



Partnering with
California State Parks in the
Lake Tahoe-Donner Region

January 2018



Dear Park Supporter,

The Sierra State Parks Foundation (SSPF) is asking for your sponsorship support for the upcoming Donner Project fundraiser, *Pioneer Monument Centennial Celebration & Gala*, at Donner Memorial State Park on June 9, 2018. The evening celebration will include a wine-paired gourmet dinner, live auction, and entertainment for the 150 guests.

Your sponsorship will enable us to get closer to our fundraising goal and will bring you statewide recognition. The Donner Project is an exciting venture to restore the iconic 100 year old Pioneer Monument, create sustainable landscaping, and construct a covered education pavilion adjacent to the new Visitor Center.

The Sierra State Parks Foundation (SSPF) believes that the Lake Tahoe and Donner area California State Parks are unique treasures worthy of our support. We fund projects and educational programs that connect people with the rich natural resources and cultural heritage of our parks. Because of this work and advocacy, our parks will continue to be places of education and inspiration for generations to come. SSPF raised and donated \$28,000 towards the planning phase of this project in 2017. In addition, we contributed over \$614,000 in programming support to seven California State Parks in Lake Tahoe and Donner last year. **Your sponsorship support is critical and enables us to move towards our fundraising goal of \$1.2 million for the Donner Project.**

The menu of sponsorship opportunities is listed on the next page. We invite you to support this worthy cause and encourage you to contact us today to discuss the opportunities available to you.

Thank you for your consideration and support of our Lake Tahoe-Donner area California State Parks!

Yours in parks,

Heidi Doyle
SSPF Executive Director
530-583-9911
hdoyle@sierrastateparks.org

Lolly Kupec
2018 Donner Gala Chairperson
530-412-1096
LK.wwcg@gmail.com

Sierra Divide (deadline May 1, 2018)	\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full page ad in the event program (\$250 value) • Promotional feature on video during event • Name in media releases • Opportunity to add business collateral to gift bag • Recognition on the Donor Wall (\$1,000 value) • Eight tickets to the Gala • <i>Park Supporter</i> membership to SSPF (\$50 value) • Our sincere gratitude!
Donner Summit (deadline May 1, 2018)	\$1500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ½ page ad in event program • Promotional feature on video during event • Four tickets to the Gala • <i>Park Supporter</i> membership to SSPF (\$50 value) • Our sincere gratitude!
Covered Wagon (deadline May 1, 2018)	\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition in event's program (\$50 value) • Two tickets to the Gala • <i>Park Supporter</i> membership to SSPF (\$50 value) • Our sincere gratitude!

Other opportunities to invest in the Donner Project:

- 1. Sponsor a Ranger at your dinner table: \$150**
- 2. Wine Glasses Sponsor: \$1500 (including 2 Gala tickets)**
- 3. Reception Food Sponsor: \$2000 (includes cocktail napkins with your logo and 2 Gala tickets)**
- 4. Reception Wine Sponsor - 5 cases: \$1,200 (including 2 Gala tickets)**
- 5. Dinner White Wine Sponsor - 5 cases: \$1,200 (including 2 Gala tickets)**
- 6. Dinner Red Wine Sponsor - 5 cases: \$1,200 (including 2 Gala tickets)**

LAKE TAHOE - DONNER



SIERRA
STATE PARKS
FOUNDATION

Sierra Spirit

Newsletter • Winter 2017 / 2018

We would survive if our parks didn't exist ... but would we thrive?

• Did you know... funding for California State Parks depends on annual allocations from the State Legislature, and only 17% of the operating expenses of the Sierra District State Parks come from this allocation?

• Did you know... fees collected at the parks cover only 25% of the actual costs of facility maintenance and visitor services?

In addition, substantial and unfunded deferred maintenance backlogs plague our parks. In our local Sierra District alone, \$47 million of deferred maintenance has been identified. With *your* generosity, Sierra State Parks Foundation will narrow this funding gap. Look at Page 3 for our recent accomplishments.

Together, we can thrive!

To donate, visit our website SierraStateParks.org or call 530-583-9911.

Centennial Celebration & Rededication of the Pioneer Monument

June 9, 2018 • Donner Memorial State Park, Truckee, California

Erected to honor the emigrants who passed through Truckee enroute to new opportunities in the West, the Pioneer Monument has stood majestically at Donner Memorial State Park for over 99 years. At its dedication on June 6, 1918, thousands of people including three Donner Party survivors gathered to honor the hardy souls who traversed the Sierra.

June 9, 2018 will mark the rededication of the monument with a Centennial Celebration and the restoration of this iconic statue. The ceremony will be followed by family activities and an evening fundraising gala sponsored by Sierra State Parks Foundation.

In order to save this famous landmark, the Foundation is partnering with California State Parks and Native Sons of the Golden West to launch a major fundraising campaign, *The Donner Project*.

With your help, we will raise the estimated \$1.2 million for an outdoor education pavilion, the surrounding sustainable landscaping, and restoration of the monument including both the brass figures and the stone pedestal.

Stay tuned as details of the plans unfold at SierraStateParks.org or call 530-583-9911 for more information.

Engineers survey the Pioneer Monument to assess its structural integrity and to evaluate necessary repairs and reconstruction needs.





Partners with
**Lake Tahoe - Donner
 California State Parks**

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A Message from the Executive Director

Walking in Our Parks Changes the Brain ...

The shorter days of winter are upon us bringing both joy and anxiety. We are eagerly anticipating the first significant snow to cover our parks with white trails for long quiet walks. There is also anxiety that comes with more time inside artificial environments, that keeps our bodies comfortable but minds confined.

A new study was released in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* confirming that time spent in nature is strongly associated with increased brain relaxation and decreased stress levels. The study also concludes that unconnected time spent in nature allows our brains to wander and explore, thus lifting our mood.

The Sierra State Parks Foundation has spent this past summer creating exceptional experiences in our parks by funding projects that improved trails, provided wayside signage, restored historic landmarks, created learning experiences for both school children and the public, and laid the groundwork to move forward with many more initiatives in 2018. In fact, because of the support of donors like you, SSPF was able to provide over \$600,000 of support to our Lake Tahoe-Donner California State Parks in 2017. Thank you!

Despite our progress, there is a lot more to do. We invite you review highlights of our 2017 accomplishments on the next page and some of the project initiatives we are seeking to fund this coming year. Please visit our website, SierraStateParks.org, to review a complete list. Join us in support of our projects with your donation or membership. Dollar by dollar, member by member, we are improving the health of our local State Parks, creating the spaces we all need to improve our brain health!

Take the time to enjoy the uncrowded trails and vistas our parks have to offer this winter. Stroll the unbroken shoreline at Kings Beach State Recreation Area, stride the Nordic trails at Sugar Pine Point State Park, and amble through the forests of Donner Memorial State Park. While we do not know which aspect of the natural environment causes the fullest psychological benefits, we do know that you can experience them by exploring the Sierra State Parks. And, because of donors like you, our parks will continue to be places of inspiration and magic for generations to come.

See you on the trails... Heidi Doyle, Executive Director

PS: A special thank you to our outgoing president Jerry Blackwill for four years of exemplary service and dedication to the Foundation.

ED Heidi Doyle presents a check to Sierra District Superintendent Marilyn Linkem aboard The Liar's Cruise fundraising event.



This impressive list of accomplishments is only a portion of what was made possible with Your generous contributions in 2017 ...

HISTORIC MANSION TOURS CONDUCTED AND VISITOR CENTERS OPERATED BY SSPF:

- 26,774 people experienced historic mansion tours
- 2,513 school children were provided guided tours and programs
- Over 100,000 visitors had a more enriched park experience visiting Visitor Centers at Emerald Bay, DL Bliss, Sugar Pine Point and Donner Memorial State Parks

EMERALD BAY STATE PARK (VIKINGSHOLM CASTLE)

- Completed the design and fabrication of eight interpretive panels
- Completed Historic Landscape Report – implementation began with removal of invasive species
- Installed fire and intrusion alarm systems for all historic buildings
- Commissioned engineering assessment of the South Turret repairs
- Restored the sod roof and deteriorating foyer and threshold of the Castle
- Commissioned the development of Underwater Interpretive Trail to open in September 2018
- Supported research of the underwater archeological features in Emerald Bay
- Funded rodent and insect eradication for the historic buildings
- Commissioned the replacement of the historic curtains in the Chieftain's Room
- Funded State Park staff to provide seasonal interpretive programming

DL BLISS STATE PARK

- SSPF-funded Lake Tahoe seasonal interpretive positions provided 65 programs to 1472 visitors
- SSPF-funded State Park "Bear Educator" position responsible for educating visitors about our Tahoe bears, thus reducing the number of interactions

SUGAR PINE POINT STATE PARK (PINE LODGE MANSION)

- Provided funding for staff and materials for landscape improvements in the Historic Zone
- Completed repairs to the South Boathouse including completion of the rail repairs and facilitation of the return of the vessel *Mercury* in 2018
- Produced a free self-guided tour brochure for the Historic Zone
- Installed fire and intrusion alarm systems at Pine Lodge and three other buildings
- Operated the winter trail grooming program to maintain 17km of Olympic Snow Trails

DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

- Commissioned an updated assessment of the Pioneer Monument and entered in to a collaborative agreement with Native Sons of the Golden West for *The Donner Project* which includes monument restoration, surrounding landscaping and an outdoor education pavilion. Site plan development begun.
- Began organization of the Pioneer Monument Centennial Celebration June 9, 2018
- Produced *Educator's Guide to the Donner Visitor Center*

WASHOE MEADOWS STATE PARK

- Sponsored interpretive programming

KINGS BEACH STATE RECREATION AREA

- Worked with State Parks on the development of a General Plan
- Supported implementation and planning for a Junior Lifeguard Program to begin 2018
- Distributed free Park Passes to community members in Kings Beach

FOR ALL OF OUR PARKS

- Launched a new dynamic website and on-line store
- Greatly increased social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and with E-Newsletters
- Implemented plans to launch a new STATE PARK APP on Earth Day 2018!

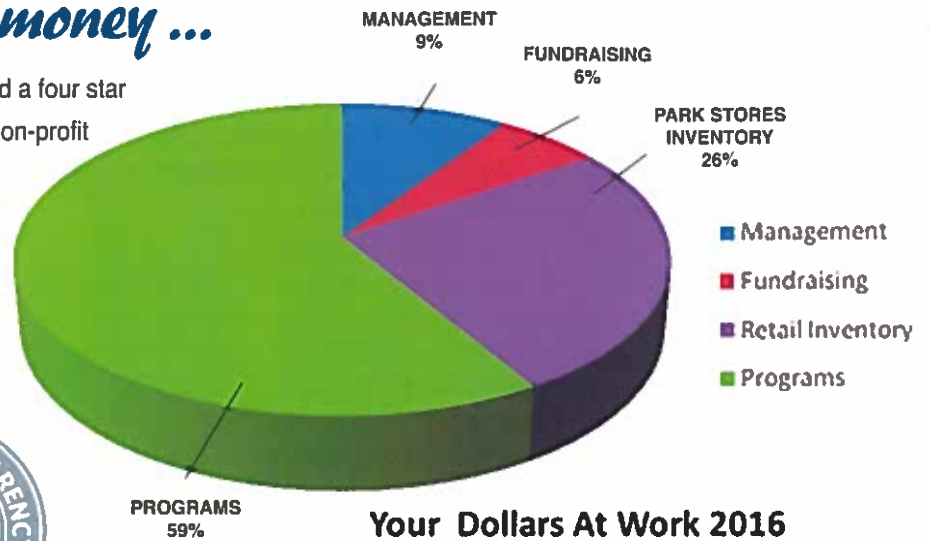


Photos from top: SSPF supported Park Restoration Specialist Benjamin Eppers (R) with Mike Bryam restoring the foyer support system at Vikingsholm; ED Heidi Doyle and Gaye Thomas with PBS "Rob on the Road" who did two pieces this summer featuring Emerald Bay and Vikingsholm with emphasis on the work of SSPF in maintaining this special place; Helen Smith with SSPF staff members Nancy Arnold, Marsha Ward-Hudson and Susan Berry Kezich at Vikingsholm; The rails waiting for installation at the South Boathouse at Sugar Pine.

Join us today in support of our State Parks – visit SierraStateParks.org

How we spend your money ...

The Sierra State Parks Foundation was awarded a four star platinum rating by GuideStar, the international non-profit rating organization. SSPF judiciously spends donations and its earned income to be able to provide the maximum amount of financial support to our regional state parks.



LOVE THAT GREEN! Take advantage of our eco-friendly green membership plan! Our Green Program allows people to purchase their memberships using an automated monthly payment plan. This system is convenient, efficient and affordable for anyone interested in joining the Sierra State Parks Foundation. Please visit our website at SierraStateParks.org for more information on the Green Membership Plan and *Go Green today!*

Meet the Staff ...

Michele McDonald, SSPF'S Grant Manager SSPF Grants Manager, Michele McDonald, posing with one of the beautiful hand-knit caps created by Christine Wheeler for sale at the Donner Visitor Center Store. Michele has been with the Foundation for eleven years starting as Administrative Manager. She has been an integral part of our growth and an important team member. Thank you, Michele!



Meet the SSPF seasonal employees summer 2017. What a great team!



Acknowledgements...

The Sierra State Parks Foundation acknowledges the many individuals, businesses and organizations that have contributed in 2017. Your contributions have made the difference in enabling us to achieve our goals in support of the Sierra State Parks in the Lake Tahoe - Donner region.

\$50-\$10,000

Lois A.
Lisa Abrahams
Susan Adamson
Linda Adkins
Donald Albert
Angelo Alioto
Pat Allen
Alisà Ambrosio
Eddy & Osvaldo Ancinas
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Joe Zucco
... & all the anonymous donors who contribute any amount!

Businesses & Organizations

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Cabona's
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Thank you for your volunteer service!

Our volunteers have been an important part of the impact SSPF has made in 2017 in supporting our Lake Tahoe-Donner State Parks. Because of their dedication and energy we provided unique programming and experiences to visitors from all over the globe. Our volunteers lead hikes, guide us through a solar eclipse, pour wine at our fundraisers, work in the Visitor Centers, and serve as docents in our historic sites. For information on how you can get involved, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Denise Tran, dtran@SierraStateParks.org.

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Catherine Welt
Roger Welt
Rob Weston
Christie Wheeler
Anaka Williams

Volunteers at the Donner Hoedown at Donner Memorial State Park: Keeping our Pioneer Heritage Alive



Meet a Ranger – Nikki A. Combs

State Park Interpreter II, Donner Memorial State Park

I'm Nikki Combs and I'm the lead park employee for the new Visitor Center. I oversee all interpretation and education for the park and help the visitors have the best experience possible by welcoming them, answering their questions, and directing them to trails and exhibits. When I'm not in the Visitor Center, I'm conducting outreach programs or giving community talks. As the volunteer coordinator and supervisor of the summertime seasonal employees, I provide training and scheduling for these wonderful folks. We always find time to have fun conversations about history!

I love working with school groups and I take the requests for

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



school programs from the teachers. I'm very proud of a new program I began in the spring of 2017. Thanks to a generous grant from the SSPF, I developed Wagons Ho!, a hands-on wagon travel program. Each small group of 4th-grade students has a wooden box, play money, and doll house furniture. They pay for their "wagons", pack them, and choose a wagon master. Then using a model covered wagon and large map, the students set out to cross the continent. The groups pull good luck or bad luck cards, and either celebrate their survival or brainstorm how to handle a survival challenge. The goal is to reach Sutter's Fort in Sacramento by the end of the hour. It's a great learning experience for the children, and very entertaining watching the group dynamics and decision-making.

Since the District Interpretive Specialist position is vacant at this time, my duties have expanded to neighboring State Parks. I've been creating handouts and interpretive panels for Plumas-Eureka and Malakoff Diggins State Parks in addition to Donner Memorial. District Superintendent Marilyn Linkem and I are committed to ensuring that interpretive projects across the District are completed.

I'm excited about new videos that will be shown in the Visitor Center's Rock Theater in the coming year. One is about Chinese artifacts found along the transcontinental railroad and another is about the "Green Book", a guide for African-American motorists from the 1930s to the 1960s. The Green Book helped them navigate the widespread racial discrimination of the era with tips on safe and friendly lodgings and services. Additionally, I've been coordinating with the State Parks Northern Service Center and Sacramento State University to improve graphics and text on some of the current displays.

I don't have much spare time, but I fill it with a few administrative tasks such as tracking statistics, record keeping, selling parking passes, and ringing up merchandise. As you can imagine, I'm busy but I love my job. I truly want park visitors to enjoy their stop at Donner Memorial State Park. If you would like to know more about the park or our Visitor Center, please contact me at anita.combs@parks.ca.gov. I hope to hear from you!

State Parks News ...



A Transformation Process

In 2012 the California State Park Stewardship Act was signed into law as a response to concerns for the future of California State Parks. As a result, an independent assessment of the 280 parks was conducted which identified solutions to solidify the future of the California State Parks, how to better serve California's diverse population, and create a more inviting and relevant state park system. A Transformation Team was formed in 2015 to lead the parks department through a two-year process. SSPF is very proud that Executive Director Heidi Doyle was asked to participate as a valued and experienced advisor to this important advocacy team.

The team developed an action plan that focused on four strategic support areas which resulted in 60 individual initiatives involving enhanced protection of cultural and natural resources, improvement of park management systems, maintaining quality operations, and making the parks more relevant to park visitors. Many of the initiatives developed are now projects being implemented by California State Parks. Some of the concrete results:

- The budget allocation process has been streamlined so that park administrators can manage their facilities and programs more effectively, and have a better grasp of the full cost of operating their parks.
- Park management positions are now open to a wider and more diverse talent pool from outside the agency.
- A Leadership Program has been established to better prepare park staff leaders for potential challenges related to park and recreation management.
- A Partnership Office has been created to better serve the needs of organizations such as SSPF to work with government partners more efficiently and collaboratively.

These collective tools and the dedication to them are important as the State Park system moves forward. "The collaborative nature of this undertaking which involved over 400 subject matter experts in 11 teams represent a monumental positive change for California State Parks and the public our parks serve," said Heidi Doyle speaking of the Transformation Team. "It was an honor to serve and represent the interests and values of our members."

For more information about the Final Transformation Report, visit parks.ca.gov/transformation.



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SierraStateParks.org

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Tahoe City, CA

... educate, interpret, restore & preserve.



The Sierra State Parks Foundation believes the Lake Tahoe and Donner California State Parks are unique treasures worthy of its support. The Foundation provides unique programming, volunteers and staff, and critical funding to these valuable cultural, historic and natural resources. Because of its work our parks will continue to be places of education and inspiration today and for generations to come. Join your friends and neighbors and contribute to the Sierra State Parks Foundation, and in turn you will be supporting our Lake Tahoe - Donner California State Parks.

Great Gift-Giving Ideas for any Occasion – unique, different and support our parks!

Visit Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center Gift Shop in the winter, and the gift stores at Sugar Pine and Emerald Bay State Parks in the summer months for unique gifts for any occasion for kids and adults alike.

Give a membership to Sierra State Parks Foundation and do your part to support the Foundation which in turn supports our Parks.



You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Save the Date
**The Pioneer Monument
Centennial Celebration**
June 9th, 2018
**Donner Memorial
State Park**



SAVE THE DATE

*CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND
RE-DEDICATION OF THE PIONEER MONUMENT*

DONNER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

SATURDAY JUNE 9, 2018

DEDICATION 11AM

FAMILY ACTIVITIES 12-4 PM

CENTENNIAL FUNDRAISING GALA 6 PM

**HOSTED BY CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS &
SIERRA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION**

For more information: 530-583-9911



LAKE TAHOE - DONNER



**SIERRA
STATE PARKS
FOUNDATION**



*Partners with Lake Tahoe-Donner
California State Parks*

Our Mission. The mission of the Sierra State Parks Foundation is to provide critically needed financial support to California State Parks in the Lake Tahoe / Truckee area.

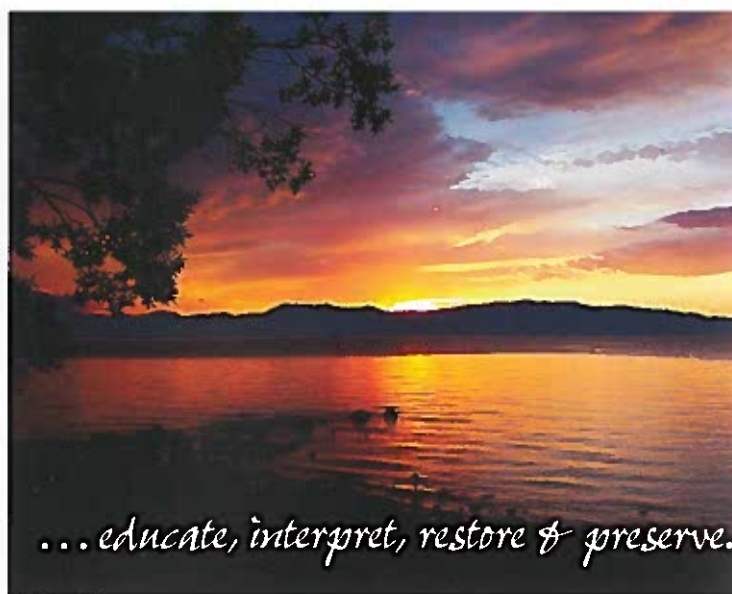
Sierra State Parks Foundation provides funds for many programs and park projects such as educational and interpretive programs, museums with static and active displays, restoration and maintenance of historic park buildings, and cultural and environmental restoration, to name just a few.

A variety of creative fundraising efforts are utilized towards these goals including quality merchandise sales at park gift shops, fees from tours and special events, grants, endowments, and the continued generosity of our members. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised over \$3.5 million dollars towards its goals.

Our History. 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 California Department of Beaches and Parks to replace the Hellman/Ehrman Mansion at Sugar Pine Point State Park 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 to be enjoyed by future generations.

Sierra State Parks Foundation has developed and broadened its mission from a single-site focus to a foundation dedicated to supporting the Sierra District State Parks at Lake Tahoe and Truckee. At each of these parks the Foundation has helped to enhance the visitor experience by supporting visitor centers and interpretative displays, restoring site properties and artifacts, and creating educational opportunities. These efforts allow the Sierra State Parks Foundation to celebrate the heritage and scenic environment of our region with visitors from around the world.

... educate, interpret, restore & preserve.



... educate, interpret, restore & preserve.



*Partners with Lake Tahoe-Donner
California State Parks*

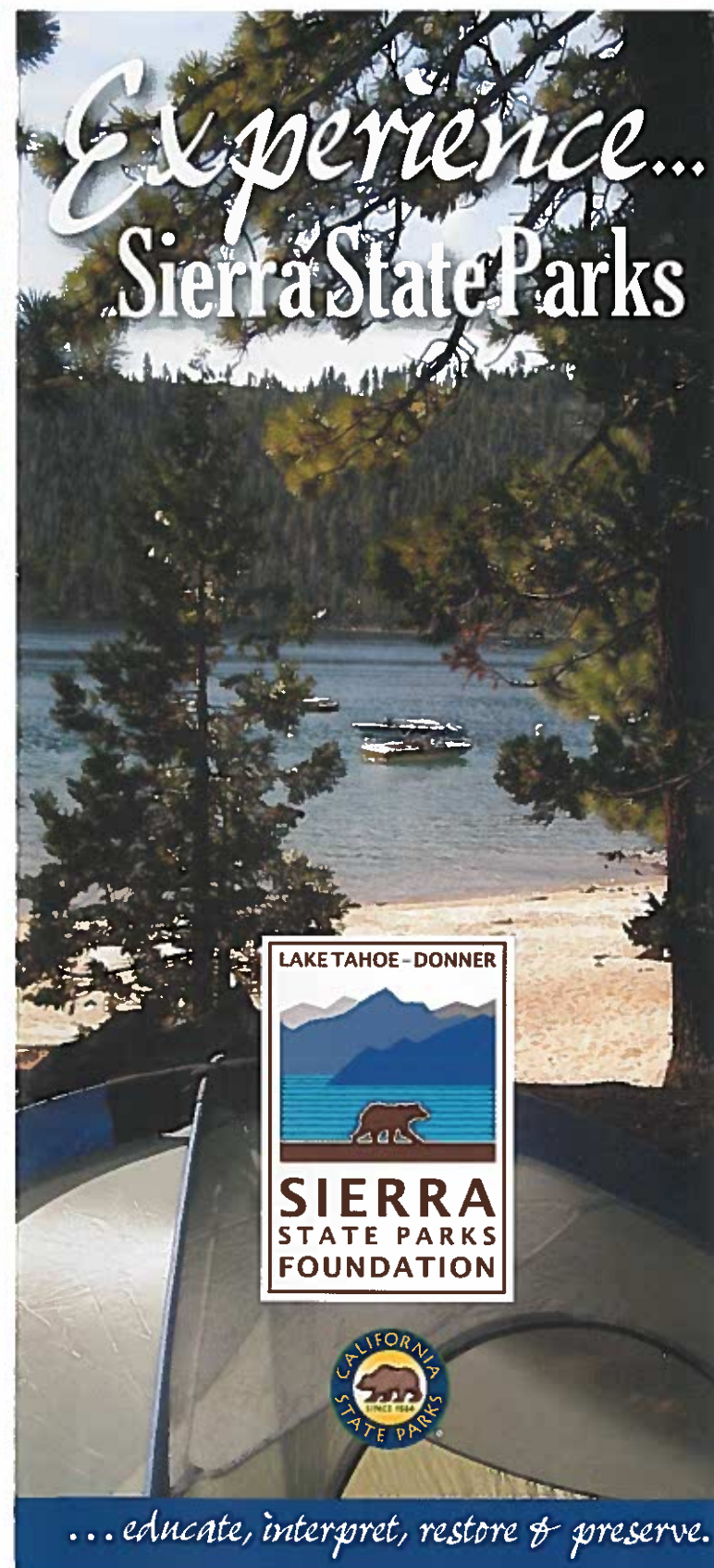
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www.SierraStateParks.org

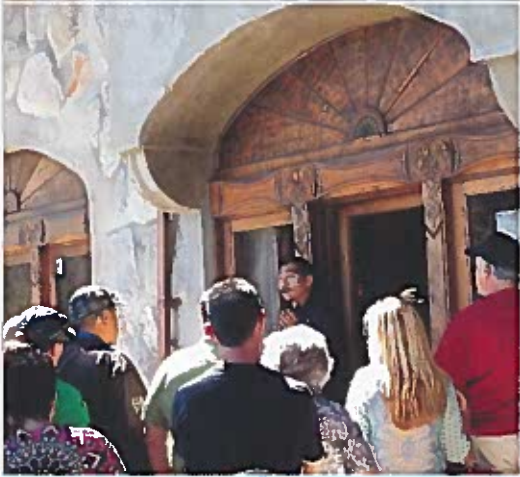


Sierra State Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Sierra State Parks Foundation can be named in your estate plans, and receive gifts of appreciated assets. Please contact the Foundation office for more information.

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... educate, interpret, restore & preserve.



Support Our Parks. Sierra State Parks Foundation provides critical financial support to keep our Sierra State Parks open and flourishing for current and future generations. The Foundation funds programs for education, interpretation, historic restoration, artifact acquisition, and cultural and environmental preservation.

The Foundation utilizes many opportunities for fundraising – especially YOUR generous membership donations – and supports the following Lake Tahoe-Donner State Parks. For more information go to our website at www.SierraStateParks.org.

A – Donner Memorial State Park, Donner Lake, Truckee

This park commemorates the pioneering spirit of early Californians. The Foundation manages a retail gift shop and supports a new Visitor Center. Interpretive and static displays feature memorabilia from the earliest pioneers, including the famed Donner Party which was forced by circumstance to winter at the east end of Donner Lake in 1846-47.

B – Kings Beach State Recreation Area, North Lake Tahoe

Kings Beach features over 900 feet of beautiful frontage property along the North Shore of Lake Tahoe. This day-use-only area has an expansive sandy beach and multiple picnic tables under the shade of Jeffery pines. The Foundation is working with State Parks to bring education and interpretation to this very popular recreation area.

C – Burton Creek State Park, North Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City

Burton Creek State Park features 2,000 plus acres of undeveloped forest and meadowland with two nature preserves along Burton Creek. Cross-country ski trails are groomed in winter (accessible through Tahoe X-Country Ski Area); six miles of dirt roads offer summer hiking and mountain biking trails. Future interpretative development is on the agenda for the Foundation.

D – Tahoe State Recreation Area, North Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City

Located at the edge of downtown Tahoe City, this State Recreation Area provides camping with Lake Tahoe views, a beach and pier, and an opportunity for a nature experience in a unique urban environment. The Foundation supports visitor education opportunities.

E – Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park, West Lake Tahoe, Tahoma

One of Lake Tahoe's most popular parks, Sugar Pine Point is the home of the historic Hellman-Ehrman Estate. This park provides year 'round camping and features many facilities for hosting special events in the summer. The Foundation conducts mansion tours in summer, snowshoe tours in winter, and maintains 13k of groomed cross-country ski trails.

Partnering with State Parks, the Foundation financially augments ongoing maintenance and preservation of the historic buildings and runs a retail gift shop and natural history museum.

F – D.L. Bliss State Park, West Lake Tahoe

Named for a pioneering lumberman, Bliss provides an unforgettable Lake Tahoe experience with camping, pristine beaches, majestic rock formations, and extensive trails and views. Seasonal interpretive talks and guided hikes, trail maintenance and signage, and a gift shop are supported by the efforts of the Foundation.

G – Emerald Bay State Park, West Lake Tahoe

Emerald Bay State Park features Vikingsholm mansion, one of the finest examples of Scandinavian architecture in the western hemisphere, and the "tea house" on Fannette Island, Lake Tahoe's only island. In an ongoing effort, the Foundation has lovingly restored and preserved many elements of this historic building and property, and supports a gift shop and visitor center just a short hike from Vikingsholm towards the base of breathtaking Eagle Falls. Tours and interpretive talks are supported by the Foundation.

H – Washoe Meadows State Park, South Lake Tahoe, Meyers

Named for the Native Americans who inhabited this area, Washoe Meadows is an undeveloped nature preserve at the base of the Echo Lake escarpment. Abundant summer wild flowers, fall colors and regular wildlife sightings can be enjoyed along the walking and biking trails. Meadow restoration projects and interpretive development are on the agenda for the Foundation.

