

# Great Basin Naturalists - Field Studies

## *Outdoor learning at the Galena Creek Visitor Center*

### Research Team Series

(Grades 9-12)

With Galena Creek Park as their laboratory, students will use professional scientific monitoring techniques to explore desert, alpine, and riparian ecosystems. Modules are designed to place an emphasis on scientific creativity as students create their own observations, methods, and questions.

Teachers have the option of extending their Field Studies through multiple visits, in-class data analysis and discussion, and student presentations at the Visitor Center.



### Saving Streams

Students will learn the signs of a healthy stream as they monitor the physical traits and invertebrate life of Galena and Jones Creeks.

### Insect Diversity

Students will find and ID insects across different habitat transects for comparison, while learning about the weirdness and importance of bugs.



### Bird Behavior

Learn how to find and identify birds over a forest transect. Students will also track the birds' plant use and behavior to understand their habitat requirements.



### Plant Adaptations

How do plants survive the extremes in an alpine forest and high desert? Students will learn about plant physiology, competition, disease and adaptations as they find examples in Galena's diverse botany.

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### Young Explorer Series

(Grades K-8)

Explore the outdoors through games, nature hikes, and inquiry based education. Students of every age will be challenged to stop, look, listen, and ask questions. Each lesson includes two hours of instruction plus an optional lunch break.

### Meet Jeff

Using Galena Creek's stately Jeffrey Pine as our guide, students will learn about life as a tree: how they're built, how they grow, and what makes them sick.



### Transitions

What changes between the high alpine tundra of Mt. Rose and the Great Basin desert? And why? Learn how earth, water, wind and fire shape the dramatic landscape of Washoe County.



### Life in the Water

There's more to a babbling creek than first meets the eye, as students will learn as they discover the lives (and hiding places!) of macroinvertebrates and the signs of a healthy stream.

### Insect Planet

The world runs on bug power. By exploring the park, students will learn about the weird bodies and important roles insects inhabit that keep the world blooming.

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*(Young Explorer Series continued)*

## Beaks and Feet

Animals have adapted in unique and interesting ways to survive the winter snow and desert heat of the eastern Sierras. Students will build an “animal”, go birding, and learn how animals contribute to their ecosystems.

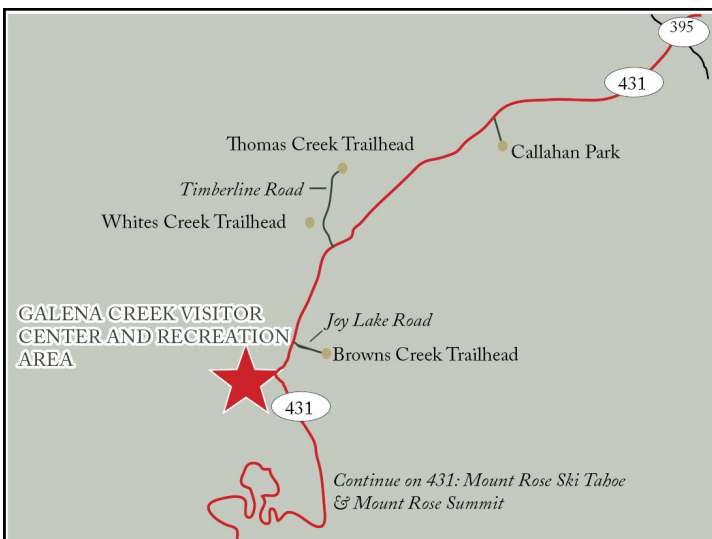
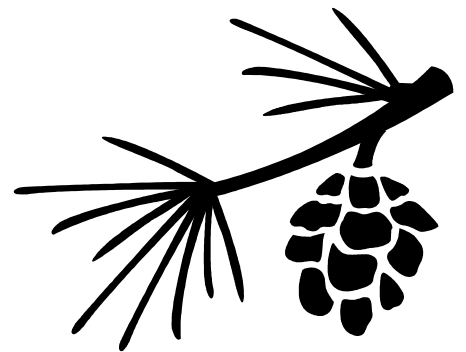
## Young Historian Series

Grades K-5

Life in the Great Basin before the arrival of European explorers, the hardships of pioneer travel, the triumphs of early settlers, earning a living in a new world—these are some of the stories that will be told in the Young Historian Series. Lessons will focus on creating a sense of connection to our shared history through games, writing, guided activities and exploration. Each lesson includes two hours of instruction with an optional lunch break.

## Ways of the Washoe

Using Galena Creek Nature Trail as a pathway through time, students will learn about our first residents—The Washoe Tribe. They'll explore traditional life, human influences on the landscape, break stereotypes, and learn about modern Washoe culture. Includes journal writing, visualization, and toy and tool making.



All field trips are offered through the Galena Creek Visitor Center, which is operated by the Great Basin Institute through a special agreement with Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space. The Great Basin Institute is an interdisciplinary field studies organization that promotes environmental research, education, and conservation throughout the West.



**Location:** Galena Creek Visitor Center  
18250 Mount Rose Hwy

**Cost:** \$5 per child

**Date:** Trips begin April 13

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