



Whiskeytown Environmental School Community

2020 NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Keeping Environmental Education
Alive in Shasta County



[DONATE NOW](#)

50th ANNIVERSARY – WHISKEYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 26th, 2020

Saturday, September 26th was a magical day for Whiskeytown Environmental School. The smoke cleared, temperatures dropped and fire had disappeared from Shasta County for a short time. Perfect timing to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Whiskeytown Environmental School, AKA NEED Camp.

Our community enthusiastically responded. 250 free tickets were assigned to visitors for a measured and socially distanced walking tour of the school site. On everyone's mind was the question of damage to the site from the 2018 Carr Fire and future plans for a rebuild.

The anniversary was the perfect opportunity to see the changes in the school site and look towards the future. Both the National Park Service and Shasta County Office of Education were on hand to show off draft blue prints for a rebuild and answer questions about the process. Our rich past was on display with exhibits of early cabin life, camper activities, old buildings, and even some of the storm damage from 1997.



It became a reunion for past staff. We were privileged to have the first director of Whiskeytown Environmental School visit, Bill Harger (1970-71) and his wife Diane Goldsmith Harger.

Brian Swagerty, director from 1978 to 1988 visited with his family. Other “Old School” staff visiting included Robert Quist (1980’s), “Ladybug” Lisa Middy-Rasmussen and Rebecca Franco.



Past campers attended to reminisce about their experiences at WES. Families with young children toured wondering when their children could have the opportunity for a week at WES in the future.

We wish to express appreciation to all our partners on the WES Forever team for the success of the 50th Anniversary; The National Park Service, Shasta County Office of Education and Friends of Whiskeytown. Many individuals volunteered and special recognition is owed to Jim Dowling photographer, and Eva Hecht, t-shirt tie-die maven.

WES COMMUNITY, WES FOREVER,

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

TWO PARTNERS, TWO NONPROFITS, WORKING TOWARD ONE DREAM



WES COMMUNITY

WES Community formed as a nonprofit in 2012 and 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. As a nonprofit, WES Community serves as the fundraising program for the rebuild of Whiskeytown Environmental School.

WES FOREVER

WES Forever came together in 2020 as a coalition of four partner organizations: Shasta County Office of Education, National Park Service, Friends of Whiskeytown, and Whiskeytown Environmental School Community. Together, these partners are spearheading the many aspects of Whiskeytown Environmental School's recovery. You are invited to share the dream by helping the nonprofit partners take action by donating, grant writing and volunteering.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

A PARTNERSHIP RENEWED

Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) and the National Park Service (NPS) are committed to re-opening of Whiskeytown Environmental School. Progress to date includes the completion of a geological safety study by NPS due to potential safety hazards. Fundraising efforts by the Redding Host Lions has paid for draft plans of the site rebuild in order to create a shared vision.



Geologic Hazard Map

Domokur Architects of Akron, Ohio, have produced preliminary architectural concept draft plans for all buildings on the site. The plans are conceptual and are going through the process of review and revision. The site plan includes new buildings and the relocation of some buildings due to potential debris flows and safety concerns. To view the preliminary plans, visit [WESForever.org](https://www.WESForever.org)

WES Community is supporting the multi-year process through fundraising, grant writing, community engagement and publicity.

WHISKEYTOWN NRA RANGERS CONDUCT “REAL TIME” ONLINE FIELD TRIPS

DECEMBER UPDATE



If you're a teacher or a home a school parent, seeking to spice up online learning, Whiskeytown NRA can assist with “real time” fieldtrips. Five topics are available serving grades 1-12. Sessions are free and last from 20-45 minutes. Ranger Tyler Compton is eager to collaborate with you on your educational needs. For a preview of the five topics, visit the [Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration](#), type Whiskeytown NRA in the search

bar. Telephone, **Ranger Tyler Compton** 530.242.3462 or email him, tyler_compton@nps.gov

DONATIONS

GENEROSITY CONTINUES

GIVING TUESDAY

WES Community just wrapped up our 4th Annual Giving Tuesday on December 1, 2020. We are happy to report a steady increase in donors since our first year in 2017. Our goal for the coming year is to increase donations as we ramp up fundraising for the school rebuild. We are most grateful to this year's donors:

Alice A Bell
Allan Craig
Billie Hamilton
Christina Greene
Donald Davidson
Edward Meyer
Elizabeth Brockman
Ellen Petrick
Francesca Huntsman-Siemer
Jean Hatch
Jeanette Hill

Jeneil Morretino
Judith Flores
Kathy Barry
Kathy Hill

Kristen Schreder
Lara Osborn
Lisa Rasmussen Middy
Lori Martin
Matthew Wells
Melinda Kashuba
Michael Czehatowski
Michelle Fairchild
Peggy Prescott
Penelope Harris
Peter Alexander
Richard Murphy
Ruth Rhodes
Sara Sundquist
Warren Swanson

IN MEMORY OF SCOTT LYON



Scott Lyon, avid WES supporter, educator, and former WES naturalist died unexpectedly this summer. Those who loved him donated generously in Scott's memory. WES Community greatly appreciates these gifts which will go towards the WES rebuild. Our thoughts are with Scott's parents, Duane and Shirley Lyon, his children, family, and friends.

Barbara Van Dyke
Betty Richert
Bruce and Katherine Lyon
Bruce Smith and Yen-Vy Van

Charles and Susan Fitch
Charlotte Baily
Cynthia and Ron Coldwell
Dan Scollon and Kim Stempien
David and Barbara Klasson

Diane Campbell Hepburn
E.C. and C.M. Joplin
Elaine Cooper
Ericka and Brian Rowland
Fred and Marilyn Rambow
Gary and Jane Rowland
George and Sandra Halsey
Jeff and Heather Lohman

IN APPRECIATION: 50th ANNIVERSARY DONORS

Bea Currie
Clinton Kane and Patricia Ford
Dan Scollon and Kimberly Stempien
Sharon Kennedy
Printing by Signorama
Copying by Donald R. Reynolds, Certified Public Account

GOT TIME, NOT MONEY?

NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Both nonprofits, WES Community and Friend of Whiskeytown, are building their Board of Directors. WES Community meets monthly on the fourth Monday of the month. Friends of Whiskeytown meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

The gift of time and passion is needed to accomplish projects tasked to special committees. One project will create an online marketplace so that the beloved WES sweatshirts are available for purchase. Over the summer, volunteers did tie-dye treatments to WES t-shirts at their homes. This fall, a volunteer project gave time to "yard work" on campus. Sign up [here](#), or contact Kathy Hill at 530-945-6585 if you can contribute time, skills or materials.

FUNDRAISING, LARGE AND SMALL EFFORTS

DECEMBER UPDATE

Our past efforts have been focused to raising funds to supplement the instructional needs of Whiskeytown Environmental School. Since the Carr Fire in 2018, the focus has shifted to fundraising for the school site rebuild. Your donations, large and small are appreciated and needed. As the year comes to a close, please consider a donation to WES Community, a 501.c3 nonprofit. **There are 3 easy methods to donate!**

On line: WESForever.org

By check: WES Community
PO Box 3
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

Benevity: <https://causes.benevity.org/causes/840-453540719>

Hundreds of companies and employees choose Benevity to make a charitable impact. Connect WES Community to corporate giving and matching. Check with your employer to see if they will match your donation through Benevity.

Amazon Smile: Use [Amazon Smile](#) on your search bar and sign in using your same account details. Select Whiskeytown Environmental School Community as your charity. Amazon will donate a small percentage of purchases.