

# TAHOE: STATE OF THE LAKE REPORT 2013

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

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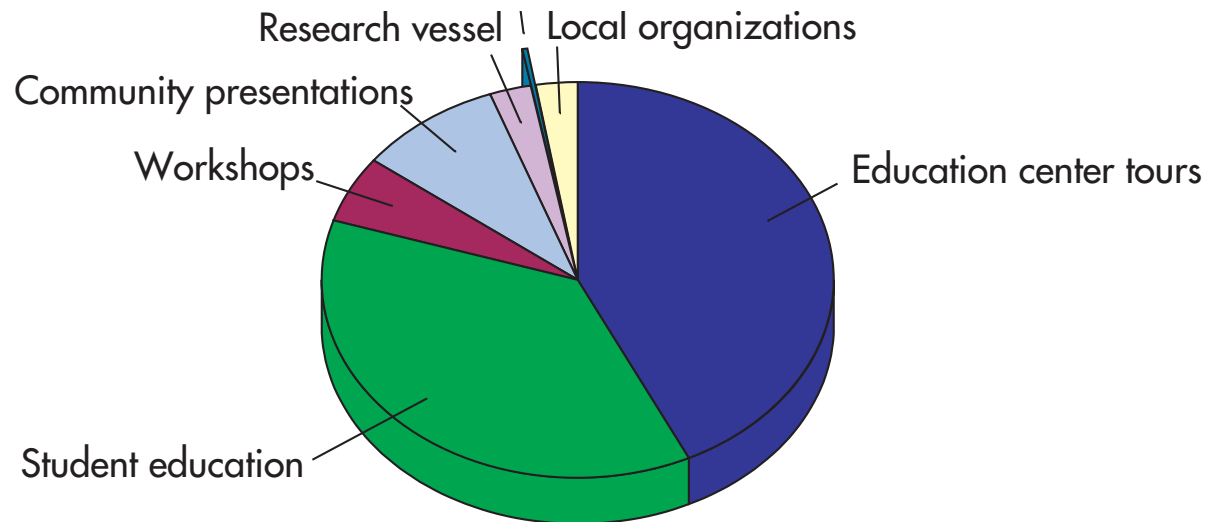
### TERC education and outreach

In 2012

Part of TERC's mission is education and outreach. During 2012, TERC recorded 11,817 individual visitor contacts. The majority represented student field trips and visitors to the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center at Incline Village. In addition, TERC hosts monthly public lectures and workshops, makes

presentations to local organizations and takes a limited number of visitors out on our research vessels. TERC organizes and hosts annual events and programs including Children's Environmental Science Day, Science Expo, Youth Science Institute, Trout in the Classroom program, Project WET workshops, Summer Tahoe

Teacher Institute and a volunteer docent training program. TERC also partners with numerous groups to deliver education in the Tahoe basin. In 2012, these included AmeriCorps, COSMOS, Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships (SWEP), Space Science for Schools, Young Scholars and many others.



TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTACTS: 11,817

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### TERC educational exhibits

In 2012

Hands-on science exhibits such as the new “Shaping Watersheds Interactive Sandbox” will join the research vessel, laboratory and award-winning 3D movie “Lake Tahoe in Depth” to provide guests with the

latest Lake Tahoe research. Several new 3D visualizations, including “Lakes of the World” and “Following a Drop of Water”, are also being developed as part of a larger informal science education project funded by the

National Science Foundation.

Two new aquariums join the exhibit area providing visitors a close-up look at both the native and non-native fish that live in the lake.



The new Interactive Sandbox exhibit captivates young and old visitors alike with evolving color contours that reflect the sculpted sand surface, and water flow simulations showing the passage of floods through the created watershed.



Visitors will be able to learn about lakes and reservoirs around the world in a new 3-D visualization.



Two larger aquariums (a generous gift from Trout Unlimited) with native and non-native fish found in Lake Tahoe were recently added.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### TERC educational programs

In 2012

In addition to providing education center tours for the general public, the TERC Education Team also provides high quality informal science education to more than 4,100 fifth- and sixth-grade students by hosting 70 - 80 field trips each year.

Trout in the Classroom is an educational program designed to teach students

about the ecology, biology, and history of trout and other aquatic life. This year, we raised Lahontan cutthroat trout in an aquarium in the science center. Students from schools around the region also raised trout for release into local waterways.

A small group of select high school students participate in the afterschool

Youth Science Institute from January through May. Participants work with scientists, conduct science experiments and share science activities with other students.



School groups visit for informal science education programs on water, geology and biology.



AmeriCorps member Kylee Wilkins helps students gather the young Lahontan cutthroat trout for release into Lake Tahoe.



Youth Science Institute participants conduct multiple science activities over the 16-week program.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### TERC educational programs, continued

In 2012

Each year we train new volunteer docents at our annual June Docent Training. Our volunteer docents become local experts and lead tours at two science centers. Volunteers also participate in garden work each year to make the Tahoe City Field Station native plant demonstration garden a

beautiful community resource.

Visitors that come to our science centers can view exhibits, watch 3-D movies, and participate in citizen science by conducting water quality monitoring, investigating plant phenology, and bird watching. Public

participation in scientific research is educational for adults and children and provides useful data for scientists.

Additionally, for the past several years, TERC has hosted a summer Tahoe Teacher Institute for educators from both California and Nevada.



Visitors can wear lab coats for family photos and conduct citizen science including water quality monitoring, plant phenology, and bird watching.



Volunteer docents lead tours at our two science centers and make science come alive for visitors.



Teachers come to Lake Tahoe for the Tahoe Summer Institute to improve their proficiency in environmental science topics and learn new science activities.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### TERC special events

In 2012

TERC hosts monthly lectures throughout the year on various environmental issues, new scientific research and related regional topics of interest.

Special events hosted annually include Project WET training workshops (February), Science Expo (March), Green Thumb Tuesdays (July - August), Children's Environmental Science Day

(August), Earth Science Day (October), and Family Science Day (December)



The annual Science Expo held each March brings in more than 600 third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students for hands-on science activities.



Public lectures are held monthly at the Incline Village location and Green Thumb Workshops are held at Tahoe City Field Station throughout the summer.



Children's Environmental Science Day is held annually each August with hands-on science activities designed for kids ages six and up.