



To: Truckee Donner Land Trust
From: Sagehen Outdoor Education Program/TTUSD
sagehenoutdoored@gmail.com
Date March 20, 2025

Dear Truckee Donner Land Trust,

The funding that Truckee Donner Land Trust has provided the Sagehen Outdoor Education Program for many years has been important to the program and very much appreciated. We are now seeking funding for the 2025-2026 school year (Sept. 2025-June 2026). We are requesting \$4,000. Our budget for 2025-2026 is approximately \$47,000. A complete budget is available upon request. All funding is received by Tahoe Truckee Unified School District.

Sagehen Outdoor Education Program is a program within the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District. It has been in operation for over 18 years, being organized by the volunteer efforts of a few teachers. The program is funded by TTUSD and other grants from community organizations.

Sagehen Outdoor Education Program provides engaging environmental science and outdoor education to all fifth grade students in the Tahoe Truckee Schools. It aims to instill a greater appreciation of nature, science, and the local environment. An established goal of environmental education is that the students will want to take care of their environment once they have grown to love it.

Lessons include team building, local ecosystems, flora and fauna of the Sierra Nevada, plant and animal identification, and other science/environmental education topics. Each class will attend 2 one-day programs in the fall (Sept-Oct), a one-day snow science program in the winter (Feb-Mar), and a one-day program in the spring (May-June). Locations will be in a natural outdoor setting determined by availability of transportation. Classes are taught by educators from two local non-profits: Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships (SWEP) and Tahoe Institute of Science (TINS). For 2025-2026 we are planning to have two researchers from UC Berkeley join in teaching lessons in the Fall and the Spring Programs. Having researchers as instructors was an important part of the program in the past and we are excited to have this aspect of the program return. The students are very motivated by the researchers and learn that there are many exciting possibilities for their future if they study science.

Thank you for considering this funding request. Please let us know what other information you need and if you would like us to present our request at a meeting.

Thank You,

Candy Blesse and Kathy Echols, Directors

Candy Blesse 530-448-1614 SagehenOutddoorEd@gmail.com
Kathy Echols 530-913-6590 SagehenOutdoorEd@gmail.com