



Sierra Watershed
Education Partnerships

SWEP promotes environmental stewardship by connecting students to their community and local environment through comprehensive watershed education and service learning

Late Fall 2008



Winter Discovery Center and Education Program

Excellence in Education and Lahontan Foundation fund classroom

Thanks to funding from Excellence in Education, Lahontan Community Foundation and private fundraising, a 30' yurt will be constructed this fall at the Tahoe Cross Country Center. The new Winter Discovery Center will begin hosting students in January 2009 as a pilot program for 3-5th grades.

This collaborative effort will be implemented by Tahoe XC and SWEP, with support from partnerships with CA State Parks, Tahoe City PUD and volunteers.

The curriculum will primarily focus on winter ecology and winter fitness, with art, games and discovery 'hikes' as the core activities. Older students will conduct science experiments and learn monitoring protocol. All students will receive a journal to record their lessons and to use as reference for home and school.

This program will provide an opportunity for youth that does not already exist, and it will compliment the array of environmental education opportunities currently available in our region. We owe a huge thanks to Marisa Lopez, who took the volunteer initiative to write successful grants to fund our classroom!

Want more information?
christine@4swep.org

Volunteers will be needed to assist with groups outdoors on skis and in the 'classroom'. Trainings will be held in December and January. These two hour sessions will introduce you to tips for working with various age groups and provide content and activity training relevant to the Winter Discovery Program.

Program development support is still being sought. Contact: Christine McMorrow 530-525-9457



Sagehen Outdoor Science

Taking advantage of local places

Fifth grade classes from Glenshire, Truckee, Kings Beach, and Tahoe Lake Elementary schools participated in the teacher initiated Sagehen Outdoor Science program at the UC Berkeley field station, north of Truckee.

One overnight trip and follow up day trips to Sagehen give students the opportunity to experience classroom academics in the field. Students get to touch, see, smell and hear the forest. This direct and guided experience allows for individual observation and discovery, both extremely important building blocks for science investi-

gation and lifelong learning. Educators and naturalists with SWEP and UC Berkeley host intensive (2-3hours with a group), hands-on learning stations for students while visiting the field station. Students get to collect and analyze data for individual, class, and university projects.

SWEP staff play a huge role in follow up classroom projects in between trips to Sagehen. The most visible, the School of Trout public art display at Trout Creek in Truckee, has been erected for two years in a row. In partnership with Arts for the Schools

and the Town of Truckee, and support from Nevada Co. (2007), the fish are painted by students and erected on Truckee River Day. We also do classroom follow up with the Jr. Botanist program, helping 5th graders to learn more native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Art and poetry produced by the kids' inspiration at Sagehen is also displayed at the spring Earth Day Festival.



Green Gifting for the Holidays!



This year SWEP is creating new traditions for the holiday season--a gift giving idea that truly gives back to the community--A SWEP 'friends' membership. This 'Green Gift' creates no waste, while supporting environmental projects with k-12 youth throughout the Tahoe Truckee region.

Through our Friends of SWEP program, you can donate to our organization in the name of a friend or loved one; they receive all the benefits of a Friend--quarterly updates on programs, projects and partnerships that help us to implement stewardship and service learning projects in our community.

This new tradition in gift giving develops a legacy of philanthropy and community involvement. Help us create a season of hope and joy that goes beyond consumerism!

Gifting is easy! Simply decide the giving level, fill in the receiver's information, and message. We will send a custom announcement gift card, featuring student art work.

Did you know? The amount of money spent on candy alone during the holiday season is greater than the annual budgets of the American Cancer Society, The American Heart Association and Habitat for Humanity combined! (redefinechristmas.org).

You can purchase your gift with a credit card at our website. Please download and mail or email the green gifting form to:

P.O. Box 1602

Tahoe City, CA 96145

Or email, christine@4swep.org

This is not just for the holidays! Green Gifts are great for birthdays, anniversaries and more!



EXPERIENCE

DISCOVER

ACT

TRUCKEE HIGH ENVIROOLUTION CLUB

“Create Your Change” Project

This year, SWEP is partnering with Enviroolution, a non-profit organization that works to facilitate the expansion of the sustainability movement. Their mission is *to develop collaborative platforms that advance sustainability, grow the green economy, and empower the next generation of leaders(enviroolution.org).*

Following the protocol for Enviroolution clubs, the Truckee high students have started measuring the carbon footprint of their school, classroom by classroom. Alex Gamboa, co-founder of Enviroolution and Peter Mayfield with Gateway Mountain Center are guiding the club members in this process.

Currently there are about a dozen active members who are involved in the carbon footprint measuring. Additionally, students are taking on another project called “Create Your Change”. This action oriented project will spread a wide net across the community by raising awareness about trash. Yes. Trash! Students are doing several things for this project.

Green Gift Boxes

Right now, as the holidays approach, they are showing up at gift fairs and creating gift boxes from old calendars and magazine covers. These boxes create no new waste and each one is unique and beautiful!

Functional Trash Art

Students are finding many ways to recreate trash products into usable items such as backpacks, purses, wallets and more! Their plan is to employ the help of all students in the school district by having them help in collecting the trash items they need to make their products. Enviroolution club members are getting their assembly presentation together now and hope to get to all of the schools in January to make them a part of the *Create Your Change* project.

High Trashion at Earth Day

Lastly, club members are planning a Trash-

ion show for Earth Day 2009! That’s right, they are designing fashions from trash to debut at Earth Day. Last year, middle school students, Amory Harris and Makaiah Mohler won the Haute Trash fashion show with their home spun outfits. This win motivated and excited them to do more. “The outfits are not that functional, but high fashion isn’t supposed to be functional. It is supposed to allow you to see what could be”, said Amory.

Students will be selling their wares at the Earth Day Festival. The money raised will go toward projects that reduce the carbon footprint of Truckee High.



Truckee High Enviroolution members, Amory and Makaiah donning their award winning outfits made from trash.



Dates to Remember

November 22-23: Truckee Donner PUD, Truckee, Alternative Christmas Faire (sat. 1-5pm; sun. 11-3pm)

December: Volunteer workshops for Winter Discovery Program. Exact dates TBD, keep posted at our website.

December 3: Local First! Sustainability Film Series, Sierra College Truckee. Hosted by Sierra Business Council. 5:30-8:30pm

January 12: Full Moon Gourmet Dinner Tahoe Cross Country, Winter Discovery Center

February 3: Community Leaders workshop for Non-formal educators, TCES, Incline Village

February 9: Full Moon Gourmet Dinner Winter Discovery Center

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