



WHISKEYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Keeping Environmental Education Alive in Shasta County February 2024



Jim Dowling Photo

A NEW ACT FOR THE AMPHITHEATER

Spring approaches and students will return to Field Labs on March 25th! Student enrollment for day and summer programs increased by 1,400 students between 2022 and 2023, bringing into focus the need for amphitheater improvements.

As the heart of the campus, a new, larger, and accessible space is more important than ever. The Rotary Clubs of Redding and Anderson have been crucial in initiating interest and startup funding to rebuild this important space. Multiple Redding businesses and Giving Tuesday donors have also added to the budget. Whiskeytown NRA staff have provided much needed technical support and labor.

Let's get the ***New Act for the Amphitheater*** completely funded this spring! Your gift towards the **\$20,580** budget gap is tax deductible and will be appreciated by students this year! Weather permitting, construction is scheduled to start in March, 2024.



LET'S FIX IT!



AMPHITHEATER ALTERNATIVE

A generous gift from **Outdoor Creations** of Anderson has resulted in a new instructional and gathering space for students during amphitheater rebuilding. Business manager Joe Myhrvold, arranged for delivery of 21 new cement picnic tables and just for fun, a cornhole game set! The arrangement of these durable picnic tables can be reconfigured as construction moves forward and will be appreciated for generations to come!



WES COMMUNITY VISITS CAPITOL HILL

Since 2014, the National Park Foundation (**NPF**) has orchestrated “Hill Day”, a crucial initiative that allows NPF staff to advocate on behalf of the National Park Service (**NPS**) to Congressional leaders. In 2023, this circle widened as NPF welcomed other NPS philanthropic partners such as WES Community to participate. The NPF’s education efforts bore fruit with the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act (**GAOA**). As we look toward the GAOA’s reauthorization in 2025, our story gains strength. Despite initial setbacks during 2022 to secure GAOA funding for the rebuilding of WES, the \$4.4 million raised in gifts and pledges since 2020 is evidence of our community’s desire to resurrect the residential program at WES.

After a visit to Whiskeytown NRA by NPF staffer, Garrett Maltzan, WES Community President Melinda Kashuba was invited to Hill Day. Her mission there: share our community’s fundraising triumphs, lay the groundwork for future funding, and discuss the Carr Fire’s impact upon Whiskeytown NRA.

During Hill Day, Melinda visited the offices of California Senators Laphonza Butler and Alex Padilla alongside representatives of other philanthropic partners and foundations. Her conversation with John Veale, Legislative Director for Congressman Doug LaMalfa was particularly fruitful. Melinda was able to convey the importance of the **Grow Back Stronger Campaign** and WES’s role in regional environmental education and stewardship.

Melinda’s experience on Capitol Hill was enlightening, underscoring the diversity of National Parks and the dedication of their philanthropic partners. Together, the parks and their partners are working on a common goal: to make our parks and communities better, educate future generations, and foster a lifelong love for the outdoors.

Melinda meets with John Veale of Representative Doug LaMalfa’s Office



2023

GROW BACK STRONGER

2,085 students attended SCOE Field Trips at WES in 2023

\$50,788 gifts from Generous Givers

\$3,900,000 pledged Foundation* Grants

*Foundations

- Sierra Pacific Foundation
- Shasta County Office of Education
- PG&E

\$21,530 given by area Businesses** for Amphitheater Renovation

**Business Sponsors

- Carr, Kennedy, Peterson & Frost
- Choose Redding Lodging
- CR Gibbs
- DH Scott
- GoForth Consulting
- Jennifer Perrow LLC
- JR Martin & Associates, CPAs
- Les Schwab Tires
- LifeHelp
- Member's 1st Credit Union
- Merrill Lynch
- New West Medical
- Perry's Auto
- SHN Engineering
- Summit Wealth Strategies
- Therapon
- Umpqua Bank
- WIT Group

\$4,036,570
Total Community Gifts & Pledges in 2023

Project SHARE Summer Camp served 13 schools for July 2023

\$27,752 raised by Civic Groups****

****Civic Groups

- Kool April Nights
- Rotary Club of Redding
- Redding East Rotary
- Redding Elks Lodge
- Redding West Rotary
- Rotary Club of Anderson

\$6,000 ACE Hardware "Round-up-at-the Register"

\$30,500 in other Grants***

***Grants

- National Park Foundation
- Redding Rancheria
- USDA Forest Service

2023 Fundraising by

Whiskeytown Environmental School Community, 501c3
 wescommunity.org
 PO Box 3, Whiskeytown CA 96095
 530.440.5584

BECOME A BOARD MEMBER OR VOLUNTEER

Are you interested in promoting the benefits of outdoor education for youth? Would you like to give back to our community, while collaborating with an amazing team? Do you have a knack for fundraising, community engagement, number crunching, or possess computer skills?

Join our Board of Directors or volunteer so that our youth and our community can thrive! Be a part of the team for 2 years or volunteer for shorter term projects. Volunteer opportunities:

- Speaking engagements & table events
- Host an in home fundraiser
- Join a committee

Contact us with a resume: wescommunityinfo@gmail.com
or call: **530.440.5584**



CREATE A GIVING NETWORK WITH YOUR FACEBOOK/META PAGE

Create a network of awareness and giving for WES Community with your Facebook page. Your birthday, anniversary, or another special day for celebration is the perfect opportunity to support projects you value. It is an easy way for family and friends from afar to honor you with a gift of love to WES Community. We appreciate the many donations we have received from this source.

OUR MISSION

Whiskeytown Environmental School Community (WES Community) exists to support educational goals through immersive outdoor experiences for learners at Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES). WES Community contributes to the school's mission through advocacy and relationship building with communities, businesses and public agencies to generate funds and further shared goals.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & LIAISONS

Melinda Kashuba - President
Cassie Simons - Vice President
Kathy Hill - Treasurer
Francesca Huntsman - Secretary
Ellen Petrick - Honorary Board Member
Nathan Fairchild - SCOE
Tyler Compton - NPS
Tammy Reynolds - FOW, Inc.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Donate online, wescommunity.org or by check, WES Community, PO Box 3, Whiskeytown, CA 96095
- Facebook Birthday Fundraisers
- [Benevity Corporate Matching program](#)
- Asset and non-cash gifts: Gordon Flinn, 530.945.8351

DONATE NOW

CONTACT US:

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