Kids Encounter Nature at Burton Homestead Summer Camps

Bear Yuba Land Trust's beautiful Burton Homestead at 16200 Lake Vera Purdon Road in Nevada City will offer expanded youth programming all summer long.

BYLT is excited to offer more camp opportunities for local families this year by teaming up with Sierra Harvest (Food Love Project), Sierra Streams Institute and 4 Elements Earth Education (Fox Walkers).

BYLT's popular Earth Encounters summer day camp has always been a great way for children to engage with nature. Burton Homestead is a 38-acre parkland donated by retired Nevada County librarian Francis Burton for the purpose of education and the love of nature. Led by Camp Director Corinna Kirkland-Caplan, our summer camp is staffed by experienced environmental educators who know how to have fun!

Guest speakers from diverse backgrounds visit BYLT's camp to share their knowledge of the natural world. Participants sing songs, make nature crafts, play games, and learn through science-based activities like studying pond life and planting seeds at the farm.

As always, BYLT's summer youth camps are available for children ages 4-12. Volunteer opportunities are available for teens 13-17 with the Junior Steward Youth Leadership Program. Three weeks of half-day and full-day programs are held in June. Our friend organizations will continue to provide quality programming in July and August, giving families even more ways to encounter nature.
Message from BYLT’s Executive Director
Marty Coleman-Hunt

When I was young my family had a summer home on a lake in Michigan. Dad would work in the hot, muggy city and meet us on the weekend while Mom and the kids stayed cool at the lake. I ran around barefoot all day with nothing but a bathing suit on and a t-shirt over it. Everyday I was basically a free range kid. We lived on an island, the homes were scattered around the perimeter, mostly uninhabited because, well it was a vacation lake in the middle of nowhere. There was a small gang of summer kids my age.

I had access to an aluminum rowboat with a 7-1/2 horsepower motor that Patty, my best friend and I could tool around the lake with. We’d go out with a large bucket, a net, a can of paint and a paintbrush. We’d look for turtles in the reedy areas with fallen trees, where turtles liked to bask in the sun. When we’d catch them, we’d paint our initials on their backs to signify to the other adolescent turtle hunters that this one was mine already. When we’d fine one with our initials on its back, well that was really cool. I wouldn’t release my turtle right away because it took a lot of effort to catch the thing. You’d have to know what types of lures they preferred and how to sneak up on them. You’d have to observe them quietly for awhile. So when I caught one, I’d have a nice conversation with it nose-to-nose. I’d say “you’re my responsibility now, you can count on me.” I’d tell my turtle about myself – I’m 12 years old, in the 6th grade at Harrison Hill Elementary School, and I’d wonder about its life out here with the dragonflies and minnows and where it goes when the winter freeze locks up the lake.

That’s why I do what I do today. I think about my daughter and how she never was a free range kid, never caught a turtle unsupervised, never pledged to be its protector. She never had a personal relationship with the wild. Oh we’d go to lakes but only those with public beaches and trails you had to ‘stay on’, and even forbid she’d wander off onto private property. It makes me wonder how she thinks about her place in the world and her responsibility toward the turtles and other creatures. I worry about the decisions people will need to make, who’ve never had intimate encounters with nature.

My concerns are not uncommon. Research has uncovered that adults who have fallen in love with nature, the woods, the hills, the streams and rivers can likely trace that love back to their childhoods. Our kids’ relationship to the outdoors is different today. Spending more time online and indoors, they are losing their unstructured and intimate connections to nature. Time outdoors is most often for structured or organized activities such as sports. While sports has it’s many benefits, the importance of unstructured play, a time when kids are free to create their own activities cannot be underestimated.

This disconnect could be bad for conservation. What will happen to land conservation efforts if future generations don’t know what it’s like to see an animal in the wild, sit in a tree, or explore a cool, clear stream? Will they fight to save that which they have never experienced firsthand?

Land trusts have access to acres and acres of protected open space which is ideal for children to explore the natural world, places like Burton Homestead where there are teachers and counselors who show them how do identify animal tracks or how a plum tomato starts as a tiny seed. We are committed to programs that get kids outdoors. It’s an investment in them, and in the future of our planet. Please join us.
In a New Land

Editor’s Note: Emily Sugarman is among a team of ten young people – team Green 2 – part of the AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps). Each year, about 1,000 adults age 18-24 devote 10 months to the national program. Sugarman and her teammates are camping out at the Burton Homestead for seven weeks, working for Bear Yuba Land Trust and others in the community. This is Emily’s story.

I applied for AmeriCorps NCCC during my senior year of high school as a way to spring out of Buffalo, New York’s snow globe that I know and onto something meaningful, productive, and adventurous that did not involve a classroom.

Our team is a geographically diverse bunch with different backgrounds and personalities. In October, after getting accepted to the program, we travelled to Sacramento to serve the Pacific Region, one of the five regional bases, where we came together as a team of ten – team Green 2. The game plan was to participate in one month of preparation training, and then onto four distinctive service projects ranging six to eight weeks in length, to address a variety of community needs.

"New people, new places I didn’t know existed, weird and random projects," said my teammate, Will.

Coming in feeling romantic about changing the world, I did not know that NCCC would shake me by the shoulders and shout, "let me strip you of your individuality and dress you in this uniform, let me take away your freedom and feed you canned food, let me shove you into this stinky van and make you work hard all day with no play."

Is it all worth it? In retrospect, the nature of our work while living interdependently has humbled me and made me realize that the world is unconditionally bigger and more important than me.

"The people whose lives we benefit greatly motivate me," said my teammate Trent.

Whether we are literally helping a family or finding meaning in the power of our team as a family, it is all worth it.

We have worked in Corvallis, Oregon, where we planted over 80,000 native plants and the inner city of Los Angeles working with youth.

At the Burton Homestead, I awake every morning, shivering a little and climb out of my tent located on a hill called “Moon Hut,” by the Tsi-Akim Maidu. We slide into our work boots, eat granola or pop tarts, drink coffee and head out to the BYLT office. Stewardship Coordinator Cathy Shirley and Stewardship Program Manager Erin Tarr are always there to greet us warmly.

We build trails with wise and gentle Bill Haire or pull Scotch broom and blackberry. We have worked with the Food Love Project, Fox Walkers, Nevada County Food Bank, Animal Place, Chico Nature Reserve and Lifetime Adoption.

Soon it will be time to leave and we’ll be off to our different lives. Wherever we go, the ten of us have shared crazy experiences, something that will connect us forever.

By Emily Sugarman

Go Team Green 2!

For the second year in a row, BYLT has been lucky enough to get assigned an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corp (NCCC) crew. Five guys and five girls have been working hard every day since April 2 making BYLT lands healthier and have expanded our public trail system.

BYLT benefits hugely from having this team work alongside our Lands and Trails Department. They will leave behind many completed projects that Nevada County will benefit from for years to come such as: The trail at Black Swan Preserve, a kiosk at Adam Ryan Preserve and an educational/informative Blackberry Trail. We have worked with a few of our Conservation Easement landowners to complete small projects on their lands to help ensure conservation values are protected. On their days off, the crew has been involved with many non-BYLT volunteer projects.

Their positive attitudes and eagerness to experience new things makes them such a welcome asset to the BYLT team every year. Surely each member will go on to accomplish great things and maybe a few will end up back in Nevada County one day.

By Stewardship Program Manager, Erin Tarr

For more information, visit us online at www.BYLT.org or call us at 530-272-5994

Kelly Cline and Kiley Bourdeau of NCCC are learning the ethic of hard work and the rewards of land stewardship.
Time for Camp!

Bear Yuba Land Trust Earth Encounters Summer Camps

Session 1: Indigenous Peoples Celebration Camp
Campers learn about indigenous culture through drumming, storytelling, tracking, shelter making, games, and traditional arts and crafts. Children will have the opportunity to visit the Tsi-Akim Maidu Active Cultural Center located on the Burton Homestead land. A healthy snack is provided.
When: June 9 – June 13
Half day – 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Full day – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Cost: $100 half-day, $170 full-day
Age: 7-12

Session 2: Earth Education Camp
Kids explore nature at Earth Education Camp. Campers learn through hands-on science projects as they study animals, identify birdcalls, make shelters, play eco-games, and make nature crafts. In addition, campers will participate in traditional summer camp fun with songs, activities, games, and nature crafts. Healthy snacks are provided.
When: June 16 – June 20
Half day – 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Full day – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Cost: $100 half-day, $170 full-day
Age: 7-12

Session 3: Kinder Camp
Kinder Camp gives younger children an opportunity to have an exciting, safe, and educational summer camp experience. Inspired by the natural environment of Burton Homestead, campers sing songs, make arts and crafts, go on nature walks and play lots of outdoor games. A great introduction to camp! A healthy snack is provided.
When: June 23 – June 27
Half day only: 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Cost: $100
Age: 4-6

Junior Stewards
Youth ages 13 to 17 are invited to apply for our Junior Steward Youth Leadership program. Participants will learn leadership skills, lead camp activities while connecting with nature. There is no cost to participants and snacks and drinks will be provided. Contact Cathy Shirley for more information: cathy@bylt.org.

What to Bring to Camp
For comfort and safety, campers should arrive each day with the following:

- Water Bottle (a refill station is provided)
- Sunscreen
- Closed toed shoes
- Hat
- Layered clothing
- Lunch (full-day campers)
- Extra snack items (optional)

Please leave electronics and valuables at home.
Camp Scholarships

A positive camp experience can change lives. Children who play outdoors are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills, a better self-image and lead more fulfilling lives. Yet a growing number of families in our community can't afford to send their children to camp.

Camp Director Corinna Kirkland-Caplan knows firsthand the positive impacts camp can have on a child’s life. She remembers one boy, age 7 who struggled socially in groups. He yelled, cried and tried to run away. After a few days in nature, Corinna noticed a transformation.

"With love and attention from our staff, he changed. He started participating. Instead of tears there was now laughter and enthusiasm," said Corinna.

That boy was one of 30 kids who went to Bear Yuba Land Trust’s Earth Encounters Summer Camp last year because of scholarships from supporters like you.

Sending a child to BYLT’s Summer Camp at Burton Homestead is a gift that can last a lifetime. Camp can foster a wonder of nature and a feeling of personal responsibility to help conserve the environment. Our natural landscapes need the support and protection of individuals with a strong connection to the outdoors. Today’s children are tomorrow’s adult conservationists.

**Make a difference in a child’s life.**

**Give a child the gift of BYLT Summer Camp.**

A $100 gift will send a child to a half-day session of camp for a week and a $170 gift will send a child to camp full-time for a week.

Any gift is welcome and appreciated.

To make a donation to the Camp Scholarship Fund call Jean at 272-5994 x 205.

Thank You.

Camp Wish List

Want to support BYLT’s summer camps? We can always use donated materials.

- Embroidery Floss/ thread
- Craft Feathers
- Modeling Clay
- Wax Paper
- Aluminum Foil
- Plastic Wrap
- Tracing Paper
- Construction Paper
- Borax (2 boxes)
- Food Coloring (1 set)
- Zip-lock bags (at least 70)
- Tissue Paper, Multi-colored
- Bird seed
- Washable markers
- Felt
- Googly eyes
- Native Seeds
- Masking Tape
- Duct Tape
- Clear Tape
- Paint (Tempera)

Visit us online for more information at [www.BearYubaLandTrust.org](http://www.BearYubaLandTrust.org) or call our office 530-272-5994
A Day to Remember

In April, Bear Yuba Land Trust, 49er Breakfast Rotary of Nevada City and the Adaptive PE department at Nevada Union High School sponsored a memorable day at Black Swan Diggins for special needs kids. Called a “Frog-a-Thon” the event was originally meant to be a day of catching invasive bullfrogs and removing them from the pond. However, the frogs must have seen the group of approximately 70 people coming. There was not a frog to be found! Invasive bullfrogs are considered a nuisance and eat native frogs and Western pond turtle babies. Removed bullfrogs are frozen and given to Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation to feed to recovering raptors.

Serving as mentors and assistants, a handful of Block N Club high school students accompanied the special needs kids as part of their commitment to community service. Rotarians, teachers, parents, and BYLT staff also attended.

The idea was first hatched at a Rotary meeting when Jane Fraser (daughter of BYLT Board Director Brent Fraser) gave a talk about her senior project. Black Swan Property Owner Brian Bisnett and BYLT Community Program Manager Melony Vance were so impressed with Jane’s poise and presentation that they decided an outing at Black Swan would be a great way to get to know some of her young peers. With the coordination of Teacher Amy Vanvoorst of Nevada Union High School, the project was launched.

Though no frogs were found that day, the kids didn’t seem to care. They hiked one-half mile into the pond area, looked for elusive amphibians, admired the pond’s geese and ducks, searched for pollywogs in the mossy waters, and freely explored the property on a beautiful, sunny day. One young man, with the assistance of a Rotarian, even reeled in a small fish. During lunch, Kristen Hein Strohm and Stephen Hein entertained the group with a selection of nature songs. It was a satisfying day for everyone.

Melony Vance, Community Program Manager

The Land Trust received the nicest “Thank You” card from a great bunch of kids after a very special day at Black Swan.
Celebration of Trails 2014

Bear Yuba Land Trust is teaming up with our community to host a number of guided outings on local trails in Nevada County for the annual “Celebration of Trails.”

Coinciding with National Trails Day, this year's free event is open to all and meant to encourage more people to get outdoors on local trails. We will headquarter from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday June 7 in the parking lot of Nevada County's Rood Center parking lot, across from the trailhead of the Hirschman Trail. People can stop by information booths, grab a cup of coffee and a baked good, register for the event, pick up the day’s schedule and check out local maps.

The day’s activities include: Three Mountain Bike Rides led by BONC - A Beginner/ Family Bike Ride in Nevada City, an Intermediate Bike Ride on the Hirschman Trail and an Advanced Bike Ride on Round Mountain; All Access Stroll and Roll on Hirschman Trail led by FREED; a Tour of Sugar Loaf Mountain led by Ray Bryars; A Taste of the South Yuba River led by Hank Meals; a hike in Spenceville Wildlife Area led by Richard Thomas, Friends of Spenceville; Beginning Equestrian Ride to Lone Grave led by Gold Country Trails Council; A Nevada City Tree Tour led by Nevada County Walkers; A hike on the Tribute Trail led by the Sierra Fund; A Hike from Lang’s Crossing to Spaulding Lake led by Sierra Club; a walk on the Hard Rock Trail led by Empire Mine State Historic Park; A Geology Tour at Malakoff Diggins led by David Lawler; and A Walk on the Environs Loop of the Deer Creek Tribute Trail with Sierra Streams Institute.

For a complete schedule visit: www.bylt.org

14th Annual Stars Benefit Concert - Summer Jazz Series

Get your tickets for Bear Yuba Land Trust's series of outdoor summer jazz concerts on the lawn at the beautiful North Star House, part of the 14th Annual Stars Benefit Concert.

The Land Trust will host three intimate Sunday afternoon concerts featuring some of jazz music's greatest stars and local talent. The event kicks off Sunday July 27 with internationally celebrated contemporary jazz pianist and composer David Benoit. Local favorites, The Sierra-5 from the Sierra Jazz Society will perform blues, jazz and swing on Sunday, August 24 followed by Poncho Sanchez and his Latin Jazz Band who will bring the series to a fiery conclusion on Sunday, September 28.

“We're delighted to offer a variety of jazz artists to our community with something for everyone including contemporary cool jazz, a blues jazz dance party and the hottest Latin jazz,” said Marty Coleman-Hunt, BYLT’s Executive Director.

Proceeds from BYLT’s largest fundraiser of the year will support continuing land conservation, trail building and outdoor programs.

The July 27 kick off concert will include BYLT’s popular Gala Dinner – a delicious gourmet meal prepared by Emily’s Catering and Cakes. Silent and live auctions will feature the finest quality art, jewelry, vacation trips, practical goods and services. A variety of food vendors and a beer and wine bar are available for general admission ticket holders.

Groups who desire to “upscale” their picnics during the August and September concerts, can pre-arrange rental of tables and pre-order boxed picnic dinners from Christopher's Deli and Antonio Ayestaran Custom Catering.

For more information visit: www.bylt.org

For more information, visit us online at www.BYLT.org or call us at 530-272-5994
Celebration of Trails
Saturday, June 7, 2014
COME CELEBRATE LOCAL TRAILS!
Begins at 8 a.m.
At the Trails Day Headquarters:
Nevada County Government Parking Lot
950 Maidu Ave., Nevada City
Start the morning with Booths, Local Maps, Coffee & Baked Goods
Beginner Bike Ride on the Hirschman Trail, Sierra Nevada hike, South Yuba River hike, Geology Tour at Malakoff Diggins State Park, Hard Rock Trail at Empire Mine, Spenceville Wildlife Area, Black Swan, Tribute Trail, Environ Trail, Rattlesnake Trail, Hirschman Trail, Nevada City Tree Tour, Intermediate Bike Ride on Round Mountain and a walk to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain
After Trail Gathering at Matteo's Public

Upcoming Treks for 2014

June 4 ............... Walk and Roll on Wednesdays: Independence Trail
June 17 ............. Treks on Tuesday: Kenny Ranch Trails
June 21 ............. Sierran Rock Art
June 28 .............. EquiTrek: Grouse Ridge
July 12 .............. Wildflowers of Grouse Ridge
July 15 .............. Treks on Tuesday: Litton Trail
July 19 .............. Van Norden Meadow
July 26 .............. Blue Lake & Beyond
August 16 .......... Nature Play: Gold Lakes Basin
August 19 .......... Treks on Tuesday: Loma Rica
September 3 ...... Walk & Roll on Wednesdays: Sierra Discovery Trail
September 8 ...... Treks for the Mind: Wisdom of the Last Farmer
September 13 ..... Castle Peak/Basin Peak
September 16 ..... Treks on Tuesday: Empire Mine
September 19 ..... Draft Horse Classic Barn Tour & Show

Join us in our commitment to the land.
Please recycle this newsletter.