

The Interpreter



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We are ESIA

The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) is a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization whose mission is to educate and inspire people about Eastern Sierra public lands through high quality interpretive products, exhibits, and programs.

To learn more, please visit:
www.esiaonline.org

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Out and About with ESIA

We had a busy summer here in the Eastern Sierra! ESIA offered campfire programs every weekend at seven campgrounds along Highway 395. Topics ranged from Eastern Sierra geology to learning about our night sky. These outdoor educational programs are a fun and family friendly experience to learn and connect to this special region.

ESIA also kicked off our Mono Lake Patio Talks every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center where an ESIA naturalist discusses the natural history of the Mono Basin. We also helped our agency partners by providing interpretive tours at Mono Lake's South Tufa where we discuss the unique tufa formations, water chemistry, ecosystem, cultural history, and the ecological value of Mono Lake.

We assisted our local community of Mammoth Lakes by participating in the Eastern Sierra Book Festival, a free one-day celebration of books, reading, writing, and publishing organized by Jennifer Crittenden, ESIA's Board Treasurer. It's a great event to meet local authors and connect with our literary community.

We also volunteered with Storytime at the Mammoth Library and with the Mammoth Kids Corner Preschool where we educated kids on our local animal communities through interactive books, games, and crafts.



Jeff Gabriel, ESIA's Executive Director, talking about Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep at Whitney Portal Campground.



An excited group of students from the Eastern Sierra Youth Outdoor Program backpacking at Green Lake near Bishop Pass.

ESIA sponsored multiple stewardship programs this summer. One of which was the 5th Annual Eastern Sierra Youth Outdoor (ESYO) Program, a six-day backpacking and rock climbing kids camp in the Eastern Sierra directed by Todd Vogel, co-owner of Eastside Sports. This free program teaches students between the ages of 13 and 18 about the basics of backpacking and climbing in Bishop's backyard. We are thrilled to offer this program with Todd Vogel and hope to inspire Bishop's youth to participate next summer.

In collaboration with our agency partner, the Bureau of Land Management, ESIA sponsored the 6th Annual Arboglyph Extravaganza where twelve eager volunteers joined forces to document the historic messages left behind by Basque shepherders. Using aspen trees as their canvas, the herders used ten-penny nails, fingernails, and small pocketknives to carve records of their experiences trailing sheep in the Sierra Nevada for over a century. This event is coordinated by Nancy Hadlock and Richard Potashin of AspenLuv. To learn more, please visit www.aspenluv.net.

ESIA SPOTLIGHT: Our Resurrected Membership Program

The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) has been committed to serving the Sierra for nearly fifty years. In February 1970, ESIA signed one of the first Participating Agreements with the Inyo National Forest and just three months later signed a second Participating Agreement with the then Toiyabe National Forest. These agreements established a very unique partnership with the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests to communicate with the public about the importance of public lands of the Sierra. In 1972, ESIA received its legal status as a non-profit organization. Shortly thereafter, a tax-deductible membership program was unveiled where citizens could contribute to support the daily operations and future of ESIA.

ESIA went through some summer cleaning and discovered a long-lost treasure. Resurrected from the dusty file cabinets was a file containing original copies of the “charter” membership cards, letters of support, and newspaper clippings announcing the launch of the original membership program back in 1973. To add to our excitement, we came to find that the first charter member of ESIA was none other than Horace M. Albright, who was the instrumental force behind the establishment of the U.S. National Park Service and was its second director. He stated, “I am honored in the opportunity to become a charter member of the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association. The fascinating country East of the Sierra Nevada with its wide variety of scenic and recreational resources, its historic sites and structures, and its intensely interesting scientific features, has needed this type of organization, dedicated to the interpretation of this uniquely important and impressive part of California and Nevada, and to lead the way in gathering and dissemination of information about it.”

Your contribution supports the Sierra Nevada through:

- Improving visitor services and exhibits
- Growing our public interpretive programs & events
- Increasing stewardship projects on public lands

Another influential charter member of ESIA was Eastern Sierra activist, environmentalist, writer, and publisher, Genny Smith. Not only is Genny known for the countless books she wrote, published, and edited about the Sierra Nevada, she was instrumental in leading the campaign to end the trans-Sierra road that proposed to connect Mammoth Lakes to the Central Valley via the Minaret Summit.

“With the support of Genny, Horace, and many others, we are honored to share our love and knowledge of the Sierra as ESIA grows and flourishes nearly fifty years later”, said Jeff Gabriel, ESIA’s executive director. He added, “Today, ESIA has resurrected our membership program with the same intention as the original campaign, to help build a strong connection between the people and the public lands of the Sierra Nevada through educational products, programs, and exhibits.” Your member contribution allows ESIA to continue to educate and inspire the public to explore, protect, and care for this special region.

To learn more about the Sierra Partner Membership Program, please visit www.esiaonline.org/join-us or email **Wils Cain**, ESIA’s Communications & Membership Manager, at wils@esiaonline.org

Join Today!

Contribute \$35+ and receive:

- A discount on ESIA retail items and events (both in stores and online)
- An ESIA Member gift
- ESIA’s quarterly newsletter - **The Interpreter**
- A discount at 400+ Public Lands Alliance participating member locations nationwide

Thank you for caring for the Sierra Nevada



Our new ESIA member gifts have arrived! All members receive a tote bag, donations of \$100+ receive a water bottle, and \$250+ receive an artisan mug.

ESIA Fall Community Programs

• • • Inyo County School Programs • • •

ESIA partners with the Inyo County Office of Education (ICOE) providing outdoor education to schools in the Owens Valley from Lone Pine to Round Valley. We assist with the monthly Taking Root Program, where 3rd grade students learn how to think like a naturalist by observing the world around them. In an outdoor setting, students learn to use their senses, curiosity, and imagination to ask questions and make intellectual and emotional connections with their environment.

We also assist with ICOE's Eastern Sierra Watershed Project (ESWP), offering field science opportunities to 2nd, 4th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes. The field data obtained through ESWP is then used by the Lower Owens River Project to support the historic re-watering of the Lower Owens River. Students learn about watersheds, water quality, and water resources management through hands-on outdoor scientific data collection and experiments throughout the school year.

• • • Mono County Library Programs • • •

We are excited to announce that ESIA will be extending our volunteering efforts with Storytime Programs to the Lee Vining and Bridgeport Branch Libraries in addition to the Mammoth Branch Library every month. Storytime is an amazing program that engages children of all ages to learn about our local animal communities, plants, and landscapes through literature, activities, and crafts.

To learn more, please visit: www.monocolibraries.org/programs/storytime



A student observes a bird in a tree during the 3rd grade Taking Root birding outing at Round Valley School.



John Kelly, ESIA Volunteer, searches for aquatic invertebrates with a student at Fish Slough with the Eastern Sierra Watershed Project.

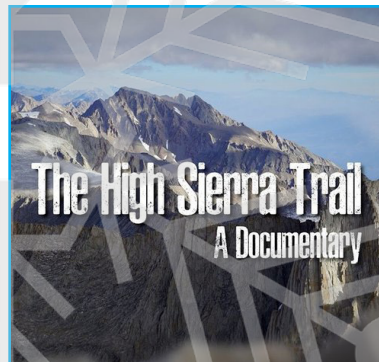
Stay Tuned for Our Winter Programs!



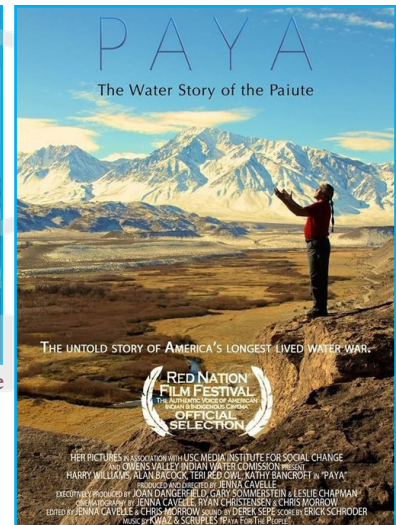
A group of 5th grade students learn about the water cycle and watersheds during SnowSchool last February.

Our outdoor education programs are year-round! SnowSchool is a national education program founded by the Winter Wildlands Alliance (WWA). ESIA joins forces with WWA and Friends of the Inyo to offer SnowSchool to 5th grade classes in Bishop and Mammoth. Beginning in the fall, students learn about the water cycle and watersheds in the classroom. In February and March, the students learn about snow science including snow water equivalent, snowflake structures, traveling on snow safely, winter ecology, and how to use snowshoes. Then we take what we've learned to the snowy landscapes, where the kids utilize their snow science skills in the wild.

ESIA is organizing the Winter Adventure Series for the fourth year in collaboration with the Mammoth Lakes Recreation and Measure U. The Winter Adventure Series seeks to educate, motivate, and inspire attendees to explore the Eastern Sierra through presentations and films by professional athletes, photographers, filmmakers, scientists, and outdoor adventurers. The series will begin in January, stay tuned!



Films from the 2018 Winter Adventure Series. Keep an eye out for this winter's Adventure Series line-up.





Fall 2019 Events!



Visit our website for more information and to purchase tickets:
www.esiaonline.org

Authors and Artists Series

October 5th at 7 pm - U.S. Forest Service Auditorium - Mammoth Lakes, CA

Join us for a fun, family-friendly, and educational evening program featuring G Dan Mitchell, author of *California's Fall Color - A Photographer's Guide to Autumn in the Sierra*. This free program will offer tips and tricks to photographing the fall colors of the Sierra.

4th Annual Eastern Sierra History Conference

October 25th - 27th - SNARL Page Center - Mammoth Lakes, CA

Interested in the natural and cultural history of the Eastern Sierra? We have an exciting line-up of speakers joining us this year along with some amazing Sunday tours. The cost of the 3-day conference will be \$110, seniors \$85, and students \$20 including the Saturday night dinner. Single day charges will be \$50 for Friday and \$75 for Saturday including dinner. The field trips are included in the conference cost. For those not registered with the conference, each tour will cost \$40.

Mountainfilm on Tour:

This traveling documentary film festival focuses on environmental, adventurous, and cultural topics seeking to inspire people about the exciting world we live in. ESIA is honored to host three evenings in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes, and Reno showing a selection of the best short films from the festival. Doors open at 6 pm and the films start at 7 pm at each screening.

November 7th - Tallman Pavilion - Bishop, CA

November 8th - U.S. Forest Service Auditorium - Mammoth Lakes, CA

November 9th - Nevada Museum of Art - Reno, NV



Historical photo of Tioga Road from *Tales Along El Camino*. Photo provided by David Woodruff.



A film from Mountainfilm on Tour 2018 at Mammoth Lakes, CA.

• Interpretation Corner • LEAVE NO TRACE •

What is Leave No Trace ?

Leave No Trace addresses the impacts humans have on the environment and provides techniques to experience the outdoors safely and sustainably.



Why is Leave No Trace important?

The Sierra Nevada offers an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities, such as hiking, camping, rock climbing, fishing, backpacking, and more! People are not only drawn to the outdoors to recreate, but to also unplug and recharge. We feel a unique connection with nature, therefore learning how to experience the outdoors in a safe and sustainable way is crucial.

Following the Leave No Trace principles are a simple approach to protect our public lands.

The 7 Leave No Trace Principles:

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impacts
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors