

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Future Generations University Awarded Grant from Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area**

Franklin, WV, September 2023 – The Future Generations University Appalachian Program is pleased to announce its recent grant award from the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (AFNHA). This grant will support the "Forest on the Go" initiative, which aims to bring forest science and ecology education, conservation awareness, and tree syrup educational opportunities to students and communities in the Appalachian region.

The "Forest on the Go" program will engage students and community members through local fairs, festivals, and school visits, providing them with a unique opportunity to explore and learn about the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Appalachian forests. One of the highlights of this initiative is the provision of curricula boxes and hands-on lessons for classrooms, ensuring that the impact of this funding extends well beyond its initial lifespan.

The Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area encompasses counties that are home to one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Despite the geographical challenges presented by the hills, hollers, and mountains between communities, there are stories to be told, and the forest itself can serve as an educational tool and resource for educators. By connecting students with the forest and communities in the region, the initiative aims to instill a sense of stewardship and responsibility for preserving this unique natural heritage for generations to come.

"Forest on the Go" aligns with AFNHA's goals of sharing forest heritage stories and supporting sustainable tourism and economic development. This initiative will feature at various community events throughout the grant period, promoting economic growth and tourism in the region.

With increasing demand for sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, agritourism, and best on-farm practices, the Appalachian Program recognizes the urgency of meeting this need. The program is committed to forging strategic partnerships and building upon existing ones to foster meaningful community engagement and learning opportunities within the AFNHA counties.

Through this award and the "Forest on the Go" initiative, Future Generations University Appalachian Program, in collaboration with its partners and the local community, is dedicated to empowering the next generation to appreciate Appalachian forests and the culture, history, and science that make them truly extraordinary.

For more information about the Future Generations University Appalachian Program and "Forest on the Go," please visit <https://www.future.org/appalachian/program/> or contact [forest@future.edu](mailto:forest@future.edu).

About Future Generations University Appalachian Program:

Together with the University's partner organization, the Future Generations Global Network, our Global Team gathers practitioners, students, academics, and community leaders in a universe of learning to advance the well-being of people and the planet. We are headquartered in the heart of Appalachia where we reach other marginalized communities worldwide with our method to advance community-based sustainable development.

About the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (AFNHA):

The Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area conserves, interprets and promotes forest heritage to enhance landscapes and communities in the highlands of West Virginia and Maryland. AFNHA works with partners to explore and enhance the relationship between the forested mountains and the people who live here. With the overall theme of forest heritage, they focus on conservation, forestry, cultural heritage, asset-based tourism, and community development.

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