OSU Women's Giving Circle

Introductory Guide for Members

Hello, and welcome!

As a member of the Women's Giving Circle (WGC), you are part of a collective effort to create opportunities, foster innovation and support initiatives that enhance the educational experience for students and programs at OSU.

This membership guidebook is designed to provide you with all the information you need to make the most of your involvement in the Women's Giving Circle. Inside, you will find details about our mission, goals and the various ways you can contribute and participate. Whether you are interested in attending events, volunteering or voting for WGC grants, there are numerous opportunities for you to get involved in whatever way that is suitable for you.

We encourage you to explore the guidebook and familiarize yourself with the resources and programs available to you as a member. Our goal is to ensure that you feel informed, engaged and empowered to take an active role in our community.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to Oregon State University. We look forward to working together to achieve great things and make a lasting impact.

Sara Dier, '08
Senior Director, Annual Giving

Celina Anderson, '25
Assistant Director, Annual Giving
Constituent Engagement and Stewardship

Women's Giving Circle Mission: Empower change, cultivate impact

The Women's Giving Circle is a philanthropic **collective** committed to fostering a community of dedicated and passionate women who believe in advancing Oregon State University, supporting student success and leaving a lasting legacy.

What is the Women's Giving Circle?

Annual membership in the Women's Giving Circle provides an opportunity for OSU alumni, parents and friends to cultivate a fellowship of peers and pool donations together to fund vital and innovative grants for university programs.

Since it was founded, this collective has supported more than **32,000 students**, funded **224 projects** and granted more than **$1.6 million.**

The Women's Giving Circle is guided by a group of volunteer members, the WGC Steering Committee.

Membership communications

The OSU Foundation team is responsible for facilitating WGC member activities and grant cycles communicate through multiple ways. You may receive correspondence through mail and personal phone calls to connect directly. The main avenue of communication is through email.

WGC quick facts:

- The Women's Giving Circle was founded in 2003.
- Membership varies from 100-150 members each year.
- Donations are collected from May 1 to April 30 each year.

Women's Giving Circle grant overview

Grants are an important aspect of the Women's Giving Circle mission and are decided by member vote to support specific projects, initiatives or groups at OSU. The number of grants awarded will depend on the size of the pooled fund and the number of compelling proposals submitted.

Grants generally range from $2,000-$10,000. For recent examples, please refer to the **grant recipient web page**. Grantees may apply for a renewal the following year but are not given special priority during the grant process.

There are three primary aspects of the grant awarding cycle:

- **Reviewing applications:** WGC members are encouraged to read proposal applications. The steering committee makes recommendations as applications are reviewed.
- **Volunteering for site visits:** Any member of the WGC may volunteer to lead/co-lead a site visit. This may include an in-person meeting, phone call or Zoom call to connect directly with applicants.
- **Voting:** Any member of the WGC may vote for their preferred proposals. This is conducted through an online form.

Grant awarding cycle

The Women's Giving Circle follows an annual grant cycle with key milestones throughout the year. Here's an overview of the typical timeline:

- **October to January:** The WGC grant application is open for OSU programs with a deadline to submit in January. During this time, the OSUF team does thoughtful outreach to programs and colleges across OSU to encourage applications.
- **February:** The WGC steering committee assesses all grant proposals for eligibility and makes recommendations for further follow up/site visits.
- **March:** All members receive eligible grant proposals to review. A member meeting is hosted to provide an opportunity for members to sign up for site visits. Site visits take place, members submit reports of their findings.
- **April**: Members vote on grant proposals.
- **May**: Grantees are notified of their awards and announced to members.
- **June**: Grantees are announced publicly.

Grant criteria and award requirements

The Women's Giving Circle will consider proposals that enhance the OSU undergraduate student experience and improve student retention, directly impacting as many OSU students as possible. Comprehensive information can be found **here**.

Additional considerations

- Proposals which are relevant but not exclusive to women.
- Proposals which encourage undergraduate students in the implementation of the project or program.
- Proposals with limited sources of support and that will stand to significantly benefit from WGC funding.

Non-eligible criteria

- Proposals that directly benefit research projects will not be considered.
- Travel expenses (hotel, meals, gas, car rentals, train, bus or airfare) should be excluded entirely.
- Food and beverage budgets should be excluded entirely.
- Proposals to fund OSU employee stipends will not be considered.
- Proposals to fund salaries and benefits for students will not be considered. Stipends are OK.

Award requirements

Once a grant is awarded, there is a calendar of objectives and expectations for grantees to follow:

- **Upon awarding:** OSUF team hosts an open house for grantees to answer any questions they may have about the process.
- **Starting the academic year:** In July, grant funds are made available.
- **October:** Grantees are invited to attend the Fall Celebration.
- **Throughout the academic year:** Grantees will be invited to present on their programs and provide up-to-date project insights.
- **March:** Mid-year reports are due. These reports include any extension requests that are needed.
- **End of academic year:** Final reports are due.

Year-round membership involvement

There are a multitude of ways for members to participate throughout the year. In recognition of our members across the nation, WGC offerings include a variety of in-person, virtual and hybrid opportunities to engage.

Member meetings: There may be virtual meetings throughout the year. The purpose of the March members meeting is to review grant proposals and vote on funding decisions.

Site visits: Members visit funded projects to see their impact first-hand. Site visits are also used to determine the eligibility of current proposals and can be conducted in-person, on the phone or via Zoom.

Grant impact sessions: Grantees are offered a chance to showcase programs to WGC members through a webinar. These sessions are entirely virtual and a great opportunity for members to participate, learn and ask thoughtful questions.

Social and fellowship events: In-person opportunities are essential for members to connect, build relationships and strengthen the WGC community. These includes invitations to exclusive OSU Foundation events and OSU events.

Fall Celebration: The biggest annual WGC event, the Fall Celebration offers an opportunity for members to connect with one another and celebrate with the grantees of the year. This event often includes a keynote speaker from OSU.

WGC Steering Committee

The WGC Steering Committee is a group of members responsible for providing strategic direction, oversight and decision-making for the Women's Giving Circle. It ensures that goals are met, resources are effectively allocated, and key activities align with WGC's mission and objectives. Specific steering committee duties include:

- Attend hybrid meetings multiple times (between 4-8) throughout the year to keep up to date on WGC operations.
- Review and assess grant eligibility.
- Act as ambassadors. Examples include promoting the WGC through testimonials and volunteering at events such as Dam Proud Day.
- Attend the annual OSU Foundation Volunteer Summit.
- Act as representatives of membership, provide onboarding mentorship.
- Participate in fundraising efforts related to WGC.

The steering committee is a great way to deepen your experience and involvement. To apply to join the WGC Steering Committee, visit this site.



Pictured 1: WGC Steering Committee member volunteers to connect with students on Dam Proud Day

Meet your OSU Foundation team

Celina Anderson, ‘25

Celina began her career at the OSU Foundation in 2019, working her way up to Assistant Director of Constituent Engagement and Stewardship on the Annual Giving team. As a first-generation college graduate with marginalized identities, Celina has experienced first-hand the impact of philanthropy on higher education accessibility. Now as a professional in this sector, she has grown to understand the importance of community among those who support higher education with their time, talent, treasure and testimony. She values the opportunities that accompany experience and hopes to connect members of the WGC in fulfilling ways.

Celina’s role with the Women’s Giving Circle: Celina is responsible for the grant cycle and ensuring a fulfilling membership experience, including new member onboarding. All members will get to know Celina through regular communications and invitations to events. She is also a member.

Sara Dier, ’08

Sara began working for the Oregon State University Foundation in 2022 and is a graduate of OSU’s College of Liberal Arts, earning a BA in English. To Sara, nothing is more transformative than innovative and accessible higher education. As a fourth-generation Oregonian and first-generation college graduate, Sara believes that community connections and philanthropic affinity groups provide incredible opportunity for collaboration, mentorship and stewardship at OSU. In addition to the Women’s Giving Circle, Sara serves as the primary liaison to the Beaver Leadership Circle, Mighty Beavers and OSU Loyal.

Sara’s role with the Women’s Giving Circle: Sara is responsible for new membership outreach and steering committee facilitation. She is the primary lead for the mission of this collective. She is also a member.