



Re: Suggested Expedition Fieldwork Donations for 2015-2016

Aug, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for enrolling your child in Sierra Expeditionary Learning School for the 2015-16 school year. We are looking forward to another great year and many wonderful adventures together. Our first five years have exceeded our expectations, in part due to the fantastic fieldwork we have been able to provide the students. We went on numerous camping trips and visited many exciting and educational places – sailing SF bay, SF City, Lassen National Park, area peaks and parks, TERC, Arts for the Schools performances, swimming, science museums/Monterey Bay Aquarium, and more.

One of the foundations of Sierra Expeditionary Learning School's philosophy is the value of learning from expeditions. While funding from the State of California supports a majority of classroom work, adventures beyond the classroom must be funded through other resources. SELS, like many charter schools, requests a yearly family donation to supplement state and local funding. This donation is included in our annual budget and is necessary to continue to provide the outstanding expeditions in which our children participate. Based on the amount collected from your donation participation, the funds are divided up and each crew is provided with a specific budget; the more we collect, the more the budget and the more fieldwork for students. Your donations will be used to pay for entrance fees, food, campsite fees, and other miscellaneous needs associated with your Crew's expedition. Our intent is to not further solicit families for money to pay for expedition costs throughout the year. In addition to your donation, our staff and Board of Directors actively pursue other sources of revenue such as grants and local scholarships to support expedition work. For example, last year we received approximately \$5500 from Excellence in Education for camping gear/supplies, mostly used for new tents.

We have realized that due to work schedules and other variables, fieldwork drivers are often the same parents. With high gas prices and time away from work, this has become an unshared cost to those who volunteer to drive. To alleviate this financial hardship, we will be using 10% of family donations to compensate drivers for gas costs (provided as a fixed amount/mile). While this change will not cover all additional driver costs, we hope this partial compensation will help to ease the financial burden for drivers. Please, try and drive on fieldwork at least once during the year; this commitment will help disperse the responsibility and help alleviate driver burnout.

We understand that making a financial contribution may not be possible for all families. All students will participate fully in off-site fieldwork whether or not their families provide a donation. We do ask that you try to donate what you are able, even if it is less than requested. For those of you who are able, we invite you to consider sponsoring a child from a family who is unable to donate (all sponsored student information is confidential). If you are unable to provide any financial donation, we ask that you contribute to the SELS community in other ways. Please speak with David Manahan and/or your child's teacher about the various volunteer opportunities available.

Many thanks for your willing participation and support of our program. Without this, SELS would not be the same deep and exploratory experience we have come to offer.

Please fill out the family donation information on the next page and return it to Sierra Expeditionary Learning School by September 1, 2015 at Back to School Night, or mail to: SELS, 11603 Donner Pass Rd, Truckee, CA 96161.

Thank you very much.

David Manahan, Director (530) 582-3701
SELS staff and Board of Director's

2015/2016 SELS Expedition Family Donation Sheet

Family of: _____.

| Student Name | Student Grade | Donation Amount: (per student) K/1 - \$200; 2/3-\$250; 4/5/6/7/8 -\$350 |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Sponsor another student: | | |

GRAND TOTAL: _____

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Donate in Full (and you are all done). Please send or drop off a check with this form by **9/1/15**.

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Donate Monthly - please send or drop off first payment with this form by **9/15/15**.

| | |
|---|---|
| Grand Total amount \$ _____ | Divide total by 10 and enter monthly donation \$ _____ |
| Please send /drop off first donation by 9/15/15 | Donations by the 15 th of each month |

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Donate Monthly online via PayPal. Use the monthly payment number above. Go to www.truckeecharterschool.org and set up the recurring donation starting 9/15/15 and ending 6/15/16.

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We are unable to fully contribute at this time. We are instead donating: \$ _____ to be submitted: In Full Monthly (circle one)

Please return this form by September 1, 2015 – Thank you!

** These donations are tax deductible. You will receive a donation receipt.

We are a 501c(3) non-profit corporation, Truckee Charter School Foundation, dba Sierra Expeditionary Learning School. Federal Tax ID: 27-1627347.