



**MUSEUM**  
**OF THE SIERRA**  
AND EDUCATION CENTER

# K-12 FIELD TRIP GUIDE



**2026**



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# LETTER

Welcome,

We are honored to invite you and your school group to experience a Sierra education with a field trip to our museum.

With thousands of visitors annually, the Museum of the Sierra is well-versed in communicating with a diverse audience across age ranges. Our knowledgeable cohort of staff and volunteers are eager to introduce you to a myriad of topics, ranging from the historical accounts of pioneers past to the science behind natural phenomena seen today.

Field trips we host align with state and national standards. Our trip programs are flexible to meet your educational needs, be they subject-specific for the classroom or broad leadership and team-building activities.

This guide has been designed to help you envision, plan, and implement a field trip for your group. Booking a field trip with the museum is easy; simply fill out our field trip interest form online or mail us the form in the back of this document with your information. We hope to hear from you soon!

Thank you for your time and attention,



Seth Chrisman  
Education Coordinator



Jeanine Halbrook  
Director of Operations

# MUSEUM OVERVIEW



The Museum of the Sierra was founded in 1991 by the Central Sierra Historical Society with the mission of building a museum without walls. Today, that mission stands proud as we invite you to learn the history of the Central Sierra both in our museum building and in the 19 acres of forest surrounding us. Explore exhibits and engage in programs that cover the natural and human history of this region, and leave with an informed understanding of how to better be a steward of our mountain home



*Museum Main Entrance*

## MUSEUM MISSION:

*"The Mission of the Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum, Inc. (CSHS) is to provide cultural and educational experiences to deepen the understanding of the human and natural history of the Sierra region. The CSHS is a museum without walls inspiring future generations to nurture a healthy resilient forest and community."*

# EXHIBITS & AMENITIES

Our exhibits lead you through the story of the Central Sierra, from its geologic foundations to the people who live upon them. Be inspired by displays featuring Mono and Yokuts basketry, historical film from the early 20th century, and the behaviors of native wildlife. We continually rotate items and themed exhibits to ensure every visit is primed for new opportunities to learn.

## INSIDE EXHIBITS

- Native American Hall
- Mills & Logging
- Hydroelectric Hall
- Ranchers' Corner
- Rails & Trains
- Botany Cabinet
- Taxidermy
- Birds of the Sierra
- Scats & Tracks
- Rotating Exhibits & Displays



## OUTSIDE EXHIBITS

- Redinger Powerhouse
- Steam Donkey
- Flume Tender's Cabin
- SJ&E Caboose
- Nobe
- Mack Truck Barn
- Nature Trail
- Ward Tunnel Segment
- Linda's Botanical Walk
- Hayden Sawmill (*coming soon!*)



# FEATURED DISPLAYS



Grizzly Bear & Dinkey



Bretz Brothers' Safe



Shaver Mill Diarama



Basket Cabinet

## AMENITIES

### Media Room

- Holds up to 120 people
- Ceiling-mounted projector and screen, sound system, tables & chairs, and capacity to host indoor programs

### Outdoor Amphitheatre

- Seats up to 230 people
- Forested venue with sound system, porta potties, central access to outdoor exhibits

### On-Site Restrooms & Water Fountain

*Please note that we do not provide food at the museum, nor do we offer on-site vending services. Local catering options around Shaver, Tollhouse, or Prather may be available.*



# FIELD TRIPS

We offer field trips for groups of all ages, primarily serving schools with children from grades K–12. Our field trips are flexible and customizable to suit your classroom needs. The programs we hold align with Next Generation Science Standards and History Social-Science Standards (NGSS and HSS), guiding students through hands-on activities that engage their critical thinking in a mountain environment.



When you schedule a field trip with us, you will have a wide selection of programs to choose from. These programs are tailored to your class, allowing you access to in-depth educational experiences delivered in a manner that is age-appropriate and mindful of your students' needs. Build your day with us when you book by choosing from the following programs for your class:

- *Docent-Led Museum Tour*
- *Native Americans of the Central Sierra*
- *Hydroelectricity*
- *Railroad History*
- *Logging & Forestry*
- *Fire Science*
- *Ranching & Grazing*
- *Geology & Mining*
- *Sierra Flora*
- *Sierra Fauna*





## COST

Students: **\$5/student**

Teachers & Chaperones: **\$8/teacher**

*Note: We require a minimum of 1 teacher or chaperone for every 8 students*



## DIRECTIONS

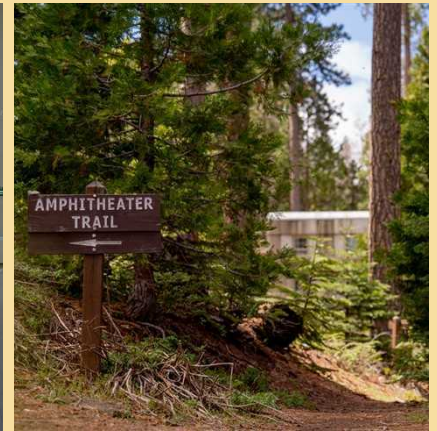
- Driving up 168, go through the town of Shaver and pass Ken's Market
- At the entrance to Camp Edison, turn right
- Drive for less than 0.1mi and turn into the entrance for the museum at the right



# PROGRAMS

## DOCENT-LED MUSEUM TOUR

Tour the Museum, led by one of our local volunteers or staff. Be guided throughout our buildings & grounds with a complete overview of our mountain region. Get an insider experience with a dedicated docent who may answer any questions you have, enhancing your visit with information geared towards your interests. Perfect for groups wanting an introduction to the Central Sierra.



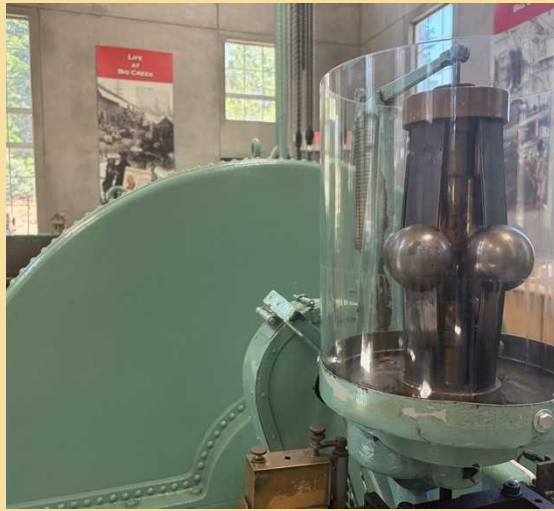
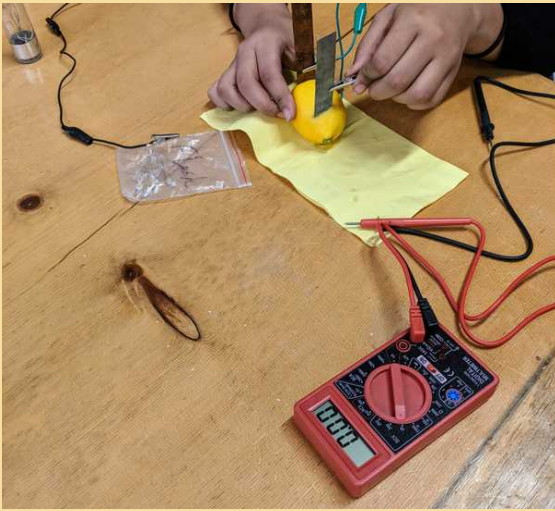
## NATIVE AMERICANS OF THE CENTRAL SIERRA

Listen to the lives, stories, and cultures of those whose ancestors have lived in these mountains for thousands of years. Familiarize yourself with indigenous peoples of the region and consider aspects of native life including subsistence hunting and foraging, cooperation and conflict within tribes and with western settlers, and how communities address issues today.



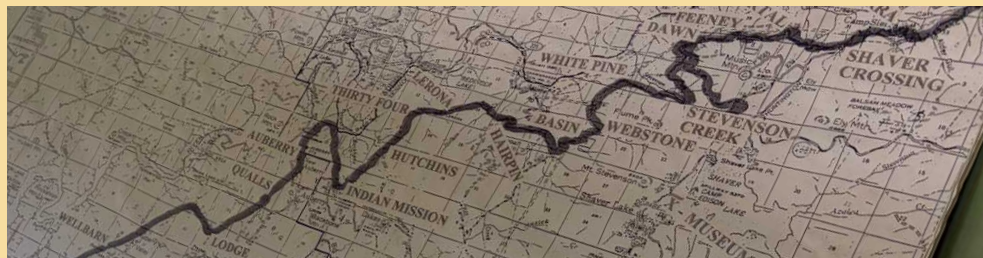
# HYDROELECTRICITY

Spark your imagination and leave knowing how to answer the question: what does it take to power our daily lives? In the era of cell phones, artificial chatbots, and virtual reality, our world is ever-increasingly electrified. Contextualize our energy consumption at its source by learning what exactly electricity is, how it can be generated, and who produces it. Hosted at Redinger Powerhouse, the only working power station museum exhibit in the world.



# RAILROADS OF THE SIERRA

Rail transportation has been one of the most crucial elements of human development in the world. Learn the importance of rail infrastructure in the Central Sierra and its role in creating Shaver Lake, the timber that built Fresno, and the electricity that powers Los Angeles. Chart the routes of the SLRR and SJ&E and read the landscape to see signs of antique rail in the world today.



# LOGGING & FORESTRY

Experience the operations of a living working forest and think critically about how natural resources may best be managed. See what it takes to turn a tree into a house and gain an appreciation for the many hands involved along the way. Learn the history of local logging and forest management practices, from complex problems faced to the ways peoples past & present address them in an effort to be better stewards of the land.



## FIRE SCIENCE

Fight fire, and fire's stigma, by diving deep into fire science with the experts. Gain critical insight into the ecology of fire and how the layered history of fire suppression has shaped society in the Sierra and across the nation. Witness the effects of various types of fires and be able to explain how low-intensity, high-intensity, and controlled burns uniquely affect the environment.



# RANCHING & GRAZING

Ranchers have played a key role in the story, economy, and culture of the Central Sierra since the first livestock arrived here in the second half of the 19th century. Learn about the different waves of immigrants who drove sheep, goats, cattle, and mules into the pine meadows, and how their descendants continue the drive while navigating current challenges.



# GEOLOGY & MINING

Geologic interests around our mountains are vast in scope, covering Gold Rush mining to mineral surveys of ancient river beds. Follow the footsteps of geologists in understanding how the Sierra Nevada mountains formed and the physics involved in creating our distinct landscape. Explore the interplay between the water, nutrient, and life cycles on Earth and listen to how geologists apply their knowledge across industries.



# SIERRA FLORA

Discover our diverse array of plant life, both native & non-native, and its role in the environment and the story of us. Build a botanically-centered understanding of the environment, from how plants create matter from air to the relationship between plant morphologies and their functions. Practice taxonomical organization and understand relationships between species.



# SIERRA FAUNA

Explore the animals of the Central Sierra. Get an overview of critters present in our forests and zoom in on their behaviors, physical adaptations, relationships, or environmental roles with one of our expert partners in wildlife biology. Identify patterns in nature, develop models to explain causal relationships, and construct evidence-based arguments explaining observations in the animal kingdom.



# BOOK YOUR TRIP

**Booking a field trip with us at the Museum of the Sierra is easy. There are three ways you can schedule your visit:**

1. Fill out our online form at <https://museumofthesierra.org/field-trips/>
2. Contact our office by phone, mail, or schedule an in-person visit
3. Clip & mail us the filled out form at the bottom of the page

## CONTACT US:

**Office Phone:**

(559) 841-4478

**Education Coordinator Email:**

[seth@sierrahistorical.org](mailto:seth@sierrahistorical.org)

**General Office Email:**

[cshs@sierrahistorical.org](mailto:cshs@sierrahistorical.org)

**Address:**

42642 Tollhouse Rd.  
Shaver Lake, CA 93664

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## MAIL-IN INTEREST FORM

Teacher/Coordinator Name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*First Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Last Name*

School:

District:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed Trip Date(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Age/Grade Level:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Programs of Interest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Questions? Ask below:

- |                                             |                                             |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Tour        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Science       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Americans   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ranching & Grazing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydroelectricity   | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology & Mining   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Railroad History   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Flora       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Logging & Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Fauna       |

**Fill out this form and mail to:**

P.O. Box 617  
Shaver Lake, CA 93664