FORE’s Mission

- Education empowers communities to value and protect their watersheds. The Foundation for Ohio River Education teaches people of all ages in the Ohio River Basin to become environmental stewards through hands-on programs that get people on the water and engaged in preserving the cultural, ecological, and economic value of our rivers. FORE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit supporting organization of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission.
About ORSANCO

• The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), was established on June 30, 1948 to control and abate pollution in the Ohio River Basin. ORSANCO is an interstate commission representing eight states and the federal government. Member states include: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.
FORE is a 501c(3) non-profit, 509(a)(3) supporting organization of ORSANCO.

We rely on foundation grants, corporate donations/sponsorships, individual donations, and program fees to sustain our operating costs.

FORE also collects and administers funds that are raised by ORSANCO each year to conduct River Sweep. Residual funds that are not used for River Sweep can be used to support FORE’s education programs.
About FORE
FORE serves approximately 6,000 people each year, including students, teachers, environmental professionals and members of the community.

62% of the students we serve come from economically disadvantaged families.
In order for Environmental Education programs to stay relevant in the future, “we must expand the definition of environment to include the places where kids live, learn and play. We must embrace the teachable moments that urban spaces offer. And we must train a diverse young cohort of leaders and educators from urban areas to do this critical work in cities.”

River REACH
A floating classroom program for the Ohio River
River Research Education and Adventure Charters
(River REACH)
Floating Classroom on the Ohio River
Students perform the same monitoring methods as ORSANCO scientists to assess the Ohio River.
**Water Quality Station**

**Parameters Measured:**
- Water Temperature Change
- Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
- DO % Saturation
- Turbidity
- Conductivity
- Nitrate
- Ortho and Total Phosphate
- *E. Coli*

**Instruments Used:**
- Hydrolab/YSI Meter
- UV Spectrophotometer
- Turbidimeter
- Coliscan
Ohio River Fish

Students use an activity based on ORSANCO’s **modified Ohio River Fish Index (mORFIN)** to assess the fish community.

The mORFIN examines the number of fish species, the types of species and the ecological structure of the fish community at our sampling site through a series of metrics.
Ohio River Plankton

Students learn how algae are indicators of water quality and what role phytoplankton and zooplankton play in the Ohio River food web.
Macroinvertebrates

Students process Hester-Dendy plates and use a **Pollution Tolerance Index** to assess the macroinvertebrate community at our sampling site.
Students in the STREAM

#NATUREisHERE
Curriculum Activities

- Classroom activities focus on mapping watersheds using United States Geological Survey (USGS) materials.

- Schoolyard activities focused on assessing impervious surfaces, stormwater runoff and other sources of non-point pollution.

- Poetry, art and creative writing incorporated into classroom activities and data presentation.

- Water testing events.

- Clean-up activities in the creek or the schoolyard.

- FORE provides materials and training for teachers.
Professional Development for Educators
OutREACH
Public Workshops for Farmers and Landowners

Pond Scum Workshop
Water Quality Mobile App
FORE/NKU Collaborations

Summer Camps

FORE Foundation for Ohio River Education

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

NKU Northern Kentucky University

ESPERANZA
HAB App

HarmfulAlgaeBloom
Version 6.0 (2)
Michael Waters

Send Feedback

What to Test
Manual classifier.

Description
Harmful Algae Bloom Application

Information
Developer Michael Waters
Release Date Jan 19, 2017
Version 6.0 (2)
Size 53.7 MB
Expires Mar 20, 2017, 10:24 AM
Compatibility Requires iOS 9.3 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad and iPod touch.

Developer Website
Ohio River Sweep
FORE’s Income Sources

- River Sweep carryover
- Foundation Grants
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Annual Appeal
- River REACH Program Income
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Payroll</td>
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<td>Benefits</td>
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<td>Liability Insurance</td>
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<td>Meetings/Travel</td>
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<td>Training/Conferences</td>
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<td>Contractual Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>River REACH Floating Classroom Field Trips</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Sweep River Volunteer Clean-Up Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Activities</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal &amp; Audit Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Cost</td>
<td>$232,228</td>
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| FUNDING SOURCES                                 |           |
| Estimated Carryover From Previous Fiscal Year   | $215,000  |
| Estimated Foundation Contributions              | $50,000   |
| Estimated Corporate Contributions               | $12,000   |
| Estimated Individual Contributions              | $1,600    |
| Estimated Contributions Ohio River Sweep Clean-Up Event | $120,000  |
| Estimated Earned Income Floating Classroom Program Participant Fees | $5,500   |
| Estimated In-Kind Services                      | $6,500    |
| Interest Income                                 | $25       |
| Total Funding                                   | $410,625  |
Strengths and Weaknesses

• Our programs are solidly developed and provide educational experiences that go beyond a one-day field trip. They have been sustained over a long period of time.

• Feedback from some grant sources indicate that our writing skills are good. Goals, benchmarks and assessment strategies are strong.

• We are good at cultivating relationships.

• Due to the nature of our River REACH and Students in the STREAM programs, we don’t reach large numbers of people each year; grant money doesn’t get a lot of “bang for the buck”.

• We are not consistent when trying to engage corporate sponsors. We are not schmoozers.

• We are not consistent with reporting.

• We are not good at tooting our own horn in innovative ways.
Top Foundation Supporters

- LL Nippert Foundation
- Duke Energy Foundation
- Greater Cincinnati Foundation - Harrison Foundation
  - Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation
- Louise Taft Semple Foundation - Ignite Philathropy
- Mayerson Student Philanthropy Fund
- PNC Advisors
  - Sutphin Foundation
  - Reakirt Foundation
- Kinder Morgan Foundation
- Ingram Foundation
- Grace Harvie Charitable Trust
Top Corporate Supporters

- Cincinnati Bulk Terminals
- Cincinnati Barge and Rail
- American Commercial Lines
- Johnson Controls
Past Events

- Riverboat events
- Riversweep 25 Volunteer Appreciation Event at Behringer-Crawford Museum
- All-for-One night at Bircus Brewing
• Update list of local and national Foundations whose giving priorities match with FORE and who value our type of programming.

• Find better ways to underscore the value of our top education programs, even if they don’t provide a lot of “bang for the buck”.

• Find novel ways of connecting with these foundations outside of just making phone calls and directly applying.
• How to better use social media and which types are most appropriate for our constituents.

• How to get more followers.

• Develop an appropriate communication strategy and timeline based on our current staff capabilities.

• Identify and implement a suitable, low-budget, on-line fundraising platform (donate button).
Events

• Identify low-overhead venues/fundraising events that will appeal to a wide audience, beyond our constituents.
  • Ie., Paint and Pint

• How boost funds and connections made at low-overhead events.

• Identify breweries, restaurants or other venues for fundraising nights.
  • Deadlow Brewing

• Develop a strategy for building potential attendees at future, more large-scale events.

• Explore novel ideas for future, large-scale events or events we can “tie” into.
Thank You!

F.O.R.E.
FOUNDATION for OHIO RIVER EDUCATION

www.riverlearning.org