

WHISKEYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY - NEWSLETTER

WESCOMMUNITY.ORG



Keeping Environmental Education Alive in Shasta County

March 2023



COMING SOON! TRAILS FOR STUDENTS



Tree regrowth in the middle of the trail



Burnt trees across the trail

WES Community is happy to announce the award of a trail rehabilitation grant for trails around the school! Students have been on campus for day programs since Fall 2021 and the surrounding trails are impassable, resulting in all programs being campus-centered.

In the five years since the Carr Fire, grasses, brush, and trees have gained a foothold. This year's rains are recharging watersheds and giving plant life a growth boost. But regrowth and storms have taken a toll on the trail system, including those used by naturalists and students at WES.

WES Community developed a cooperative effort with the National Park Service at Whiskeytown to develop a trail rehabilitation plan for WES. The Shasta County-USFS Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has approved a **\$26,000** grant to rehabilitate seven trails surrounding WES. Thanks to advance planning completed by the National Park Service, this project is "shovel ready" and could commence as soon as this spring!

Kids back on trails! Day programs will expand and trails will be ready for overnight programs when student housing is completed.



REDDING ELKS CLUB GRANT

The Elks Club Lodge #1073 has generously donated to the "Grow Back Stronger" Campaign to rebuild Whiskeytown Environmental School. The Elks Club Board of Directors voted to award a **\$3,000** gift for new student housing. We are tremendously grateful for this gift which was given on February 7, 2023. We appreciate the community spirit of the Redding Elks board and membership. This gift will help to return students to Whiskeytown Environmental School!



Award moment: Francesca Huntsman, Melinda Kashuba, Deb Schlueter & Kathy Hill

JACOBS ENGINEERING DESIGNER



"WES is important to our community because it's a place where children can disconnect from technology. Students learn about nature, science and how to have fun outside. WES plays an important role in the history of our community and we need to keep the legacy going. I attended in 1986 and my daughter attended in 2010 and I hope that one day I'll have a grandchild who attends WES!"

Rhonda Steed, Jacobs Engineering -- WES camper, counselor, and parent

SPRING 2023 FIELD LABS RETURN

The demand continues for the "WES Experience". Registration for **Field Labs** begins March 20th and extends to the beginning of June. Last year's attendance was 1,725 students; the projection for the 2022-23 school year is 2,100 students. This increase reflects the demand by educators to provide students with an immersive educational experience in nature's classroom.

This is why WES Community needs your support. Help us help students connect the dots between classroom instruction and the tangible world of science and nature at WES. We are dedicated to raising the funds necessary to rebuild student housing to reopen the week long program. Please support our work by giving generously today.



[GIVE YOUR GIFT NOW](#)



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The campaign to rebuild student housing at WES is a multi-year effort with a goal of \$3.3 million to rebuild student housing. We know that community support is strong, as demonstrated by 230 donations from individuals, service organizations, and granting foundations. Gifts made to WES Community in 2022, total \$376,250. As of February 2023, we have raised an additional \$7,570. Aside from these funds, WES Community has received in-kind gifts totaling \$45,315 in engineering, design, and consulting services from local Redding businesses. We aim to meet our goals and we need you!

Give gifts over time! Spreading your gifts over a three year period is easier financially and may have tax advantages, A three-year pledge can be fulfilled by December 31, 2024. Be sure to discuss your plan with your financial planner.

Amplify your gift through your employer. Many companies will match employee donations. WES Community is registered to receive employee/employer matched donations via the [Benevity.org](https://www.benevity.org) platform. **Benevity** makes it easy for businesses, as it has already vetted WES Community as a reputable nonprofit, making donations seamless for employers. For more information, call Benevity, 1-855-999-7875.

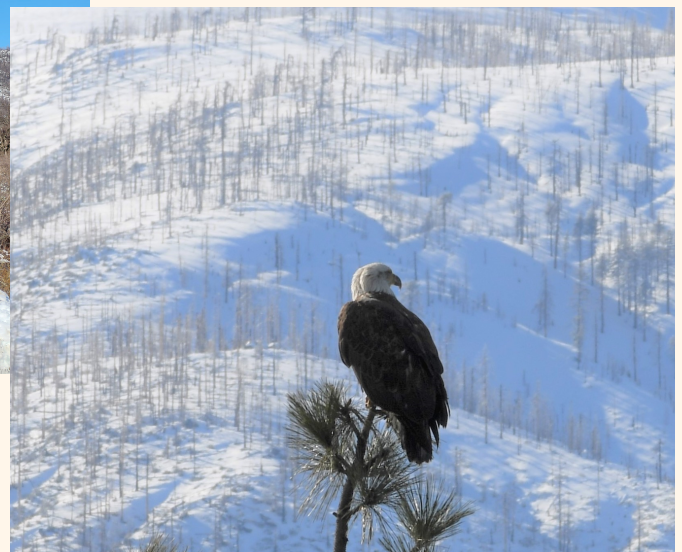
Consider a **Facebook** birthday party, an excellent method to harness your family and friends network. When everyone gives a little, such gifts can quickly add up to \$500, \$1,000, or more. It's easy to do, and together your team can help move us closer to our campaign goal.

WINTER AT WHISKEYTOWN



Entrance to WES with Shasta Bally in the distance

Bald eagle and Shasta Bally



WES & COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUPS

Shasta Youth Leadership Camp mentor Tonya Rodgers fondly remembers the last camp held at WES in 2018. This annual summer camp is designed to strengthen leadership skills for middle school youth.

Tonya, also a middle school teacher, says that the camp, 4 days, 3 nights, is designed to foster positive relationships between students, prevent youth violence, and teach what it takes to live a drug-free life. Counselors are selected from local high schools and local law enforcement personnel volunteer their time as staff.

WES was the perfect setting for the camp, with opportunities for hiking, games, pie eating, relay races, evening activities, skits and speakers. Cabin decorating appeared to be a favorite. The camp now takes place at Shasta College, where youth stay in the dorms, but everyone looks forward to the rebuild of the WES site.

To learn more about Shasta Youth Leadership camp, visit their website and see beautiful photos of WES!
<https://www.shastayouthleadershipcamp.com>



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.

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

CONTACT US:

Whiskeytown Environmental School Community
PO Box 3 Whiskeytown, CA 96095
530.440.5584 - Melinda Kashuba PhD, President
wescommunityinfo@gmail.com
www.wescommunity.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & LIAISONS

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



FOLLOW US:

Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/wescommunitylife/>
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/WESCommunity>
Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/wescommunity1>