



Spring 2017

Goshawk

THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER FROM CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE (CTL)

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IT WAS A VERY SNOWY WINTER!



The snow just kept piling up!



Then, in February, the Lodge lost electricity and had to close for five days. There were no lights, no water. The remaining staff spent a lot of time in front of the fireplace, while a storm raged outside. No one could reach the Lodge, so no food could come in, and there was no way to leave. About 20 feet of snow piled up during the storm.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER FUNDRAISER WEEKEND - August 18-20

Support Environmental Education

This year, the Lodge's fundraising gathering will focus on our Clair Tappaan Lodge - Sierra Club Environmental Education Scholarship fund for school groups and inner city outings. The CTL Committee raises money to help school groups come to the Lodge to experience the Sierra, the lakes, environmental conservation, and group activities in a comfortable environment.

Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000. So please join us on August 18-20 for hiking, swimming, music, an art auction, good food, and great company. Even if you can't make it, please consider donating to the fund. Following is some information on our program.



Youth Environmental Education Programs

The mission of the Sierra Club is to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet. The Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee does its best to realize that mission by encouraging and financially supporting youth environmental education programs at the Lodge. While individual teachers and leaders of outdoor groups have been bringing young people to the Lodge for decades, since 2002 we have been making a concerted effort to increase the number of youth served and to reach underserved and ethnically diverse

populations by offering financial aid. This effort helps ensure that there will be new generations of dedicated, enthusiastic environmentalists.

A limited number of **Environmental Education grants** are available through the Lodge Committee to help cover the expense of food and lodging at Clair Tappaan and/or Hutchinson Lodge. Teachers and youth-group leaders working with low-income students are encouraged to apply. The application procedure is as follows:

* First contact Lodge manager Peter Lehmkuhl by phone at (530) 426-3632 or by email at manager@clairtappaanlodge.com to check on available dates and rates for your group.

* Complete the Environmental Education Funding Request form <http://clairtappaanlodge.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Funding-Request-Form.pdf> You can also email Lodge Committee member Jane Risk at j2risk@gmail.com to request a form.

* All applications must be submitted at least two weeks in advance of the event. Your program must emphasize environmental education and include a strong conservation component. All applications will be considered carefully, in the order received. Teachers and youth group leaders may choose to organize their own Environmental Education program or partner with a professional provider, such as [Gateway Mountain Center](#), [Headwaters Science Institute](#), [Sierra Nevada Journeys](#), [Discovering Grace Adventures](#), and [Tahoe Adventure Company](#).

Donations: Your tax-deductible donation will support our Environmental Education grant program for low-income students.

Checks should be made out to "**The Sierra Club Foundation - CTL.**" Mail donations to:

Peter Lehmkuhl, manager
Clair Tappaan Lodge
P.O. Box 36
Norden, CA 95724

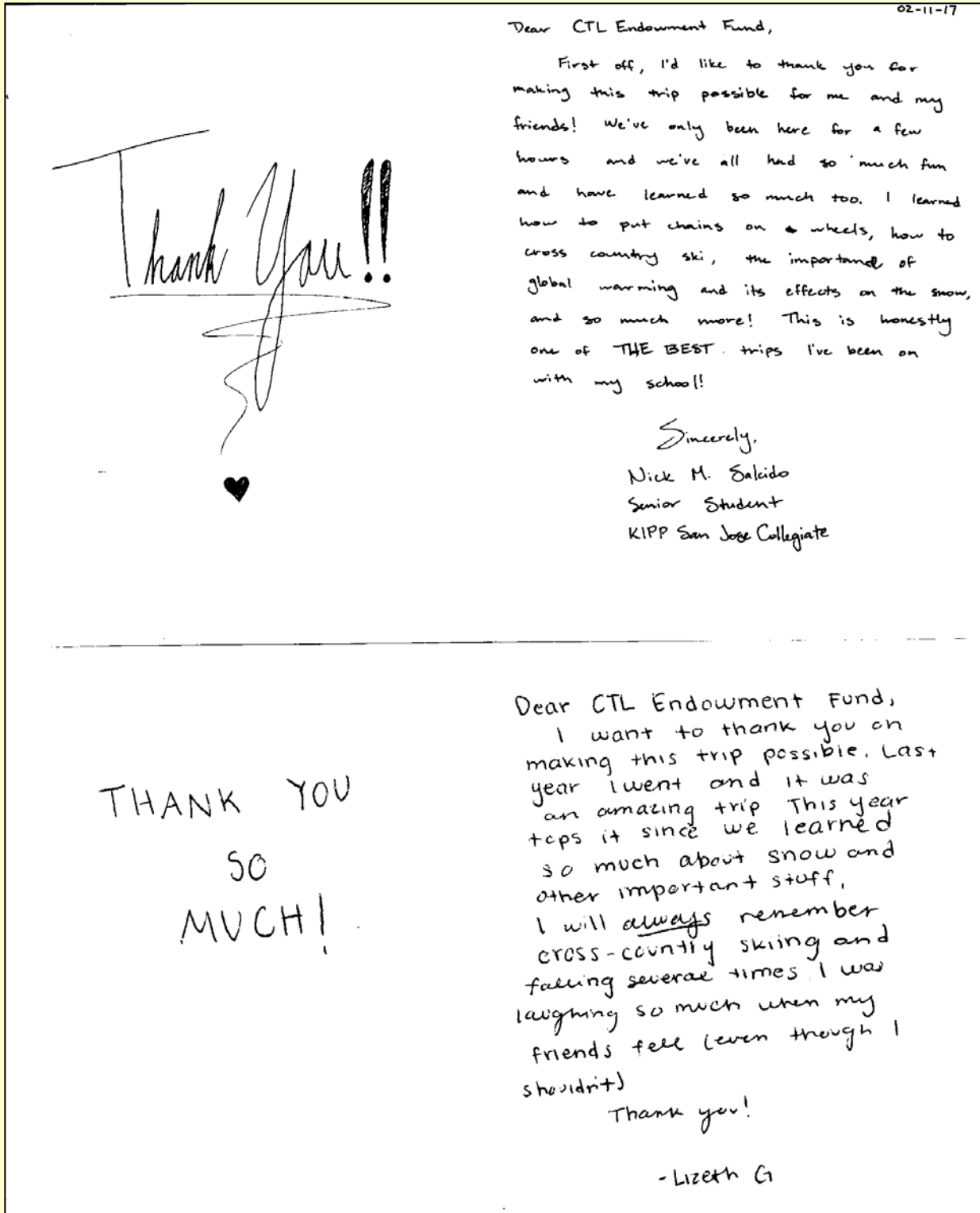


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Below are four thank-you cards from Knowledge is Power Program (Kipp) San Jose Collegiate High School Students for their February 11-12 Hutchinson Lodge trip, supported by the Sierra Club Clair Tappaan Lodge Environmental Education fund.



Thank You!!

♥

02-11-17

Dear CTL Endowment Fund,

First off, I'd like to thank you for making this trip possible for me and my friends! We've only been here for a few hours and we've all had so much fun and have learned so much too. I learned how to put chains on wheels, how to cross country ski, the importance of global warming and its effects on the snow, and so much more! This is honestly one of THE BEST trips I've been on with my school!

Sincerely,
 Nick M. Salcido
 Senior Student
 KIPP San Jose Collegiate

THANK YOU
 SO
 MUCH!

Dear CTL Endowment Fund,

I want to thank you on making this trip possible. Last year I went and it was an amazing trip. This year tops it since we learned so much about snow and other important stuff. I will always remember cross-country skiing and falling several times. I was laughing so much when my friends fell (even though I shouldn't)

Thank you!

-Lizeth G



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Dear Environmental Education Foundation,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to see the snow. As a senior in high school, it's great to do something that I don't always get the chance to do, especially because of the cost and the time to get here. I'm so grateful to be able to spend a night in an amazing, cozy, charming cabin. The trees, snow, mountains, it's all so beautiful and I'm ^{so} glad to have experienced this.

- KIPP High School Student.



Thank you CTFEE

Endowment fund for the awesome opportunity that you gave us. I have not touched snow in

8 year and because of you I had the chance today 😊! I had a great time cross country skiing for the first time and sled. It was amazing!!

- Nancy Quintas KSJC student



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SNOW SCIENCE AT CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE

By Spencer Eusden, Headwaters Science Institute

This April, students from the Met Sacramento High School had the opportunity to come to Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge on Donner Summit to learn about the Sierra snowpack. California has had an interesting water year, and this group of students took a unique approach to studying the snow that sources 60 percent of California's drinking water. Instead of learning about research that other scientists had conducted, these students were the scientists conducting the research.

With guidance from Headwaters Science Institute, a nonprofit that specializes in research-based education, students went through the same, albeit compressed, process as professional scientists. On the first day, students were introduced to the study area and the instruments they had at their disposal. Later that afternoon, they brainstormed many possible research questions and then worked in groups to create "research proposals" for the questions they were most interested in.



The second day focused on data collection and conducting experiments to test their hypotheses. Just as things don't always work out as planned for even the best scientists, these students had their fair share of problem solving to do. For example, one group had to improvise an extendable water device when the creek they were sampling was lined with 10-foot-high snowbanks. On the final day, groups worked together to statistically analyze their data and create a scientific presentation. Before getting on the bus home, each research group presented their projects to their peers and teachers. Below are some of their research highlights.

Research Highlights:

- Two groups of students used dye to track meltwater movement in the snowpack and found patterns based on snow crystal type, aspect, and temperature. Through these experiments they explored albedo and the other factors that affect the timing of water availability as the snow melts.
- Students tested how human impacts can affect water quality in the snowmelt that provides 60% of California's water. While all the water they tested was quite clean, water near areas with higher human activity had higher salinity.
- One group re-created a previous year's experiment looking at changes in water pH across an elevation gradient and found a markedly different trend, likely due to this year's record snowfall.
- After a lot of digging, some students found that there is a temperature gradient in the snowpack, with deeper snow near the ground being the warmest, and cooler snow closer to the surface.



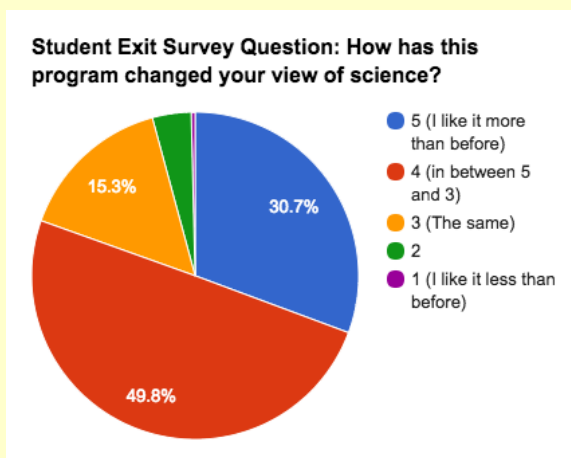
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This trip programming also included a physics lesson. Students explored the relationship between Potential and Kinetic Energy when changing the starting height and mass of a sled in a modified bobsled run.

In exit surveys, over 80% of the students reported that the program positively impacted their view of science. **This trip would not have been possible without a lodging scholarship from the Sierra Club CTL fund.** Many of these students had never spent time in the snow before and were grateful for the opportunity to learn first-hand about the source of a majority of their own drinking water.

You can see all of the students' PowerPoint Presentations and learn more about the research-based programs Headwaters Science Institute offers online at: <https://headwatersscienceinstitute.org/past-student-research/>



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OUR CHEF, CRAIG SMITH

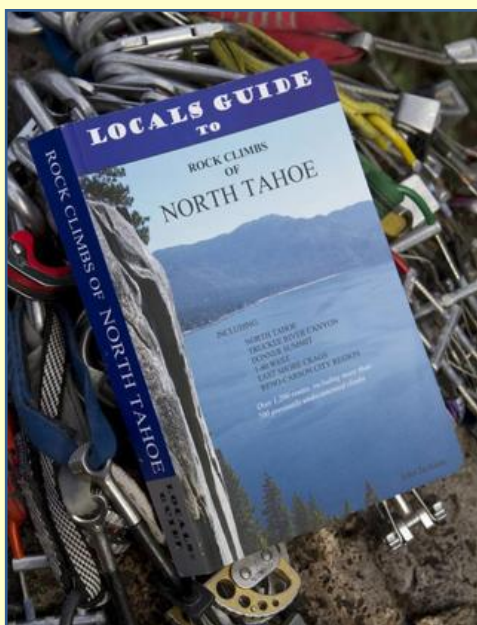
Craig Smith, CTL chef, has resided in the Serene Lakes area for 31 years. When he was 16 Craig started working at a pizza joint in Los Angeles, eventually moving to Tahoe where he owned his own pizza restaurant. He worked the Tahoe circuit and became Executive Chef at Tahoe Donner. Craig loves making beef stroganoff, pizza, and a good pot roast. For delicious vegetarian fare, he cooks up a combination of quinoa and squash, purees a vegetable, stuffs peppers with goat cheese, and prepares Primavera pasta. He is really a great addition to the CTL staff and enjoys the good experience he is having at CTL.



Craig Smith and John Jackson

JOHN'S BACK

Back to help Peter run the Lodge smoothly is John Jackson, Operations Manager. Welcome back John! His background as General Manager of Ski Gold Mountain, lead carpenter, ski team coach, and certified ski instructor makes him perfect for the job. He is also author of a book *Rock Climbs of North Tahoe*. Over 2,700 copies have been sold. It is available on Amazon or at the CTL desk.



**CONTACT THE LODGE
FOR RESERVATIONS:**

530-426-3632

For upcoming activities, go to:

<http://clairtappaanlodge.com/events>



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ART IN THE SIERRA – ISABELLE SAINT-GUILY

Born in France, Isabelle (a.k.a. Viv'lavie, a name she fell in love with while traveling in Haiti) lives in the Napa Valley. She has a passion for portraiture—"I love to see life carved on a face"—but also loves to paint landscapes, abstracts, and still life. A long-time visitor to CTL, and a Sierra Club Outings Leader, this view was painted during an April visit to Hutchinson Lodge. Go to <https://isabellesaintguily.com/about-2/> to see more of her work.



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