

2021 Dan and Hope Rigel Educational Grant

Jacquelynn Auchard, Ruch Outdoor Community School, Ruch, Oregon



Jacquelynn is a teacher at Ruch Outdoor Community School in Ruch, Oregon. My interest in paleontology, geology, mineralogy, lapidary and collecting began several years ago after looking for rocks on the beach that I could paint. A couple came over and asked if I was looking for agates or chert. That sparked my curiosity and I had to know more. Since then, I have been inspired through my membership, educational classes and volunteerism with Roxy Ann Gem and Mineral Society and Crater Rock Museum in Central Point, Oregon.

She applied for the Dan and Hope Rigel Educational Grant to help educate her students in the wonder and beauty of rocks and fossils. Monies will be used for transportation to collecting sites, purchase lapidary equipment for students to make specimens, and the purchase of rock, mineral and fossil specimens for education. They have collecting sites near their school but far enough to need funds for transportation. They have a room set aside for lapidary stations and equipment but are in need of some basic equipment for specimens. For example, one of the easiest ways to identify petrified wood is to expose the cell structure with a trim saw or grinder. The monies from this grant would allow them to purchase the appropriate equipment. It would benefit the students to have some hands-on examples of specimens to refer to when learning about the various rocks, minerals and fossils.

Jacquelynn Auchard's response to winning the award,

I am so pleased to hear that Ruch Outdoor Community School has been awarded the Dan and Hope Rigel Educational Grant. This is incredibly exciting for all of us here at Ruch! Our mission includes the fostering and nurturing of our students' passions and interests and so many of our students have shown incredible interest in rock and fossil identification.

I appreciate the AAPS investing time, energy and resources into our youth for educational opportunities and experiences. We look forward to having our students enlightened through exploration and collecting of various rocks, minerals, and fossils. I will keep you informed of our students' progress and will be sending pictures of our field trips as they come.

Thank you again for this incredible opportunity the grant will provide for our students. We can't wait to share our stories and learning.

Sincerely,
Jacquelynn Auchard
Ruch Outdoor Community School