



Sierra State Parks Foundation
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SIERRA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION THE SIERRA SPIRIT

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FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Californians became acutely aware of their State Parks in 2012 when a list of park closures was published in response to funding shortfalls. Your Sierra State Parks Foundation began working to save our local Lake Tahoe-Donner State Parks and reshape the way partners, like ourselves, work with the State to operate and manage our park units. In a world of economic indicators, there is no agreed upon method to measure the specific value of a park experience. Our parks serve as an outdoor museum of natural and human history, a laboratory, a field classroom, and are also wonderful places to recreate. But the greatest benefit of our parks is the inspiration, beyond measure, that we experience when we visit them.

Recently, SSPF participated in Park Advocacy Day in Sacramento. We met with several legislators and lobbied for the importance of parks to our membership and how to best provide a future State Park system with stable funding. Much of our focus was on specific park bills designed to put a dent in the \$3.1 billion deferred maintenance backlog within State Parks. Missing, was a real discussion of sustainable funding for our parks. We all protested when the gates of parks were scheduled to close. Our generous donors have stepped up to the plate providing Sierra State Parks with funds to continue school tours, natural and cultural restoration projects, interpretive projects and more. Without you, these programs would not exist.

Parks can become a model of health in our society. You cannot have a healthy park system if society is sick. In fact, embedded in the mission of State Parks is, "to provide for the health...of Californians." Parks are the canary birds of our society. Your Sierra State Parks Foundation is dedicated to creating a healthy park system in the Lake Tahoe-Donner area.

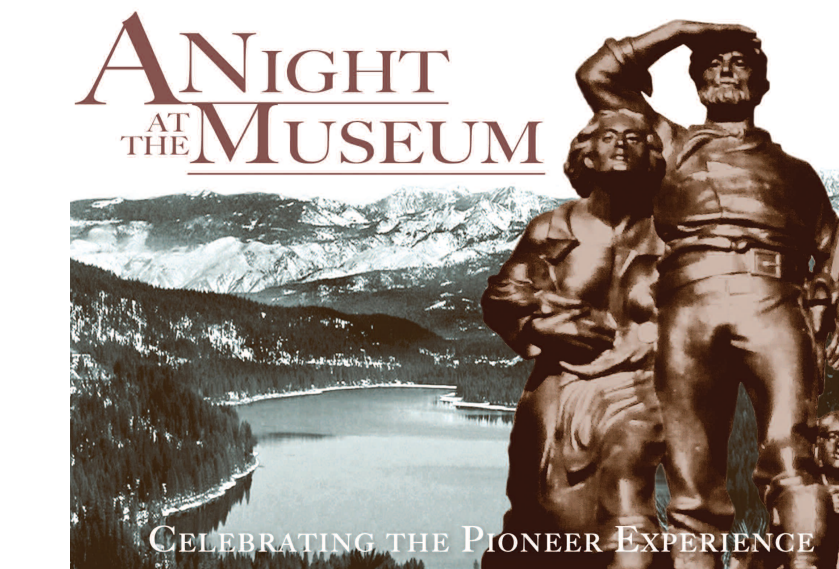
As we enter the magnificent summer season, please join me in experiencing our parks. Hike a trail, kayak the shoreline, explore a visitor center, or attend one of the many interpretive programs we sponsor. You can also help by making a donation. Most important, take the time to be inspired by our parks and discover the many wonders they contain!

Yours in parks,
Heidi Doyle, Executive Director



SSPF Board Member Norma Santiago, Executive Director Heidi Doyle & Board President Jerry Blackwill advocating in Sacramento for our Lake Tahoe-Donner State Parks

Find us on Facebook



Sierra State Parks Foundation presents
A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
CELEBRATING THE PIONEER EXPERIENCE

Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center
Annual Gala & Not So Silent Auction
Saturday, June 4, 2016

6PM | Cocktails & Hors d'Oeuvres, Music & Silent Auction
Meet some the pioneer "characters" that helped settle the Tahoe-Truckee area

7PM | Pioneer Dinner, Live Auction & Foundation Appeal
Support our education & Pioneer Monument restoration efforts
Meet our restoration partners: Native Sons of the Golden West

Tickets \$150 per person. Limited seating. Country elegant.
Available on line at www.SierraStateParks.org
(530) 583-9911

...educate, interpret,
restore & preserve

SierraStateParks.org

Phone: 530/583-9911

SUPPORT YOUR SIERRA STATE PARKS & GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Volunteer, donate, or visit the Sierra State Parks.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR
WONDERFUL SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY
AND SUPPORT OF THE SIERRA STATE PARKS



The Sierra State Parks Foundation, **believes** that Lake Tahoe and Truckee area California State Parks are unique treasures worthy of our support today and for generations to come. We provide critical program, volunteer and financial support to our valued cultural and natural resources. **Because of our work**, our parks will continue to be places of education and inspiration for generations to come.

Join us in supporting our Lake Tahoe & Truckee area California State Parks.

*Become a
Member Today!*

at www.sierrastateparks.org

THE PIONEER MONUMENT- PAST AND PRESENT

Interview with Dave Allen - A California Native Son of the Golden West

Welcome, Dave!

Can you tell us a little bit about your work with Native Sons of the Golden West and what they do?

The Native Sons of the Golden West is a fraternal historical society chartered in San Francisco on July 11, 1875. It is open to native born Californians. The mission of the Native Sons is the education and preservation of California history. The Native Sons are responsible for either saving or restoring numerous sites that became California State Parks, three of which are Sutter's Fort, Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and Donner Memorial State Park. I am the current Chairman of the Historical Preservation Foundation of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

The Native Sons of the Golden West are largely responsible for the construction of the Pioneer Monument at Donner Memorial State Park. Could you give us a history lesson about the monument?

At the Grand Parlor (State Convention) in 1898, at the urging of Charles E. McGlashen of Truckee and Frank M. Rutherford, a resolution was passed which resulted in a committee to study the Donner Memorial". At the 1901 Grand Parlor, Dr. Chester W. Chapman was authorized to raise \$5,000 among the subordinate parlors for the project. On May 11, 1910 ground was broken for the monument and on June 10th of that year the corner stone was in place. After many iterations and much effort, John McQuarrie, a noted San Francisco artist, was selected to design the statue which was to be cast by the De Rome Foundry of Oakland. After several more years the statue was completed and finally dedicated on June 6, 1918 in front of 3,500 people including the Governors of California and Nevada and 3 of the survivors of the Donner Party. The total project cost was \$35,000. The Pioneer Monument and the 11 acres surrounding the monument were given to the State of California by the Native Sons of the Golden West in 1928.

What does the Pioneer Monument mean to you and why do you feel it is important for visitors to understand its significance?

It represents the beginning of the modern era in California.



The Pioneer Monument at Donner Memorial State Park

The Pioneer Monument is a symbol of the strength and determination that was faced by the emigrants as they approached their last physical hurdle to California. California was the goal for many to escape or seek a better life, a land where anything was possible, a land where all the wealth and beauty was under one sky.

The Pioneer monument is the focal point of this region's fascinating and inspirational emigrant history and a tribute to all those intrepid individuals whose courage and determination broke the trail to the California we enjoy today.

Who maintains the Pioneer Monument and what are its

present preservation and restoration issues?

California State Parks is responsible for the maintenance of the Monument. After almost 100 years sitting in a very severe site, the monument, the base of the monument and the statue itself are in urgent need of repair.

Can you give us an idea of what a major restoration project of the monument would involve and how much it would cost?

When the final assessment report is completed toward the end of the year, the costs and extent of the work will be known.

"We would like to thank the Sierra State Parks Foundation for their generous contribution of \$33,000.00 to the California State Parks to initiate the assessment report process for the Pioneer Monument"

SSPF has been an invaluable partner that supports our efforts to preserve this magnificent monument at Donner Memorial State Park.

In what ways do you feel the Pioneer Monument can best be appreciated and enjoyed by park visitors?

I always have thought that if you just sat by the monument, cleared your mind and tried to transform yourself back 170 years, long before the conveniences you have today were invented, you would begin to comprehend even in a very small way the struggle, strife and difficulties the early pioneers faced on their westward journey over the Sierras to reach California. It is an incredible story that park visitors should understand and appreciate.

A NEW COMMUNITY PARTNER

The Sierra State Parks Foundation is pleased to present our newest community partner, Big Blue Adventure, a vital organization that produces exciting competitive athletic events in our area. Currently, Big Blue Adventure is organizing the Lake Tahoe Triathlon and the Emerald Bay Rubicon Trail Run where a significant portion of these events occur in the California Sierra State Parks of the Tahoe-Truckee region. Big Blue Adventure has created a donation structure for these two events whereby each registrant can either opt in or out to donate \$1.00 of their registration fee to the Sierra State Parks Foundation.

The support of Big Blue Adventure will help the Sierra State Parks Foundation to provide critical program, volunteer and financial support to the Tahoe-Truckee California State Parks. Because of our work, our parks will continue to be places of education and inspiration for generations to come. SSPF looks forward to a great summer working together with "Big Blue" for our noble cause.

For more information on the Lake Tahoe Triathlon and the Emerald Bay Rubicon Trail Run events go to bigblueadventure.com



WE HAVE (A) 20/20 VISION!

After months of planning, SSPF is pleased to daylight our new Strategic Plan: "20/20 Vision for Partnering the Lake Tahoe-Donner California State Parks." Carefully crafted by our dedicated and skilled Board of Directors, with input from many members of our community, this plan is a finely tuned blueprint that defines SSPF's goals as well as the objectives to achieve them through the year 2020. Its purpose is to provide direction and guidelines that will further our success in supporting and preserving our magnificent and irreplaceable Sierra State Park treasures.

The seeds for the creation of the Sierra State Parks Foundation began in 1968 when a group of citizens formed a committee in response to plans by the Department of Parks and Beaches to replace the Hellman-Ehrman Mansion with a lakeside campground. Through advocacy and collaboration with the State of California, the committee was able to protect one of the most spectacular historic homes on the shores of Lake Tahoe.

As we look towards the future, our commitment to our vision and values is the foundation from which we developed the following strategic goals:

Partner with State Parks to complete projects

Develop advocacy platforms supporting State Parks

Strengthen organizational structure

Strengthen financial sustainability

Develop and implement a Marketing Plan

Establish a Fundraising Program



SSPF is passionate about preserving the legacy of our State Parks for many generations to come. We are hard at work implementing these strategic goals to ensure and protect a future of health and vitality for the Lake Tahoe-Donner California State Parks we love. Let us know what you think and ask how you can help us achieve our goals.



**This Summer ...
Rediscover Sugar Pine Point State Park.**

Mansion Tours Daily May 28 - September 30

Visitor Center & Gift Shop

Mark Your Calendar for Living History Day July 30



For a Complete list of Summer Events:

www.SierraStateParks.com

530.583.9911



Partners with California State Parks

Your support of our State Parks is vital!

www.SierraStateParks.org

BIG NEWS! HISTORIC LANDSCAPE REPORTS COMPLETED

After two years of planning, fundraising and implementation, the Historic Landscape Reports of Vikingsholm and the Hellman-Ehrman (Pine Lodge) estates have been completed! While they may not sound exciting, these reports will serve our historic properties for the next 100 years. The reports provide analysis and recommendations to reconstruct the estate gardens around these historic buildings so they will resemble their original design and plantings as much as possible.

This extensive research project originated through a partnership between the Sierra State Parks Foundation (SSPF) and the California State Parks, with \$37,000.00 provided by the SSPF for the cost of the reports. Bill Lindemann, Sierra District Interpretive Specialist, was the project manager working with Janet Gracyk, Landscape Architect of Terra Cognita Design and Consulting, who conducted the landscape study of these historic gardens. Research assistance was also provided by Dr. Helen Henry Smith, longtime advocate of Vikingsholm and Heidi Doyle of the Sierra State Parks Foundation.

The purpose of the reports is to document the past and present garden landscapes at Pine Lodge and Vikingsholm and to provide plant and care recommendations for specific areas of those landscapes based on the known historic features and characteristics of the properties.

Project goals are to provide for the safety of visitors, to protect historic features and characteristics of the gardens, to rehabilitate the garden areas that no longer

retain their original features and to support operations and uses of the gardens.

At Vikingsholm, the report focus involves the area surrounding the house, including the lakeside meadows and planting beds in the courtyard. At Pine Lodge, the areas addressed are the borders around the main house, the “fish pond” planter by the gazebo, the rock edged garden in the lower lawn by the shore of Lake Tahoe, the Children’s House, Tennis Court, Kitchen Garden and the Tank House next to the Visitor Center.



The Pine Lodge at Sugar Pine Point State Park - circa 1940

The Sierra State Parks Foundation’s goal is to preserve and maintain the historical features and characteristics of the garden landscapes at Vikingsholm and Pine Lodge. SSPF’s funding of the Historic Landscape Reports is a significant accomplishment towards realizing this goal as well as a testimony to our dedicated and continuing support of the California State Parks of the Tahoe-Donner region.

We thank all the individuals who contributed their valuable time and resources to this important project.

Restoration of the gardens has already begun! This summer we will be focusing on the rehabilitation of the lawns and front porch flower garden of Pine Lodge. Work will also be continuing with the restoration of the sod roof at Vikingsholm by planting wildflowers in the sod. Be sure to visit the parks and see for yourself! The cost of the restoration work will be significant and is not part of the current SSPF budget. At this time, we are seeking donations to support this phase of the garden project. We invite you to visit our website at www.sierrastateparks.org to make your contribution today.

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME KATE SHAW TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADVISORY GROUP

Kate is an attorney and owner of the Tahoe City law firm, KJS Law, offering estate planning services to Lake Tahoe and Truckee residents. Kate is currently on the board of the Tahoe Truckee Bar Association, and a former board member with North Tahoe Family Resource Center. She is currently serving the Sierra State Parks Foundation as an advisor for the development of SSPF’s planned giving program. When she isn’t working or at home with her young daughter, Kate enjoys downhill and backcountry skiing, trail running on the Rubicon trail in Emerald Bay, and paddle boarding along the West Shore.

Welcome aboard, Kate!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - GAEL CRAFT

The Sierra State Parks Foundation shines its spotlight on Gael Craft, volunteer extraordinaire! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Gael for her over 10 years of outstanding volunteer service to the Sierra State Parks Foundation and the California Sierra State Parks.

Gael grew up and went to school in San Mateo California. She met Warren (Bud) Craft when she was a high school senior and married him in 1953. Eventually, the young couple moved to Tacoma, Washington, where they raised eight children. The Crafts fell in love with the Tahoe area when they first vacationed here with their family in 1963. They have spent every summer at Tahoe since that time. In 1978 they realized their dream and built a cabin of their own at the lake.

Gael was active in many organizations in her own community while raising her children. After she and her



Gael in front of the Pine Lodge at Sugar Pine Point State Park

husband retired, she continued that tradition and brought her skill and experience to the California Sierra State Parks. Gael and Bud began as Ambassadors by greeting visitors at the Sugar Pine Point State Park Kiosk. From there Gael went on to volunteer for SSPF’s Living History Day, chairing the raffle, silent auction, and a variety of special events over the years. Last summer, she became a docent, leading tours of the Hellman-Ehrman (Pine Lodge) Mansion which Gael says has been a wonderful experience. Gael has enjoyed meeting interesting people and appreciates the important work SSPF does to keep

our parks open for all to enjoy. In her “spare” time, Gael now assists with the

review and editing of many SSPF publications and announcements. We are indebted to Gael for her generous volunteer effort that has made such a positive difference for so many park visitors.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

SSPF is gearing up for a very busy summer! We are looking for volunteers to help us make it the best season ever. If you are interested in helping out at any of our exciting special events (including Living History Day), explaining the fascinating history of the Sierra State Parks as a docent or helping out at one of our visitor centers, contact Vanessa Tracy at volunteer@sierrastateparks.org. Enrich and enjoy your summer as a volunteer. Contact Vanessa today! **The heart of a volunteer is the strongest heart of all!**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With appreciation and gratitude, the Sierra State Parks Foundation would like to acknowledge the many individuals and organizations that have contributed to our cause from January through May, 2016. Your financial support has made a significant difference in enabling us to achieve our goals in support of California State Parks in the Tahoe-Donner region.

Andy & Cindy Kroner	Ken & Emilie Corcoran	Sue & Jack Marquis
Barbara Riley	Ken & Gayle Riley	Sunnyside Resort
Barry McCoy	Laurie & Scott Scheibner	Susan Boyette
Cathy Lint	Mark Appel & Michele Martin	Suzanne Buzwell
Cecile Cutitta	Michael & Clarissa Donnelly	Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
Chuck & Janet Zipkin	Nancy & Owen Wallis	Thomas Winn Foundation
Greg Palmer	Nancy Shillis	Tom & Heidi Doyle
Daniel Rossovich	Nancy Taft	William & Barbara Richardson
Donna Langenderfer	Lynne Paulson	Dave & Jennifer Antonucci
Frontstream, Inc.	Richard & Niletta Mortan	Tim Bodin
Garth Jolly	Richard Leung/Katie Quan Trust	Ernie Grossman & Margaret Lewicki
Howard & Christina Janssen	Ron & Lauren Grove	
Jean Mason & Arlene Arrington	Susan & Lewis Grove	

SSPF UNVEILS A NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

This season, the Sierra State Parks Foundation rolls out its new Membership Program designed to encourage a larger involvement with our work to support our local state parks.

The new membership levels and additional benefits provide options that better connect our members to the parks we serve. Our new membership program is summarized in the table below.

Please take this great opportunity to encourage your friends to become members of the Sierra State Parks Foundation now!! The new membership program will apply to current members at their time of renewal.

Take advantage of our new membership pricing for many of the upcoming summer events listed in this issue.

Join Us! Working together we can continue to support these precious natural Sierra resources – our Lake Tahoe-Donner California State Parks. Choose your membership level below.

Annual Membership Levels & Benefits		Payment Option (EFT)	SSPF Window Sticker	Weekly eBlasts	Quarterly Newsletter	Park Store Discount	Olympic XC Trail Pass	SSPF Events Discount	Member-Only Events	House Tour Passes	Private House Tour	President's Invitational	Giving back to our parks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student \$10		•	•		•		•				•	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Welcome Member \$25		•	•	10%	•		•	BOGO			•	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Park Supporter \$50		•	•	10%	•	•	•	1			•	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Park Friend \$120	\$10/mo	•	•	20%	•	•	•	2			•	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Park Family \$240	\$20/mo	•	•	20%	•	•	•	4			•	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Park Steward \$600	\$50/mo	•	•	20%	•	•	•	6		•	•	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Park Benefactor \$1200+	\$100/mo	•	•	20%	•	•	•	8	•	•	•	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please accept my donation of \$ _____												

Hot Off The Press!

Experience... 2016 EVENTS CALENDAR Sierra State Parks

May 28 - Sept 30 • Daily • 10:30am-3:30pm
Historic House Museums Open for Tours

Tour the historic Hellman-Ehrman Mansion (Pine Lodge), at Sugar Pine Point State Park, and Vikingsholm Castle, in Emerald Bay State Park. Knowledgeable guides offer a unique, fun glimpse into our history. \$10 adults, \$8 students 7-17 yrs or valid college ID, 6 yrs and under free.

June 4 • Saturday • 6pm-9pm
"A Night at the Museum" Annual Fundraising Gala
Donner State Park Visitor Center

Celebrate the Pioneer Experience. Wine, Chinese inspired hors d'oeuvres, original live music, an elegant "chuck wagon" dinner, not-so-silent-auction, more wine, and good humor! \$150.

June 15 • Wednesday • 9am-5pm
Archives Tour: Statewide Museum Collections Center

Take a bus tour leaving from Donner Memorial State Park to the Statewide Museum Collections Center, Sacramento, and explore the California State Parks Archives, Photo Archives, and Archaeology labs. Over 400,000 images and countless artifacts from the California State Parks. Lunch included. \$60/\$55 members. Reservations required.

June 25, July 23, August 20 • Saturdays • 11am-1pm
A Bear Affair at the Children's House, Sugar Pine Point State Park



Learn about the unique characteristics of our Lake Tahoe black bears from a State Park Interpreter. Enjoy juice, coffee and "bear claws". View bear artifacts at this interactive presentation. Fun for all ages. 40 person limit. \$10 Adults. Kids 12 and under FREE.



June 30 • Thursday • 2pm-4pm
Tea Party Fashion Show, Sugar Pine Point
Travel back in time for an afternoon of tea and fashion at historic Pine Lodge. Showcasing fashions from 1912-1925, tea and hors d'oeuvres will be served. \$40/\$35 members. Reservations required.

July 7, August 3, September 1 • 5pm-7:30pm
Vikingsholm: Conversation with History

A unique "behind the scenes" tour of Vikingsholm Castle. Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres in the courtyard. Helen Smith will lead an informal conversation about her experiences spending 14 summers at Vikingsholm as a guest of owner Lora Knight. Guests will receive a signed copy of Smith's book "Vikingsholm". Meet at DL Bliss State Park to drive down into Emerald Bay. \$65/\$60 members. Seating limited. Reservations.

An Evening Soiree at Pine Lodge Raffle
Win an elegant 5-course dinner this season for you and 15 of your friends inside the Hellman-Ehrman Mansion (Pine Lodge). Wine and music included. Only 100 tickets sold @ \$100. Winning ticket drawn during Living History Day, July 30.



Reservations required for most events. Space is limited. SSPF members get discounts. For more information, tickets and applicable tour times call 530-583-9911, or visit www.SierraStateParks.org

Partners with Lake Tahoe-Donner California State Parks



... educate, interpret, restore & preserve.



Reservations required for most events. Space is limited. SSPF members get discounts. For more information, tickets and applicable tour times call 530-583-9911, or visit www.SierraStateParks.org

Partners with Lake Tahoe-Donner California State Parks



... educate, interpret, restore & preserve.

July 16 • Saturday • 5pm-7:30pm

Music in the Castle, Vikingsholm

Violinist John Metros joins concert pianist Dr. David Nelson and guest musicians for a concert inside

Vikingsholm Castle featuring Scandinavian music themes and the 1929

custom 6-legged Steinway piano. Wine and hors d'oeuvre reception follows for a memorable evening. Meet at DL Bliss State Park for the drive down into Emerald Bay. \$100/

\$95 members. Seating limited. Reservations required.



July 20 • Wednesday • 5pm-7pm

An Evening of Wine & Wisdom with Frances Dinkelspiel, "Tangled Vines", Sugar Pine Point State Park

A custom tour of the Hellman-Ehrman Mansion (Pine Lodge) followed by a guest appearance of author Frances Dinkelspiel who will discuss her new book "Tangled Vines". Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres on the front porch. \$60/\$55 members. includes a signed copy of her award-winning book. Reservations required.

July 30 • Saturday • 11am-3pm

Living History Day, Sugar Pine Point State Park

The historic Hellman-Ehrman Estate comes alive for a day in the 1930's to delight the entire family. Enjoy a day filled with family lawn games, open house tours, children's activity zone, live music, a car show, historic boats, artists, raffle and silent auction. Soiree ticket winner will be drawn. All events are free. Parking fees apply.

August 4 • Thursday • 5pm-7:30pm

Vikingsholm Beach BBQ to Honor Helen Smith

Join us for an early evening picnic-style BBQ to honor Helen Smith and a rededication of the Visitor Center. Catering by Big Blue Q. \$100/\$95 members, includes the opportunity to drive down to the estate. Reservations are required.

August 11 • Wednesday • 5pm-7pm

An Evening of Wine, Wisdom & the Ghost of Mark Twain, Sugar Pine Point

A custom tour of Hellman-Ehrman Mansion (Pine Lodge) followed by a guest appearance of McAvoy Layne as the ghost of Mark Twain. Enjoy Tahoe Ridge Wines and hors d'oeuvres on the front porch. \$50/\$45 members includes parking. Reservations required.

August 16 • Tuesday • 6pm-8pm

Music in the Park: Classical Music Concert, Sugar Pine Point State Park

The Lake Tahoe Music Festival and Sierra State Parks Foundation present an evening with the LTMF Orchestra Academy on the lawn of the Hellman-Ehrman Estate overlooking Lake Tahoe. Picnics are encouraged. For more information and tickets visit www.tahoemusic.org.

October 8 • Saturday • 4pm-6pm

Tahoe Gal "Liars' Cruise", Tahoe City

The 3rd annual signature fundraising event to support Sierra State Parks Foundation. Enjoy an evening of tall tales, libations, and unique cuisine while cruising the fabulous West Shore down to Sugar Pine Point State Park and back! Meet at the Tahoe Gal dock behind Safeway in Tahoe City at 3:45pm sharp! \$75. Seating limited to 75 guests.

Donner History Hikes: All summer long

Located at Donner Memorial State Park. Docents will lead hikes focusing on the trials and tribulations of crossing the Sierra Divide by early emigrants, including the famous tragedy of 1846. Call for the weekly schedule 530-582-7892. Reservations required.

Tickets on sale now at www.sierrastateparks.org