



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

My story does not include growing up camping, or being exposed to the natural and cultural wonders of our State as a part of my family experience. It was through field trips taken while I attended public schools and summer camping programs provided by the Girl Scouts, that I was exposed to our historic landmarks and wild areas. Each experience deepening my understanding of the natural world and encouraging an appreciation of our cultural heritage (even though I did not know it at the time!).

While my own children were going through school, I saw the transformative effect of exposure to local parks and landmarks when I assisted with their own school trips. I noticed that educational experiences outside the classroom promoted a better self-image, increased empathy for others and reduced behavioral problems. The transformation that exposure to our park sites provides transcends social and economic barriers, but is most pronounced in the underserved of our community. In his book, *The Educational Value of Field Trips*, authors Jay Greene and Daniel Bowen concluded the importance of field trips to park museum sites: "We don't just want our children to acquire work skills from their education; we also want them to develop into civilized people who appreciate the breadth of human accomplishments. The school field trip is an important tool for meeting this goal."

I am proud to say the Sierra State Parks Foundation is in the forefront of providing accessible high quality educational experiences at the parks we serve. This past Spring, we provided 672 students with free tours of the Hellman-Ehrman and Vikingsholm mansions. In July 2014, we provided free tours to 420 students touring these historic landmarks with their families. In addition, SSPF is funding summer State Park positions that provide Junior Ranger, nature walks, and campfire programs. We are embarking on a capital campaign to bring this same depth of programming at the new Visitor Center at Donner Memorial State Park, due to open in 2015.

How do I know we are making a difference? The letter below is one of the hundreds we received this past year thanking us for providing learning opportunities at the parks we serve. I hope that you agree that we are making a difference. Thank you for your continued support!

Yours in parks,
Heidi Doyle, Executive Director

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Sierra State Parks Featured Product

A Living History Photo Gallery

20% OFF COUPON

Good for one item in Sierra State Parks Foundation Visitor Center Stores with this coupon.

Expires September 31, 2014.

Redeem at Donner Memorial State Park, Sugar Pine Point State Park, D.L. Bliss State Park, and Emerald Bay State Park Visitor Centers.

Come and See Us Today!

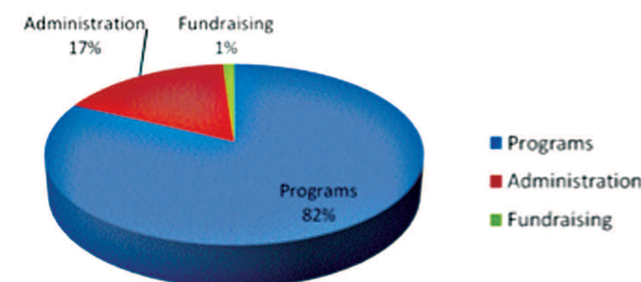
SUPPORT YOUR SIERRA STATE PARKS & GET INVOLVED TODAY!
Volunteer, donate, or visit the Sierra State Parks.

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



McAvoy Lane & Heidi Doyle, Executive Director

Your Donations At Work

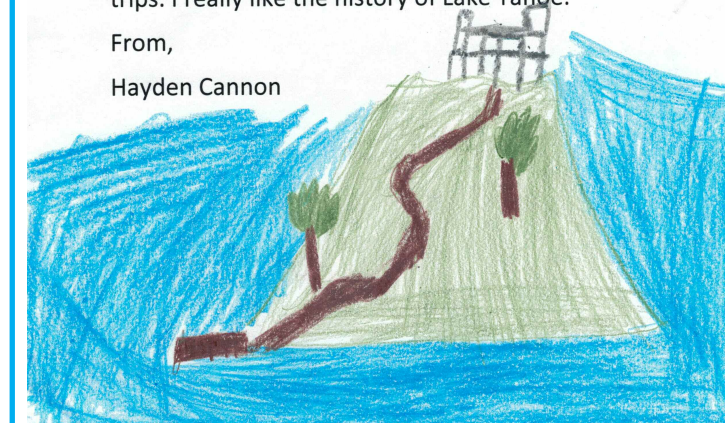


June 6, 2014

Dear Miss Nancy,

Thank you for the awesome field trip. I really liked all the interesting facts. My favorite thing was the writing room, it was so cool how not one nail was used to build that room. I also liked the spikes to keep the evil spirits away, just like the dragon beams. The sod roof also caught my eye, I would really like a roof like that because my house isn't warm all the time. That was one of my favorite field trips. I really like the history of Lake Tahoe.

From,
Hayden Cannon



MAJOR ELECTRICAL PROJECT AT PINE LODGE IS COMPLETE!

After over three years of planning and project implementation, we are thrilled to announce that the electrical system at the 111 year old Hellman-Ehrman Mansion at Sugar Pine Point State Park is now considered safe and functional! Through a generous grant by the Hellman Family Foundation and numerous other contributors, this \$128,000 project included a complete electrical system assessment of The Mansion, identification of critical issues to be corrected, and upgrading of frequently used electrical components to meet 2014 code requirements. We are charged!



AN INTERVIEW WITH CHARLIE RENNIE - VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE!

by Michele McDonald

MM: Hi Charlie. Can you tell us a little bit about what brought you up to our beautiful state parks here in the Sierra Nevada?

CHARLIE: It started a longtime ago when my wife (Elizabeth) and I lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We began visiting California and we liked it so much we eventually moved here. I met Hannah Walloupe, a Sierra State Park employee, when I was working at Octotillo Wells State Park. She told me about the many volunteer opportunities up here in the Sierra State Parks. So Elizabeth and I came up here and became Camp Hosts at D.L.Bliss State Park.

MM: What kind of work do you do here?

CHARLIE: Both my wife and I are Camp Hosts at DL Bliss State Park, and we primarily work in the visitor center. However, I also do trail work and help out with signage. In addition, my wife and I do volunteer work for Foundation events.

MM: What has been your favorite event so far this summer?

CHARLIE: The music concert at Vikingsholm in Emerald Bay State Park.

MM: What do you like the most about being here?

CHARLIE: It's just gorgeous! The air is clean; there are great hiking trails and a lot of really friendly people. About 150 people come into the Bliss visitor center each day, and it is always a pleasure to talk to them and answer their questions.

MM: What advice do you have for folks interested in becoming involved with the parks?

CHARLIE: It's just a great opportunity to meet a wide diversity of people and to get involved with a good cause. State Parks funds are still so stretched, it's really important to volunteer and help our parks stay open.

MM: Is there anything else you might want to say that you feel is important for all of us to hear?

CHARLIE: The biggest thing is to just keep encouraging cooperation and communication between park staff, foundation staff and volunteers so we can all represent the parks as best we can. When working together, we can provide the best experience for all of our park visitors.



"Music Concert at Vikingsholm"

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Scott Elliot, Lake Tahoe Sector Superintendent

Heidi asked me to briefly introduce myself to the Sierra State Parks Foundation, and so...

My name is Scott Elliott, and I am certainly feeling very fortunate to have the opportunity to serve as the Lake Tahoe Sector Superintendent. My parents were both school teachers, so as a child I had the opportunity to camp and hike and fish in many state and national parks growing up, and from about eight years old on, I knew I wanted to be a ranger. I started as a seasonal employee with State Parks 25 years ago, at Plumas-Eureka

State Park, and, after college and a teaching stint, became a permanent ranger in 2001. I've really been tremendously lucky and blessed to have had the opportunity to work in places like Santa Cruz, and Big Basin Redwoods SP, as well as serving as a ranger in the Big Sur area State Parks. I came back to Sierra District in 2005, and have worked at Tahoe, Donner, and Plumas-Eureka.

I'm very happy to have the opportunity to keep working with the Sierra State Parks Foundation. I've worked with several other cooperating associations around the state, and it's a bit of an understatement to say that we could not accomplish our Department's noble mission without the support of our co-ops. Lately, SSSF has been very successful in their fundraising and rallying people to the Park's cause - I hope to be able to assist with that ongoing effort in whatever way I can.

SIERRA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION - FEATURED PRODUCT

Imagine warming your hands around a nice hot cup of Joe as you sit in quiet reflection over an early morning campfire. This is truly a moment of peace and serenity to savor while surrounded by the beauty of the mountain forest and a sunrise you will never forget.

Or you can call the Foundation office at (530) 583-9911 and we'll take your order by phone. These mugs make marvelous gifts for those very special people in your life!

You can hold on to this moment every time you pick up one of these special mugs that depict scenes of the Sierra State Park you have visited. These sturdy vessels come replete with beautiful photos of the highlights of each park, so that you will always remember your park experience each time you take a sip. You can find these unique mugs at Donner Memorial and Emerald Bay State Parks Visitor Center stores.



LIVING HISTORY DAY AT SUGAR PINE POINT STATE PARK

