



## **GirlVentures Receives The North Face 2016 Explore Fund Grant**

*GirlVentures is increasing access to the outdoors for diverse girls in the Bay Area*

**San Francisco, CA – June 29, 2016** – GirlVentures is proud to announce The North Face awarded a 2016 Explore Fund grant for GirlVentures’ Outdoor Adventure and Personal Enrichment Programs. These expeditions launched in mid-June and will continue throughout the summer months as girls backpack, hike, kayak and rock climb across the Northern California wilderness.

“We are proud to continue partnering with The North Face and being a part of their national movement to encourage girls to explore the beauty in their own backgrounds,” said GirlVentures’ Executive Director Taara Hoffman.

The North Face selected a total of 45 nonprofits that engage their participants in opportunities that inspire a lifelong love of the outdoors. Selected programs use outdoor exploration as a catalyst for positive personal or societal change, to encourage participants to try new outdoor activities, and promote environmental stewardship values.

“Encouraging people to experience and enjoy the outdoors has been our mission at The North Face since we were founded 50 years ago,” said Ann Krcik, senior director of Outdoor Exploration at The North Face. “We are proud to support these outstanding programs that expose participants to the beauty and joy of the outdoors. Through these Explore Fund grants, we are building a community of outdoor explorers and inspiring people to love and protect the places where we play.”

GirlVentures is currently celebrating its twentieth anniversary of empowering adolescent girls to discover and express their strengths. Since it’s founding, the program has grown from serving 25 girls in San Francisco to serving 135 girls across the Bay Area. By uniquely combining outdoor activities with a curriculum around trust, identity, social justice and leadership, GirlVentures inspires girls to become environmental stewards and empowers them to reach their full potential.

As the only local nonprofit of its kind, GirlVentures lowers barriers to the outdoors and ensure that all girls can participate regardless of their background: two-thirds come from low-to-middle income families and receive full or partial scholarships while transportation, food and gear is provided free of charge.

As part of its mission to start a global movement of outdoor exploration, The North Face introduced Explore Fund ([www.explorefund.org](http://www.explorefund.org)) in 2010 and the program has since provided more than \$2.2 million in grants to organizations committed to inspiring people to explore the outdoors and care for the environment.

To learn more about GirlVentures and how to get involved, visit [www.girlventures.org](http://www.girlventures.org)

### **About The North Face®**

The North Face, a division of VF Outdoor, Inc., was founded in 1966. Headquartered in Alameda, California, the company offers the most technically advanced products in the market to accomplished climbers, mountaineers, snowsport athletes, endurance athletes, and explorers. The company's products are sold in specialty mountaineering, backpacking, running, and snowsport retailers, premium-sporting goods retailers and major outdoor specialty retail chains.

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