

Sarah Luft
Project Manager
Riddle Roots Community Projects
PO Box 546
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May 3, 2023

Dear cochairs Steiner and Sanchez and members of the Ways & Means Committee,

My name is Sarah Luft, and I am writing on behalf of Riddle Roots Community Projects; a nonprofit organization serving rural Southern Douglas County communities, where one in three residents live in poverty.

As we all know that with poverty comes educational disparities, housing and food insecurity, children being exposed to drugs, violence and crime, and a vicious cycle of struggling just to meet basic needs that can feel impossible to break free from.

I am here to ask you to help us break this cycle, empower our youth, and improve the lives of Southern Douglas County community members by funding the remainder of our Riddle Activity Center Capital Campaign.

Since Riddle's incorporation in 1893, its residents, businesses, and local industry leaders have invested in making Southern Douglas County a good place to live, raise a family and retire. In this spirit, we have raised nearly \$6,000,000 in local donations toward our project goal, and we're asking for the remaining \$7,000,000 to make it happen.

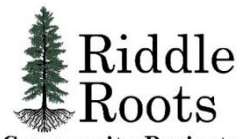
Riddle Activity Center will be a nearly 40,000 square ft. recreation and youth center in Southern Douglas County where community members will gather to improve their health, have fun, and access essential services. The RAC will work closely with school districts to identify and serve our housing and food insecure youth, provide much needed space for school sports and activities, and be a safe, enriching place for our kids to go after school. We will use STEAM based programs and community business partnerships to encourage our youth to explore their interests in local industries, Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math and create a pathway for future successful careers in these fields.

Riddle Roots Community Projects is committed to re-invigorating our long-held legacy of investing time and resources into providing much needed infrastructure and community support programs. Receiving these funds would ensure the success of this campaign and would truly change lives for generations to come.

Thank you for all you do for our Oregon communities!

Gratefully,

Sarah Luft
Project Manager
Riddle Roots Community Projects



Community Projects

Sarah Luft, Project Manager

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RIDDLE ACTIVITY CENTER

Building a Bright Future for Southern Douglas County

Since Riddle’s incorporation in 1893, our businesses, local industry leaders and residents have overcome many challenges to make Southern Douglas County a great place to grow up, make a living, raise a family, and retire.

Riddle Roots Community Projects is committed to upholding this legacy of community investment and to empowering our youth with the skills and tools needed to break the vicious cycle of generational poverty that plagues today’s rural communities.

“In the midst of difficulty lies opportunity.” -Albert Einstein

STEAM Based Afterschool & Childcare Programs...

- Support stable, long-term employment.
- Add new jobs to the community.
- Reduce youth’s exposure to violence, crime, and drugs.
- Improve attendance and graduation rates.
- Encourage youth to develop skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math, and create pathways to future successful careers.

1 in 3 Southern Douglas County Residents live in poverty.

Riddle, Canyonville, and Myrtle Creek have the highest poverty rates in all of Douglas County.

Southern Douglas County schools often must use crucial education time to meet our youth’s mental health, environmental, and social needs.

Riddle is an ideal location for a regional community center.

- It is centrally located among Southern Douglas County schools and communities.
- Riddle businesses and industry leaders have a long history of investing in strengthening Southern Douglas County communities.
- Having the RAC in Riddle will provide the community with a much-needed socioeconomic and subsequent well-being boost.

Riddle Activity Center will be a comprehensive recreation and youth center in Southern Douglas County where community members will gather to improve their health, have fun, and access essential services. Community business partnerships and STEAM based programs will encourage our youth to explore their interests in local industries, Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math and create pathways to future successful careers. **The RAC** will provide much needed space for sports and activities, will work closely with school districts to meet the new and growing needs of our youth, and will be a safe, enriching space to gather.

Some of the spaces we hope to provide at the RAC include:

Double Basketball Court, 24-hour Fitness Center & Indoor Track, Outdoor Event Spaces, Ticket Booth, Concessions Stand, Emergency Shelter, Stage, Meeting & Event Rooms, STEAM based Youth Programs, Outdoor Covered Playground, Commercial Community Kitchen, Dining Hall

Riddle Roots Community Projects is recognized as tax exempt under IRS code 501(c)(3). EIN #: 86-3621704