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North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Grants \$1 Million to Expand The North Carolina Arboretum's Youth Education Programs Statewide

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (January 30, 2019) – The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation has granted \$1 million to expand The North Carolina Arboretum's innovative K-12 science education programs to all 100 North Carolina counties. The grant will be made through The North Carolina Arboretum Society, the Arboretum's non-profit support organization, and will support five years of program expansion across the state.

The North Carolina Arboretum will utilize the funds to expand its three K-12 project-based outdoor education programs: Project OWL, an environmental education certification program for pre-service and active K-5 teachers (www.ncprojectowl.org); Project EXPLORE, a teacher coaching program for K-12 teachers (www.projectexplore.education); and ecoEXPLORE, an out-of-school citizen science program for K-8 children (www.ecoexplore.net). The Arboretum has already rolled out one or more of these programs in 23 North Carolina counties and will work with school systems, county library systems, local and state parks, environmental education centers, colleges and universities, government agencies and other partners to expand these programs.

“As an affiliate of the University of North Carolina System, we are eager to work with teachers, librarians, park directors and others to provide students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in higher education and the workforce,” said George Briggs, executive director of The North Carolina Arboretum, which is based in Asheville. “We serve the entire State of North Carolina, from the mountains to the coast, and we are very grateful to The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation for making such a major investment in our shared goals.”

“We are proud to have helped the Arboretum launch Project EXPLORE with a smaller grant in 2012, and we are very excited about their plans to benefit tens of thousands of students and teachers statewide over the next five years” said Marilyn Foote-Hudson, executive director of the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation.

About The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation

The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation supports activities that help meet the educational and health needs of today's society and future generations. The Foundation focuses on programs that emphasize the understanding and application of health, science and education at all academic and professional levels. For more information, visit www.ncgskfoundation.org.

About The North Carolina Arboretum

Each year more than 500,000 visitors experience the Arboretum's gardens, trails, exhibits and plant shows, educational programs, demonstrations and lectures. The Arboretum's ability to meet its mission and enrich the visitor experience is made possible by a community of supporting resources – from members, volunteers and staff to state and local funds, tribute gifts, grants and community partners.

The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina System, is to cultivate connections among people, plants and places. A standard \$14 per vehicle parking fee is required for non-members. Special events and after-hours activities may require additional fees. For more information, please call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org.

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The North Carolina Arboretum is located off the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 393. From I-26, take Exit 33 and follow Blue Ridge Parkway signs for two miles to the entrance ramp. Please visit www.ncarboretum.org for parking fees and hours of operation.