

TDGF AWARDS COMMUNITY GRANTS

Science Education, Nature Programs and Children's Museum Expansion

By **THE TAHOE DONNER GIVING FUND COMMITTEE**

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is able to affect change and make a difference through Community Grants. In 2019 we look forward to awarding even more local organizations. With your support, all things are possible!



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM, a program of the Sierra Watershed Education Partnership, connects teachers and students to their local watershed. The mission is to provide conservation-oriented environmental education that teaches students about science, art, water quality monitoring and life-cycles in aquatic ecosystems, all while promoting stewardship.

Local students are enthusiastic to begin monitoring and caring for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout this spring as they raise them from egg to fry, and eventually release them into an approved nearby stream. In that Lahontan Cutthroat are our region's only native trout species, it is vitally important that teachers and students be knowledgeable advocates for this threatened group. Sierra Watershed Education Partnership is very appreciative for the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund grant that allows us to bring this science project into our schools.



KIDZONE is Truckee's nonprofit children's museum offering science and art camps, hands-on interactive exhibits and community programs. Founded 27 years ago, it has grown from 5,000 annual visitors to 30,000 annual visitors - literally filling its 3,000 square foot space to capacity. "We cannot meet the demand of our growing audience, and our current tent is reaching the end of its life," said Board Chair Emily Dubansky.

Tahoe Donner Giving Fund's grant will allow KidZone to create a business plan to launch a 2019 Capital Campaign. This plan will detail renderings of an expanded museum encompassing a science center and teen programming. The proposed museum will be 10,000 square feet and aims to serve 50,000 annual visitors.



THE TAHOE INSTITUTE FOR NATURAL SCIENCE (TINS) is a member-supported nonprofit organization seeking to advance the natural history, conservation, and ecosystem knowledge of the Tahoe region through science, education, and outreach. TINS is extremely grateful to receive a grant from the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund that will be used to support their core programs.

Through applied field research, TINS works to help land managers answer questions that inform their management decisions. Our education programs fulfill many needs faced by a community that is dedicated to investing in its future. We do this by providing materials and instruction that invites students to become engaged in their immediate natural surroundings. Through outreach and citizen science, we seek to engage the public and bring this education to the rest of the community. Free guided natural history outings are offered each year and the focus for 2019 will be wildflowers. For more information and to sign up for a free hike visit www.tinsweb.org.



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The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is chartered by the TD Board of Directors. All contributions are voluntary tax-deductible gifts from TD members and friends. The Giving Fund is administered through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. For more information on the Giving Fund or to make a contribution, visit our web page at tahoedonner.com/giving-fund. Contact tdgf@tahoedonner.com with questions or to volunteer for the committee. Thank you to our founding partner, Elements Mountain Company, for their continued support.

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