

RURAL SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Ozarks Teacher Corps FAQ



What is the Ozarks Teacher Corps?

The overarching purpose of the Ozarks Teacher Corps is to encourage extremely capable and passionate young people to become educators and return to their rural hometowns as teacher-leaders. The program was launched as a component of the Rural Schools Partnership in 2010, with an initial cohort of 16 teaching candidates. The Corps has grown to include dozens of educators now working in rural communities that serve as a network of educator-activists who recognize the importance of rural education to a sustainable society.

What is the Rural Schools Partnership?

The Rural Schools Partnership is a program established by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks in 2009. The RSP holds these fundamental beliefs:

- Rural education is a linchpin issue in rural economic development.
- Schools are critical to the well-being of small communities by serving as hubs and providing a focal point of activity, a sense of civic pride and a reason for families to stay in place.
- Schools are an integral thread in the community fabric—they provide a sense of purpose.

Contact Beth Hersh at behersh@cfozarks.org or (417) 864-6199 for more information.

What is the Community Foundation of the Ozarks?

The CFO is a public foundation serving the Missouri Ozarks and is dedicated to working with its donors, nonprofit partners and affiliated community foundations in meaningful and purposeful ways. Founded in 1973, the CFO has since grown to include 53 regional affiliate foundations and many nonprofit partners



across central and southern Missouri through more than 3,000 charitable funds with assets of \$310 million as of June 30, 2020.

Who provides the money for the Ozarks Teacher Corps?

This program is made possible by the Chesley and Flora Lea Wallis Trust, a \$1.7 million charitable fund held by the CFO.

Who qualifies for the Ozarks Teacher Corps?

The program is open to Missouri State University–West Plains and Drury University students. Applicants must have graduated from a high school in a rural district, preferably in the Missouri Ozarks.

What are the commitments for a member of the Ozarks Teacher Corps?

Those selected to the Ozarks Teacher Corps must commit to teaching in their respective home communities for at least three years. If no position in a cohort member's home community is available, other rural school districts may be considered. Corps members must also attend and participate in rural-education training. If recipients do not complete their teaching certification or program or honor their commitment to teach in their hometown (or other rural school), the scholarship will be revoked.