



## Great Basin Outdoor School

"Hands-on Discovery in the Outdoor Classroom"

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### Back to School Time for Science Inquiry

Back-to-School time seems like a good time to share our mission for children, our guiding principle over the past 25+ years as relevant now as ever:

***"to ignite children's passion for learning and foster cooperation, respect, and responsibility through hands-on discovery in the outdoor classroom".***

Pictured above are girls excitedly using scientific instruments to gauge and understand water quality. Virtually all our activities are in natural outdoor settings inviting hands-on discovery and inquiry in small trail groups, and all are in Nevada. We're proud to be introducing both girls and boys of all ethnicities and socio-economic levels to environmental literacy, key to having the knowledge and skills to make sustainable decisions for the Earth and for their communities.

If your class or your child's teacher has not yet scheduled a science outing, consider the last week of September or the first week of October for day field studies at Galena Creek or Spooner Lake. The kids love hiking and netting macroinvertebrates to see what lives in our water and why it matters.

**[Here's a flier with dates.](#)**

**[Register](#) and [contact Emily](#) with questions.**

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### Family Bat Walk Thurs., Sept. 5

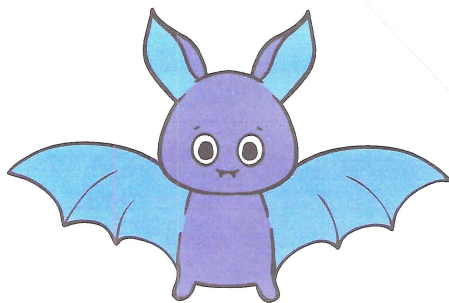
Bring the whole family for a delightful evening stroll along the Truckee River

learning the science of our local bat population. We need to thank these furry friends for their pest control and pollination, especially if you like bananas, chocolate, mangos, or tequila. Mexican Free-tailed Bats find roost sites near



water, and approximately 100,000 bats have established their summer home under the McCarran Bridge. You can learn more about bats on the [Nevada Department of Wildlife website](#) and learn about living with bats [here](#).

[Register for our walk here](#) and consider donating so we can continue to share family hikes.



### Fly Your Own Bat!

With just a few materials, kids can create their own flying bats and explore physics through play. This STEM or STEAM activity also makes a great extension activity to a bat unit or the popular picture book, *Stellaluna*. See

instructions and a free printable bat template (in both color and black and white) [here](#). (from "Buggy & Buddy")

#### Tips and Ideas to Try with Your Flying Bat Activity

- Try out both bat designs. Does one bat fly further than the other?
- Incorporate math into your activity by measuring how far your bat can fly. You can even have bat flying races with your friends!
- What happens if you modify your bats wings by bending them different directions? How does it affect the bat's flight. How does the angle of your straw before blowing affect your bats flight?

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**Science Camp is More than Science**



Did you get to go to camp as a child? How many children get that opportunity? As important as science education is, we also highly value the social and psychological benefits of our Tahoe Science Camps for children. Here are five big reasons camp is so meaningful and helps kids learn important lessons while having fun paraphrased from an article in *The Conversation*.

1. Kids gain independence. Being responsible for individual and group tasks away from family and school builds confidence.
2. Kids develop essential relationship skills. They make new friends and practice handling conflict and communication.
3. Kids learn to appreciate differences. Kids build awareness and empathy and can see the world differently than they might at home.
4. Kids connect with nature. They can explore the natural world in safety and develop an affinity for nature and outdoor activities.
5. Kids get to be kids. They put down their phones, engage authentically with one another and our world, and just have fun.

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### **Snowshoe at Tahoe**

Speaking of overnight Tahoe Science Camps and their benefits for children, ours are so popular that they're already full for this fall and spring, but we have openings in January



for winter ecology and snowshoeing. While it may seem odd to think about snowshoeing when it's 90 degrees out, now is the time to save a spot for your class for winter overnights in January or day snowshoeing in February.

Teachers, save a spot for your class with this [registration form](#) and by working with [our Director Emily](#).



“If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it.”

David Sobel



### **We're Hiring for Fall!**

Love kids, science, and nature? Join us on the shore of Lake Tahoe and at Galena Creek this fall. We will train you to share fun hands-on STEM activities with local students during multi-day science camps and



day field studies in September and October with potential for a year-round position.

[See more here](#) and send your resume, references, and cover letter with relevant experience to our Executive Director [Emily](#).

**We applaud the new Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation, the Nell J. Redfield Foundation, the John Ben Snow Foundation, Winter Wildlands Alliance, and others cooperating with us to increase support for underserved children, a priority we share.**



### **We love how monthly donations add up!**

Thanks to friends who support our work with regular monthly donations. Even small amounts add up and enable us to plan for the future and reach more children. Our online giving link offers the choice of one-time or monthly contributions

**Great Basin Outdoor School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.**

EIN 88-0396516

**Donations of any size are so appreciated!**

[Donate online securely here](#)

or mail checks to:

Great Basin Outdoor School, 1000 Bible Way #53, Reno, NV 89502.



*Please share these opportunities.*  
Forward to colleagues who care about kids and our Earth.

See more on our [website](#) and our [Facebook page](#).



## GREAT BASIN OUTDOOR SCHOOL

1000 Bible Way #53 - Reno, NV 89502  
775-324-0936

[Emily Baldwin](#), Executive Director  
[Derik Knak](#), Development Coordinator  
[Sue Jacox](#), Board President



Visit our  
website

Great Basin Outdoor School | 1000 Bible Way #53 | Reno, NV 89502 US

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