Lake Tahoe Aspen Education

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Engaging Communities to understand Aspen Restoration
Interpretation and Education

- Interpretive Guided Hikes and talks
- School Programs
- Educator Workshops
- Stewardship Programs
- Special Events
Interpretation vs. Conservation Education

- Interpretive programs are typically one-time programs for a non-captive audience. Programs must be engaging to retain people’s interest. Audience is generally mixed ages – adults and children.

- Conservation education programs are delivered to a specific grade and are held in a classroom or outdoors. Students are a captive audience because they are required to be there. Programs should link to what the children are already learning in class.
Interpretive Guided Hikes

Key components (EROT)

Enjoyable
Relevant
Organized
Thematic
Enjoyable
Make the presentation fun – use humor, be welcoming.
Use art to connect visitors with aspens.
Interpretive Key Components

E = Enjoyable

Use visual aids, especially if what you are talking about cannot be seen at the moment.
Interpretive Key Components

R=Relevant

Why should the audience care?
Interpretive Key Components

O=Organized

Have a structure, just like a theme paper. Use 5 or fewer key points. Start and end on time. Tell audience what to expect.
Interpretive Key Components

T=Thematic

A strong theme statement is a complete sentence and the one message you want your audience to remember.

Aspens are ancient, immense and "in danger."
Conservation Education

Grade-level specific

For Kindergarteners, use action oriented activities
Grade-level specific

Teach more advanced subjects to older students, including teaching younger students.
Conservation Education

Educator workshops
Environmental stewardship refers to responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. Participants learn through “doing”.

Stewardship
5th grade students learn collect data at the Baldwin Swale and learn about the Taylor Tallac Restoration project.
Stewardship and Special Events

Students present their findings at a booth at the Native Species Festival
Stewardship

The Generation Green of Lake Tahoe program provides volunteer opportunities and summer employment for high school students, creating a life-long connection to the land.
Stewardship

Generation Green summer employees and volunteers collected burn pile monitoring data in the summer of 2014.
Results?

Creation of Community that is connected to the land
and a commitment to take care of it for the next generation
Thank you!

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“The Great Spirit teaches us we must teach our children how to care for the earth so it is there for future generations.” - Unknown