



WESTERN FLYER
FOUNDATION

Seeking an Executive Director

Our mission

“To stir curiosity by connecting art and science in the spirit of John Steinbeck, Ed Ricketts, and their journey on the Western Flyer.”

Our story

In 1940, John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts chartered the then three-year-old wooden purse seiner *Western Flyer* for a journey to the Gulf of California, where they studied the tidal zone of the Gulf, as well as having a rollicking good time. Upon their return, they published *Sea of Cortez. A Leisurely Journal of Travel and Research* (1941), the narrative portion of which was republished as *The Log from the Sea of Cortez* (1951).

The *Flyer* was almost lost to us, but was rescued by John Gregg, our founder, in 2015. Our vision is to restore *Flyer* and transform her into an unique platform for cross-disciplinary education, outreach, and research. Our mission is to develop programs that integrate the sciences and humanities. Elementary and high school teachers and students will experience and study marine and coastal ecosystems, while immersing themselves in the rich literary and historical traditions associated with the vessel. Undergraduate and graduate students will conduct sophisticated research and, in addition, work with lower-level students.



For more information about *Western Flyer* and the Foundation, see our website:
<https://westernflyer.org>.

Where we are

Restoration of the hull and deck house is nearly complete. We anticipate launching and rechristening the boat in the first quarter of 2022.

After that, a state of the art propulsion and other systems will be installed, and *Flyer* will undertake her maiden voyage to California some time mid-year 2022.

Once finished, *Flyer* will visit not only the well-known major west coast ports in the USA and Mexico, but also overlooked and underrepresented communities, offering free, on-land and at-sea experiential learning that integrates the sciences and the humanities. We seek to inspire in students and young adults a deeper appreciation of the marine environment and the holistic ecological vision of author John Steinbeck and marine biologist Edward F. Ricketts.



The opportunity

We seek an Executive Director to lead the organization from startup to a durable organization, which fully implements integrative programs. In the first year, the ED's focus must be on a capital campaign to complete the restoration of *Flyer*. Additional future responsibilities include not only continued fundraising, but also designing and fulfilling a sustainable operating plan and budget.

Responsibilities

- Reports to the Board of Directors.

- Works with the Board towards fulfilling the mission of the Foundation. Responsible for the long-range strategic plan.
- Raises funds for completion of *Flyer*. Creates and implements a long-term operational funding plan.
- Represents the organization externally, including working with our partners both in the US and in Mexico.
- Manages day-to-day operations of the organization, including managing the Foundation's employees.

Skills

- Leadership and management skills.
- Demonstrable fund-raising skills.
- Strong written and oral skills. Public speaking ability.
- Takes initiative and works independently.
- Collaborative.

Qualifications

- Prefer at least three years of relevant experience in a leadership role at a non-profit organization, foundation, or government agency with a similar or adjacent mission. Other backgrounds will also be considered.
- Bachelor's degree or higher

Inclusion

The mission of the Western Flyer Foundation is to bring innovative educational programs to underrepresented communities along the Pacific and Baja coast. We welcome applicants with a diversity of views and backgrounds.

Application process

Apply via email to edsearch@westernflyer.org. Include the following:

- A cover letter (maximum 3 pages) on why you want to become the Executive Director of the Western Flyer Foundation, and how your experience and skills enhances your prospects for success.
- A resume, including contact information for three professional references.

Salary

\$8,000 - 10,000 / month, plus benefits, depending on qualifications

Application deadline

21 February 2022