



# COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2022



Sierra Nevada  
JOURNEYS

We kicked off 2022 with some in-depth, roll-up-your-sleeves work by creating our 3-year strategic plan. The plan was informed by a series of listening sessions with team and community members. This testimony from critical internal and external stakeholders helped guide the development of an ambitious plan that will build Sierra Nevada Journeys' mission impacts in our communities. We also created a new Vision Statement – to transform lives by building curiosity, confidence, and connections to nature, especially for students who are traditionally underserved – which supports the forward-thinking direction of the new strategic plan.



Sierra Nevada Journeys hosted Sacramento area students for the premier of Hack the Woods Camp in October 2022. With our partners Black Youth Leadership Project and Square Root Academy, we created a unique STEM and social justice camp thanks to a grant from the City of Sacramento Office of Youth Development.



Google donated to Sierra Nevada Journeys in January 2022, helping our team expand STEM enrichment to serve four Nevada counties – Storey, Lyon, Washoe and Carson. We were thrilled that the local Google team chose Sierra Nevada Journeys to develop STEM scholarships for students in Title 1 schools who have historically been denied access to high-quality STEM programs and outdoor experiences.

Additionally, we received the Technology Nonprofit of the Year Award from NCET, Nevada's Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology, in March 2022. We were recognized for the tremendous work of figuring out how to convert experiential, hands-on science lessons to digital and accommodate distance learning during the pandemic.

In the summer of 2022, we launched a new afterschool program, STEM Explorers, thanks to a successful proposal for funding to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through Washoe County. In Northern Nevada, the initial partnership launched with the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows. We were able to start the STEM Explorers with three schools – Dilworth MS, Sparks MS and Traner MS. The funding then allowed us to quickly expand to Vaughn MS, Desert Skies MS, and Sparks HS. STEM Explorers will help fill an educational equity gap at schools in underserved areas and provide continuity of programming as students transition from middle school to high school.

We look forward to many more years guiding Sierra Nevada Journeys through growth, innovation and inspiring youth to find their love for science and the outdoors.

Sincerely,



*Sean Hill*

Sean Hill  
CEO



*Malena Raymond*

Malena Raymond  
Board Chair



# OUR MISSION

270,000+  
STUDENTS

Since 2006, we've positively impacted 270,092 children with our mission to deliver innovative outdoor, science-based education programs to develop critical thinking skills and inspire natural resource stewardship.

26,000+  
STUDENTS  
IN 2022



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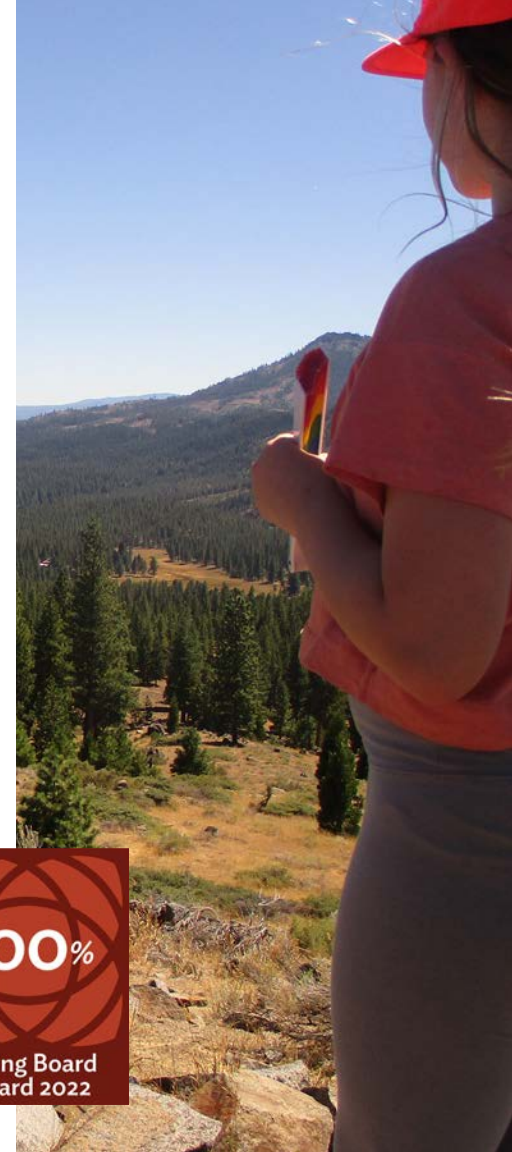
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# GIRLS IN STEM CAMP

**Tesla's five-year commitment to Girls in STEM Camp has positively impacted middle-school-age girls from Northern Nevada.**

In May 2022, the fourth annual Girls in STEM Camp took place at Grizzly Creek Ranch. It was a successful and awesome camp experience for participants from Northern Nevada Title 1 schools.

Interactive speaker presentations captivated the young campers with new educational and career possibilities for the future. An incredible lineup of professional speakers presented hands-on activities covering a wide range of STEM disciplines ranging from engineering to hydrology to oceanography.



*Thanks to your generosity, 62 girls went to STEM camp. Many of the girls had never been to a camp before or had in-depth experience with STEM activities and disciplines.*

Seena Drapala is the president emeritus for the Society of Women Engineers, Sierra Nevada Section, a mechanical engineer and a former GE Energy executive. "I've had so many different experiences during my career that sharing some of them with the girls at camp is not only rewarding but it inspires me to see the next generation of STEM professionals truly shine," says Drapala. "This year, we focused on robotics and how they help solve problems through an orderly sequence of actions."

Camp activities also included team building through the challenge course and outdoor learning sessions in pond, garden and forest ecology.

With 74 percent of girls expressing interest in STEM in middle school, women only make up 34 percent of the science and engineering workforce.

Programs like Girls in STEM help close this gap by building confidence in participants' science skills and exposing them to STEM career options. Consider supporting our Student Scholarship Fund to support programs like Girls in STEM.



Donate to  
Sierra Nevada Journeys'  
Student Scholarship  
Fund and inspire future  
scientists, engineers and  
environmental stewards.



[sierranevadajourneys.org/give](https://sierranevadajourneys.org/give)

# Thanks to SMUD, Students Spend Time in Nature Learning About the Environment

**SMUD Sustainable Communities Has Been an Ongoing Supporter of Classrooms Unleashed, Family STEM Nights and Trauma-Informed Teacher Training**

Thanks to our partnership, we're able to deliver real-world experiences such as the Our Amazing Earth program through Classrooms Unleashed. It includes earth science concepts like erosion and weathering through engaging in-class lessons and a field day at a nearby nature preserve. Students explore rock outcroppings and a drainage creek to construct an understanding of how erosion and weathering affect the Earth's surface.

50%

50 percent of the children who attended our programs come from communities that face financial barriers





# CLASSROOMS UNLEASHED

11,000

11,000 students participated in Classrooms Unleashed

470

representing 470 classrooms

15%

15 percent of students are Emerging Multilingual Learners

Classrooms Unleashed increases elementary school access to learner-centered, hands-on and minds-on, science education. The lessons are aligned to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Common Core. Through programs like Classrooms Unleashed, students learn grade-level science concepts and increase their awareness and understanding of natural systems.



# Family STEM Nights

Family STEM Nights are a fun and educational evening for the entire family. The events promote parent and family engagement in the learning experience of their children. Families experience the wonder of science and solve a variety of STEM challenges.

5,444

5,444 children and parents participated in quality science education at Family STEM Nights

84

84 Family STEM Nights were held in 2022



# TRAUMA-INFORMED TRAINING HELPS EVERY STUDENT SUCCEED

Sierra Nevada Journeys' Trauma-Informed Teaching Practices Training provides our instructors with a foundational knowledge of how to best support students who have experienced trauma through asset-based, social justice-focused, and healing-centered teaching approaches. Employee training and capacity building help achieve Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion priorities.

We believe actionable training of employees is where the rubber meets the road. By training our teachers to meet the needs of all students, we go beyond acknowledging equity issues, and we begin building real-world solutions.



*Thanks to SMUD sponsoring our Trauma-Informed Training, Sierra Nevada Journeys' instructors get to know their students and build relationships through personalized teaching approaches that center on students' individual needs.*



# REDESIGNED CURRICULUM PROMOTES EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Thanks to our teachers, schools, donors, and partners, we're able to increase access to science education across the socioeconomic spectrum.

Educating children with effective and enriching science and environmental education, along with getting them outdoors, is essential to students reaching proficiency in science. It is particularly important to make these opportunities available for youth who may not typically have access to high-quality programs like Sierra Nevada Journeys.

61%

61 percent of our students are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color

13%

13 percent of the children who attend our programs are living with a physical or developmental disability



# Access to High Quality STEM Programs

Sierra Nevada Journeys redesigned and updated its curriculum with an Equity by Design approach. This model suggests that if you design for the needs of those at the margins, your design will be inclusive for everyone.

Our education team interviewed stakeholders in Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities to amplify the voices within these populations. The resulting feedback was used to reshape our STEM curriculum to more effectively reach students who have traditionally had, and continue to have, fewer options in STEM education and pipelines to STEM careers.

The benefits of Equity by Design approach to curriculum include:

1. Ensuring that the curriculum reflects the experiences, cultures and histories of our diverse student populations.
2. Providing multilingual materials to support Emerging Multilingual Language Learners.
3. Fostering connections between curriculum and our local communities by engaging students in field days at locations that have cultural significance.



# HOW A LOCAL TECH COMPANY IS FUNDING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



No-IP's mission is to provide useful, reliable, and powerful services that help home users, small and large businesses and even Fortune 500 companies take control over all aspects of their DNS (Domain Name System) and domain services. Headquartered in Reno, Nevada, since 1999, they see the direct value of supporting STEM education and how it can positively impact students and expose them to STEM careers. "Technology fuels our business, but it is the passionate individuals behind the screens who drive our success. As we discovered Sierra Nevada Journeys'

Scholarship Fund, we recognized the opportunity to make a meaningful impact. We believe that our involvement could pave the way for a brilliant future, where our next software engineer may emerge from the talented pool of Sierra Nevada Journeys' students," said Dan Durrer, Founder and CEO of No-IP.

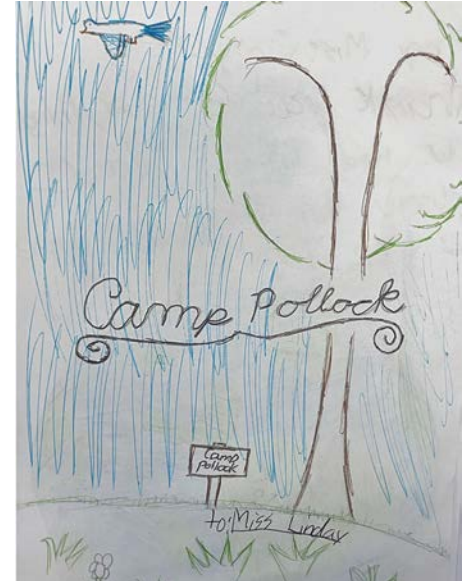
Being outdoors not only connects us to the natural world and those around us, but also connects us to the deepest parts of ourselves. *A gift to our Student Scholarship Fund will give students immediate access to our educational programs. Learn more at [sierranevadajourneys.org/give](https://sierranevadajourneys.org/give).*



“

I absolutely loved catching the macroinvertebrates. My partner and I caught eight snails and one aquatic worm.  
Thank you so much!

- Adair, Classrooms Unleashed Student



“

You encouraged me to want to know more about nature and science. I really enjoyed being an environmental scientist.

- Phoebe, Classrooms Unleashed Student



# Leadership Camp is a Trip of Several “Firsts” for Many Twin Rivers Students

Each year since 2016, fifth and sixth graders from the Twin Rivers Unified School District board a bus and travel to Sierra Nevada Journeys’ Grizzly Creek Ranch camp for a life-changing adventure. Students are given the opportunity to attend Overnight Outdoor Learning with Sierra Nevada Journeys at the end of their elementary education career. The three-day science camp, located in Plumas National Forest, becomes an outdoor classroom to teach and immerse students in science, leadership development, and nature-based experiences.

For many of the students, the trip is their first time out of the city, their first time to camp in a forested environment, and their first time to see snow. It can be a life-changing opportunity to experience so many ‘firsts’ over the course of a single trip to camp.

Of 34 elementary and middle schools in the Twin Rivers school district, 25 of them attend Overnight Outdoor Learning with Sierra Nevada Journeys, representing about 1,300 students each year.



## OVERNIGHT OUTDOOR LEARNING

4,339

4,339 students attended camp and participated in science lessons and activities

91

from 91 schools across the region

PRICELESS

thousands of memories made





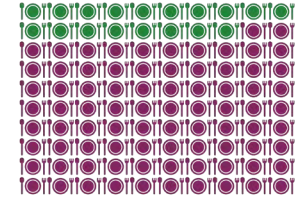
“

Sierra Nevada Journeys uses a mixture of social-emotional learning (SEL) with hands-on science learning. Building that foundation of trust starts with chipping away at those walls that the students have built up. Starting with SEL gets them back to a space of being a kid again. Being able to spend time outdoors, those chances to connect with nature are priceless.”

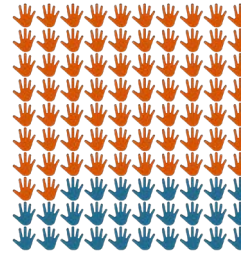
- Patrick Durant, Principal, Kohler Elementary School

## TWIN RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

82% Free and  
Reduced Lunch



28% English  
Language Learners



82% Students  
of Color



# COMMUNITY PARTNER CAMPS

Through community partnerships, we hosted 31 organizations and 2,239 participants at Grizzly Creek Ranch for leadership and teambuilding workshops, youth empowerment retreats, and continuing education. As an education nonprofit, we create one-of-a-kind experiences for groups that build unity and trust as they work together on our challenge course. We also create other customized education experiences which are led by our trained facilitators.

Because Grizzly Creek Ranch is an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible camp, organizations like the Muscular Dystrophy Association, United Cerebral Palsy, and Amplify Life find that outdoor experiences are not hindered by a person's mobility.

Many educational, cultural, and environmental organizations find Grizzly Creek Ranch's 500+ acres as a prime teaching location; along with our unique style of instruction influenced by the Lawrence Hall of Science with the University of California, Berkeley, and BEETLES – Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning and Expertise Sharing.

2,339

2,339 people from community organizations attended camp

31

## Education

Placer County Office of Education  
The ASUN Center for Student Engagement, University of Nevada  
Nevada Department of Education

## Culture

Nevada Urban Indians  
Northern Nevada International Center  
Black Youth Leadership Project Social Justice and STEM Camp

## Mentorship

Improve Your Tomorrow  
Summer Search  
Sacramento Youth Center  
Dean's Future Scholars  
Rotary Eighth Grade Leadership (REGL)  
Rotary Youth Leadership Awakening (RYLA)

## Environment

Sierra Nevada Alliance  
Women in Science and Engineering

31 organizations from across the region attended camp

# SUMMER CAMP

## Gain Independence and Lifelong Memories

The Helen Close Charitable Foundation has been an ongoing champion of providing formative outdoor summer experiences for children with the Reno Housing Authority. Last summer, 55 students from families with financial barriers had an unforgettable week experiencing summer camp at Sierra Nevada Journeys Grizzly Creek Ranch. Campers that attended on scholarship earned their way to camp based on their school participation and involvement in a community service-learning activity with The Nature Conservancy. Campers went to the Truckee River at McCarran Ranch Preserve and supported a service project cleaning up trash and learning about the lower Truckee River ecosystem.

Campers participated in traditional summer camp activities such as archery, kayaking, the challenge course and sharing stories by the campfire. These safe and fun experiences can be very powerful in a child's life.



317

317 children attended summer and specialty camps

55

55 children who attended summer camp on a full scholarship, came from households that face financial barriers

# MEASURING OUR SUCCESS AND PROGRAM GOALS

We apply rigorous measurement to capture the success of our programs. This ensures that we are achieving our goals and that we're making a positive impact with students. Our programs are designed to:

1. Increase access to science education across the socioeconomic spectrum.
2. Encourage more students to pursue degrees and careers in STEM or environmental fields.
3. Create a society with informed decision-makers, who can find solutions to the world's most pressing problems.
4. Nurture the next generation of environmental stewards.
5. Inspire community members to feel connected with the environment and become stewards of the natural world.
6. Build healthier, happier and more sustainable communities.

6%

Schools with Sierra Nevada Journeys' programming had a higher percentage of students —by 6 % — that met or exceeded the standardized science test scores compared to students at schools without our programming



# Student Evaluations

80%

80% of students feel comfortable in nature after participating in Classrooms Unleashed

53%

53% of students like science more after the program

72%

72% of students had never been to the field site before the field trip

73%

73% of students would like to go back to the field site with their friends and family

90%

90% of students in our programs demonstrated improved understanding of science standards





“

**Nature is very beautiful  
and the world needs it.**

– 6th Grade Student  
Overnight Outdoor Learning  
at Grizzly Creek Ranch



# TEACHER SURVEYS



100%

100% of teachers feel that Classrooms Unleashed improves student understanding of topics related to state science standards

100%

100% of teachers feel that Sierra Nevada Journeys' programs help students build critical thinking skills

98%

98% of teachers think that the curriculum met or exceeded expectations

“

**Classrooms Unleashed allowed for students to 'think' like scientists and record ideas and evidence into their scientific journals.**  
– 5th Grade Teacher



97% of teachers said the quality of the field day met or exceeded expectations

97%

100% of teachers would recommend the program to colleagues

100%

# Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2022

## ASSETS

### CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	1,231,071
Accounts Receivable		76,964
Pledges Receivable, Current		53,200
Grants Receivable		284,883
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets		<u>188,972</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>1,835,090</u>

### NON-CURRENT ASSETS:

Investments		1,586,386
Pledges Receivable, Net		45,000
Grants Receivable, Net		86,976
Property and Equipment, Net		5,032,025
Operating Lease, Right-of-Use Asset		<u>89,105</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>6,839,492</u>

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$ 8,674,582

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable	\$	77,128
Accrued Expenses		138,352
Deferred Revenue		669,923
Current Portion of Operating Lease Liability		<u>27,230</u>
Total Current Liabilities		912,633

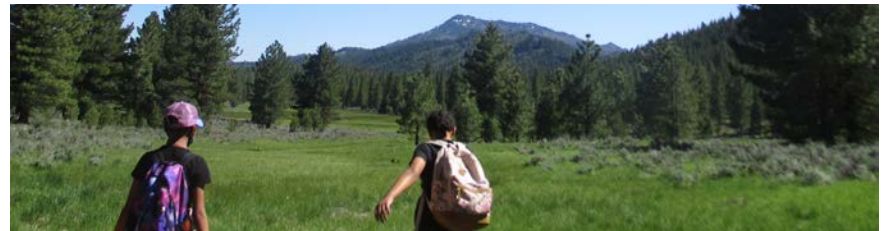
**OPERATING LEASE LIABILITY, NET** **62,178**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** **974,811**

### NET ASSETS:

Without Donor Restrictions		6,922,849
With Donor Restrictions		<u>766,922</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>7,699,771</u>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** \$ 8,674,582





# Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2022

## NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

### OPERATING REVENUES AND SUPPORT:

Program Fees (Net of Scholarship Discounts of \$1,404,988 for 2022 and \$1,507,714 for 2021)	\$ 2,464,953
Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness	745,243
Grants and Contributions	179,122
Investment Income (Loss)	(1,435)
Other Revenue	6,882
Net Assets Released From Restriction	<u>2,065,696</u>
Total Revenue and Support	<u>5,460,461</u>

### OPERATING EXPENSES:

Program Services:	
Grizzly Creek Ranch	2,731,578
School Field-Based Programs	<u>821,463</u>
Total Program Services	<u>3,553,041</u>

### Supporting Services:

General and Administrative	432,957
Fundraising	<u>376,558</u>
Total Supporting Services	<u>809,515</u>
Total Expenses	<u>4,362,556</u>



The full audit is available at [ilovesnj.org/financials](http://ilovesnj.org/financials)

<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b><u>1,097,905</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:</b>	
Grants and Contributions	1,579,024
Net Assets Released From Restriction	<u>(2,065,696)</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b><u>(486,672)</u></b>
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>611,233</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, Beginning of the Year</b>	<b><u>7,088,538</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS, End of the Year</b>	<b>\$ <u>7,699,771</u></b>

This condensed financial information for the year ended December 31, 2022, is derived from Sierra Nevada Journeys' 2022 financial statements audited by Gilbert CPAs.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

To deliver our mission, we rely on the generous support of our financial partners. We are grateful to the partners listed below for supporting us in our quest to improve science education, encourage critical thinking skills and foster natural resource stewardship.

## **\$100,000+**

Arata Brothers Charitable Trust  
Marshall R. Matley Foundation  
Tesla

## **\$50,000-\$99,999**

City of Sacramento  
Google Data Centers  
Confluence Program Sacramento  
Area Sewer District & Sacramento  
Regional County Sanitation District

## **\$10,000 - \$49,999**

Anonymous Donor at Community  
Foundation of Northern Nevada  
Community Foundation of Northern  
Nevada  
Gabilan Fund  
General Motors  
Helen Close Charitable Foundation  
John Ben Snow Memorial Trust  
Kelly Foundation  
Knowledge Systems Institute  
Melissa Kalbfell

The Nell J. Redfield Foundation  
Nevada Dream Tags Charitable Fund  
Nevada Mining Association  
Nevada State Parks  
No-IP  
NV Energy Foundation  
Raymond C. Rude Supporting  
Foundation  
Reno Rotary Foundation  
Resource Concepts INC (RCI)  
SCHEELS  
SMUD Sustainable Communities  
State of Nevada Division of Water  
Resources  
Thelma B. and Thomas P. Hart  
Foundation  
Thomas P. Raley Foundation  
Trout Unlimited, Sagebrush Chapter

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Anthem Nevada Medicaid  
Ann Carlson  
Catamount Fund, LTD

Claggett and Sykes Law Firm  
Golden 1 Credit Union  
Intel Corporation  
Microsoft Corporation  
PPG Industries Foundation  
Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC)  
Wood Rodgers, Inc.

## **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Dan & Anne Bergmann  
Mark and Mona Burrell  
Cody Callahan  
Tim and Stacey Crowley  
Eaton and Kate Dunkelberger  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
Susan and Richard Gobbs  
Oliver and Karen Grosz  
Daniel and Denise Klaich  
Annette Mortimer  
Richard and Claire Mueller  
Peek Family Charitable Foundation  
Barbara Petersen  
Gail and Jim Pfrommer

MalenaRaymond  
Jim Sacherman  
Sacramento County Department  
of Water Resources (DWR)  
John Scire  
Dave Stockman  
Regina Stanback Stroud  
Target Giving Circle  
Thomas Pfrommer Family  
Foundation  
Shane Tucker  
Ty and Abbi Whitaker  
Scott Yarnes

**\$250-\$999**

Adam and Kate Hermon Gift Fund  
Tristan and Christine Armstrong  
Fred and Barbara Arndt  
Wendy Baty  
John Calhoun  
Bob Daugherty  
Evie and Peter Dunkelberger  
Larry Dwyer  
Ward Fansler  
Gus Freitag  
Alice Goddard  
Amelia Gulling  
Sean Hill  
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Kirsten Stasio  
Bethany Steiner  
Patricia Stich  
Cathleen Trachok  
James Whitehead

**\$10-\$249**

Catherine Adkins  
Achini Bandara  
Mary and James Barnes  
Tory Barnes  
Sarah Barnes  
Leroy Bergstrom  
Lisa Blauth  
Elizabeth Bogdanoff  
Andrew Boring  
Brian Broumas  
Neil Brown  
Richard Bruno  
Ralph and Barbara Courtney  
Johanna DeKay  
Garland Devito

John Drakulich  
Megan Duggan  
John and Carol Duggan  
Robert Eaton  
Jeffrey and Brenda Erdoes  
Feather River Food Co-op  
Cori Fisher  
Lynn Franks  
Mariluz Garcia  
Amy Green  
Kelly and Rick Hamburger  
Chuck and Lis Henson  
Michelle Herzbrun  
Julia Patricia Hill  
Rachel Jo  
Aisha Johnk  
Casey Johnson  
Meredith and Curtiss Johnson  
Tamara Kennedy  
Adam Kint  
Sara Lafrance  
Harvey W. Lambert  
James Lepisto  
Nancy Martin  
Marnie Mattice  
Brett McLane  
Kathryn Miles  
Thomas Nichols  
Katie Palmer

Dianne Paulson  
Janet Pederson  
Christine Pieper  
Jacqueline Pistorello  
Dink and Dave Rife  
Amy Rogers  
Ralph and Carole Rogers  
Susan Rueppel  
Claire Sandahl  
John Shane  
Ryan Sharp  
David Shintani  
Wayne Smith  
Quinn Stegman  
Ruth Tesar  
Nicole Van Vleck  
Cassandra and Michael  
Whellams  
Mackenzie Wieser  
John and Virginia  
Williamson



Secure, online donations can be made at  
**[sierranevadajourneys.org/give](https://sierranevadajourneys.org/give)**



Sierra Nevada Journeys is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization | EIN 01-0881587