

ATTACHMENT 2.1

City of Richmond

Program: Pathfinders: Youth Outdoors Program

Recommended Funding: \$60,000

Location: Various locations across the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin)

Overview

Background

The City of Richmond (City) received a \$700,000 grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Outdoor Equity Grants Program to help the City implement projects and programs that advance California's Outdoors for All Initiative. This funding has supported the development of the City's Pathfinders: Youth Outdoors Program (Program), which launched in 2023. The City developed the programming and goals through community engagement and surveys, allowing the community to help shape the outdoor experiences and curriculum. Since 2023, the Program has served 2,653 participants, including youth and their families, with nature walks, campfires, environmental education, and outdoor activities such as sea kayaking and hiking.

The City will expand its outdoor experiences and educational offerings to include six three-day camping trips over three years, serving up to 90 youth from underserved communities. The Lake Tahoe trips and programming will be free to participants, and all the participants will be from low-income and underserved communities facing barriers to accessing the Basin. Such barriers may include a lack of transportation, high living costs, low incomes, language barriers, and little access to safe outdoor spaces. Many participants will be new visitors to the Basin, some having never been camping, or visited a State Park.

Detailed Description

Major Elements

The recommended grant award supports staff planning and implementation costs, including staff time, subcontracted work from guides and lifeguards, supplies, and transportation. These funds will support six three-day camping trips in the Basin over three years, providing up to 90 youth from the City with an immersive way to visit and learn about the Basin while building the skills and community to help them feel comfortable in outdoor spaces. Activities will include guided hikes, kayaking, and State Park programs at Sugar Pine Point State Park. Educational activities will include learning about Basin ecology and history, team building, and leadership activities. To

prepare students and families for the trip, the Program offers four to six pre-trip activities, funded separately from this grant, such as gear fitting, outdoor skills clinics, and practice hikes. This Program engages families and youth, creating a sense of safety and belonging. Each trip includes peer mentors and trip captains, who are returning participants, to assist in trip planning and facilitation. This grant will fund the Basin portion of the programming only.

Overall Context and Benefits

The Program delivers direct, meaningful benefits to youth and families from the City's Severely Disadvantaged Community census tracts (ACS 2016–2020: 3760, 3770, 3790, and 3810), where daily life is shaped by economic hardship, environmental stress, and limited access to safe outdoor spaces. For many participants, the Basin feels distant and “not meant for them.” The Program works to change that narrative by providing fully supported camping, hiking, snow play, kayaking, cultural learning, and stewardship experiences. The Program works to create an outdoor experience where youth feel they belong, and to provide positive first experiences that build confidence, joy, and trust in outdoor spaces. When youth gain positive experiences in the outdoors, they share those experiences with their families. Over time, this leads to multigenerational outdoor experiences that strengthen family connections and establish lasting recreation habits.

Schedule

The grant supports the Program beginning in summer 2026 and running through summer 2029.

Financing

This grant is funded by Lake Tahoe License Plate funds. The majority of the recommended grant supports staff time for project planning and implementation, and subcontracted work for expert-guided services and lifeguards. The grant will also support supplies for the camping trips, travel and transportation costs, campground reservation costs, and stipends for peer mentors and trip captains.

The City has used previous Outdoor Equity Grant funds to purchase camping equipment, including tents, sleeping bags, stoves, and cooking gear that continue to support the Program. The City will also contribute \$25,000 from their general funds as a match to support the staff time for pre-trip activities and educational clinics.

The City's funding request reflects only program activities that occur in the Basin, including transportation to and from the Basin. The City will not use Conservancy funding for program elements, including the pre-trip activities, that occur outside of the Basin.

Staff recommends the grant budget as shown below. The budget may be adjusted among line items, but total expenditures under this grant will not exceed \$60,000.

Task	Amount
Labor (staff time and benefits, mentor stipends)	\$29,280
Subcontracted labor (lifeguards)	\$2,160
Equipment/Supplies	\$14,880
Transportation	\$13,680
Total	\$60,000