

# Project Get Outdoors

FALL 2018

[www.mnprojectgo.org](http://www.mnprojectgo.org)

## A Message from Our Founder

Wow! We've been busy since the last newsletter!

We have begun training Trainers across Minnesota to take the Project GO toolkit into communities and empower after school and out of school staff as well as families and public health workers to find innovative ways to introduce kids to the outdoors.

With help from the [Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund](#), Project GO is offering free training workshops in each region of the state over the coming year. Each training workshop is 8 hours and provides participants a deeper understanding of the crucial role nature plays in fostering healthy development, how we can work together to make nature more accessible to all children, and hands-on practice developing nature activities and dealing with difficult behaviors outdoors.

We held the first of these workshops in Winona on October 14 and in Duluth on November 5th. We are working with partners in the Bemidji, Mankato and Twin Cities areas to plan additional workshops for spring 2019.

We invite you to join us in this exciting effort to expand the Project GO reach across Minnesota and empower youth-serving organizations to get kids outdoors and engaged with the natural world around them!

*Sara Holger*

## Thank you for your support!



## 2018 Highlights & Updates

- Project GO provided training for members of the [AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative](#) serving during the 2017 – 2018 school year at schools and Head Start locations across southern Minnesota.
- [The MN Chapter of the International Society for Performance Improvement \(MNISPI\)](#) has chosen to assist Project GO in developing an on-line training tool that will compliment the Project GO Leader Certification Training. Each year, MNISPI selects a Minnesota-based non-profit organization to assist through in-kind support.
- Partnering with the [Friendship Place](#) and the [Alliance of Chicanos, Hispanics and Latin Americans \(ACHLA\)](#), Project GO is in the planning stages of developing a Neighborhood Naturalist program to train young adults from within two low-income neighborhoods in Rochester to be outdoor mentors and lead nature-based activities for the families within their neighborhoods.
- A new [Project GO website](#) launched in October with more resources and training materials for Project GO Trainers and Program Leaders to access, including an enhanced section on [Cultural Awareness Resources](#).
- Project GO participated in the [Early Childhood Care Conference](#) in Owatonna. We offered two two-hour sessions and reached 50 child care providers from southern Minnesota.



## Partner Highlight: Riverway Learning Community

Riverway Learning Community is a charter school located in Winona, MN. This unique school has a major focus on helping students develop a sense of environmental awareness. The school has partnered with Project GO since 2010, offering after school nature programs in collaboration with St. Mary's University students who assist in leading activities. In October, Riverway hosted a Project GO Leader Certification Training for after school providers from across Se MN. Several Riverway staff are now excited to serve as Project GO Trainers in their community!



## Project GO Coming to Bemidji & Mankato!

With support from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, Project GO is bringing free training and resources to each region of the state. This fall, trainings were offered in Winona and Duluth. We are working through our partners at the YMCA and the University of Minnesota to plan for April 2019 training events in the northwest and southwest regions.

These workshops are powerful opportunities for organizations to network with others in their region who are committed to connecting under-served children to the natural world. Participants gain hands-on practice leading outdoor activities and dealing with difficult behaviors and scenarios. A variety of resources are provided and participants gain access to unique tools such as equipment kits that can be checked out for free use.

To inquire about upcoming trainings, checkout our [Facebook page](#).

## Volunteer Spotlight: Bucky Flores

Bucky Flores resides on a small hobby farm near Zumbrota MN. He holds undergraduate degrees in Wilderness Management, and Therapeutic Recreation, and a graduate degree in Education Leadership. He is a thankful husband and proud father of two young children. In 2006, Bucky participated in a joint internship with Project GO and the National Eagle Center. Twelve years later Bucky has found himself involved with Project GO again. During the summer of 2018, Project GO collaborated with Bucky's organization "Flowers-n-Roots" to pilot a Nature Play Summer Camp. Over the coming year, Bucky will be acting as part-time Program Coordinator, assisting with Project GO trainings and outreach in southeast MN.



## Don't Forget Project GO on Give to the Max Day!



Please remember us on November 15, Give to the Max Day! Thank you for your support!

## Contact Project GO

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## For More Information

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