accepting applications for the second cycle of the Innovative Mobility Program microgrants **starting March 25**. Applicants can apply **for up to \$15,000** to support new and existing projects that improve access to public and active transportation for historically underserved groups. A total of \$350,000 is available in 2024.

The Innovative Mobility Program has a special focus on social equity and helping members of historically excluded groups get where they need to go more quickly, affordably and safely. ODOT wants to improve safety and access for those who walk and roll, while also making it easier to use other transportation modes besides driving alone. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Funds available for transportation projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions

The federal Carbon Reduction Program recently announced its second competitive grant funding opportunity in Oregon. The application window is March 1-May 31, 2024. Examples of eligible projects include public transit, bike infrastructure improvements, low-emission vehicles or fuels, and intelligent transportation systems. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Arts and Culture grants

The Pacific Power Foundation is donating more than \$110,000 in new grant funding to help organizations foster creative expression and enrich local culture in their communities by funding projects including free arts events and education; community celebrations of cultural heritage; multilingual performances for kids; and programs for Indigenous students, rural youth and incarcerated adults. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Economic Vitality Grants for Small Business Owners

In partnership with American Express, the Backing Small Businesses grant program supports economically vulnerable and under-resourced small businesses with community reach. This year, eligible small business owners can apply for \$10,000 grants for projects that grow or improve their businesses by building community, supporting their economic viability, or bolstering meaningful change. Applications will be accepted from March 14 through April 7, 2024. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Industry events

NET Webinar: Accessibility in Rural Tourism and Agritourism

Hosted by the [National Extension Tourism Network](#)

March 28, 2024 at 9:00am

[More information](#)

International Dark Sky Week

Hosted by [Dark Sky International](#)

April 2-8

[More information](#)

ORLA Regional Meeting: Seaside

Hosted by [Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association](#)

Monday, April 8 at 2:30pm

Rivertide Suites Hotel

[More information](#)

ORLA Regional Meeting: Newport

Hosted by [Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association](#)

Tuesday, April 9 at 2:30pm

Hallmark Inn Newport

[More information](#)

SOLVE Oregon Spring Cleanup

Hosted by [SOLVE Oregon](#)

April 13-22

Multiple events statewide

[More information](#)

Oregon Heritage Conference

Hosted by [Travel Oregon](#)

April 17-20

Forest Grove, OR

[More information](#)

Destination Boot Camp

Hosted by [Travel Oregon](#)

Monday, May 13 to Wednesday, May 15

Salishan Coastal Lodge

7760 U.S. 101, Gleneden Beach

[More information](#)

Bridging the Gap: Rural EV Charging Programs

Hosted by [Forth: Advancing Clean and Equitable Transportation](#)

Tuesday, May 14 from 10:00am to 11:00am

[More information](#)

TravelAbility Emerging Markets Summit 2024

Hosted by [TravelAbility](#)

November 13-15

Argonaut Hotel

San Francisco, California

[More information](#)

Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit

Hosted by [Oregon Trails Coalition](#)

December 5-7

Sunriver Resort in Central Oregon

[More information](#)

2025 Oregon Governor's Conference on Tourism

Hosted by [Travel Oregon](#)

March 31-April 2 2025

Oregon Convention Center, Portland

[More information](#)