

**West Marine Announces Dates for BlueFuture® Fall Grant Cycle  
Encouraged to Apply for Grant Funding: Community Nonprofits Dedicated to  
Getting Young People On and Around the Water**

**Watsonville, Calif., Aug. 15, 2017** – On Friday, Sept. 1, West Marine will begin accepting online applications for its next round of 2017 BlueFuture grants. The fall grant cycle will run through Sunday, Oct. 1, with the names of grant recipients to be announced in November.

Encouraged to apply are nonprofit, youth-focused, community-based organizations that teach sailing, powerboating, fishing, paddling or boatbuilding skills; foster aquatic sustainability and conservation practices; and encourage learning in the marine sciences. The \$1,500 grants are given without restriction; in other words, grant recipients are free to use the funds as they see fit.

“We’re dedicated to giving back to communities across the country through our BlueFuture initiative,” says Deb Radcliff, Senior Vice President, Marketing. “We understand that not all young people have the opportunity to build their own Waterlife, so it’s important to us that we’re able to help local nonprofits give more young people access to the water.”

West Marine created its nonprofit BlueFuture fund in May 2015 to provide this critical grant funding to charities across North America. The world’s premier Waterlife Outfitter conducts three annual in-store fundraisers to support BlueFuture’s growth: National Safe Boating Week in May, World Oceans Day in June, and the Month of Giving in December. It also encourages year-round donations through its website at [westmarine.com/BlueFuture](http://westmarine.com/BlueFuture).

“We seek to expand BlueFuture’s reach so we can help even more nonprofit organizations across the country,” Radcliff says. “Working together, we can make a real difference in the lives of America’s children.”

West Marine’s BlueFuture is a donor-advised fund through the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz. All donations are fully tax-deductible, and twice each year, West Marine awards grants to worthy nonprofit organizations across North America. These much-needed funds allow the community-based groups to provide scholarships, purchase new equipment, maintain staff, add programs and so much more.

To learn more about West Marine’s 2017 BlueFuture grants, to submit an application, and for detailed information about the company’s BlueFuture initiative and how you can [help](http://www.westmarine.com/bluefuture), visit [www.westmarine.com/bluefuture](http://www.westmarine.com/bluefuture).