



C.O.R.E.

Community Options for Resources in Education

K-12 Charter Schools

Personalized Learning for Student Success!

A Personalized
Path to
SUCCESS



A special advertising supplement

CORE Personalizes Learning for Each Student

BY AMANDA CARAWAY

PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM

CORE is a unique public charter school program committed to personalized learning, where students and parents can find the resources they need to create a fulfilling home schooling environment.

CORE was founded in 1998 in response to the growing demand for alternatives in public education and the need for resources for parents joining the home schooling movement. CORE is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and there is no cost for students and parents to utilize the resources found at the school. CORE expanded from its modest beginnings in a single-wide trailer to become a popular home schooling choice, serving students through a consortium of three separate schools. The three schools are: CORE @ The Camptonville Academy in Marysville, CORE Placer Charter School in Colfax and CORE Butte Charter School in Chico.

At CORE schools, a personalized education program is designed for each student. Personalized learning is based on volumes of educational research confirming that all children learn differently. Each child learns at a different pace and through different approaches.

With personalized learning, education programs are tailored to fit the individual needs of each child. Personalized learning

requires parent involvement, small class sizes, one-on-one teacher-student interaction and accommodation for different learning styles.

CORE offers resources for parents and their children, including access to credentialed teachers, books and other learning materials that are available in the library and online.

Each family that joins CORE is assigned to a teacher who helps parents design a curriculum for every subject that is appropriate for the level of their child. Parents, teachers and students are a team that works together to design a program based on state standards and the recommended levels of testing. At CORE, the parent is the primary director of a child's education and the teacher serves as a facilitator.

CORE supplements the home schooling education model with opportunities available at the resource center. These include field trips, leadership development, networking and socialization. Enrichment classes, core academics, as well as online and distance-learning opportunities, are offered at the school for students to explore ideas and topics related to their curriculum. High school students have the opportunity to participate in concurrent enrollment classes at local junior colleges.

The program also provides students with opportunities to participate in some social activities like those that are found at traditional public schools. These activities include events like assemblies, educational fairs, school dances, game nights, movie nights, field trips and other social events.

In addition, CORE helps parents locate approved community vendors for enrichment activities beyond what is offered at the school, such as martial arts class and artistic studies like dance, music and ceramics. CORE also assists parents with finding appropriate tutors for subjects in which the child might need additional assistance.

As CORE is a consortium of three tuition-free California public schools, students who complete the CORE graduation requirements will receive a state-certified diploma. CORE also offers a variety of college preparatory courses as well as advice on scholarships and financial aid. Students who graduate from the CORE program have every opportunity to pursue a bright and promising future.

Personalized learning includes a strong emphasis on parent involvement, small class sizes, one-on-one teacher-student interaction and accommodation for different learning styles.

THE MANY BENEFITS OF PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Personalized learning is the leading education delivery model to help guide students to be productive, successful citizens in order to meet the rigorous, diverse and rapidly changing needs and demands of the 21st century. Personalized learning truly puts every student first by honoring and exploring each student's unique and special gifts, talents, and aspirations; by addressing and accommodating each student's individual needs and challenges; and by offering each student a personalized learning plan that supports choice and flexibility in how, what, when and where each student learns. Personalized learning values and nurtures the core, mentor-based relationships between each student and his/her circle of primary adult teachers, bringing together in an ongoing collaborative partnership each student's parents or guardians, assigned teacher, subject-based teachers, and counselors to assist in guiding each student toward an engaging, successful and rewarding educational experience.



Jeff Rice,
Founder/Director
of APLUS+
The Association of
Personalized Learning
Schools & Services

CORE: COMMUNITY OPTIONS FOR RESOURCES IN EDUCATION

COMMUNITY — The mission of CORE is to provide opportunities for teachers, parents, pupils and community members to improve pupil learning. It takes a community to educate a child. CORE gives parents access to teachers and other educators throughout their community.

OPTIONS — With CORE, parents have expanded choices for educational opportunities beyond what is offered in the traditional K-12 public school system. CORE recognizes that each student is unique and provides options to help meet the individual needs of students.

RESOURCES — CORE provides resources for parents who have decided to home-school their children. These include access to innovative teaching methods, access to credentialed teachers and learning tools like books, classes and tutoring services. CORE resources serve as an essential ally to parents.

EDUCATION — The heart of the CORE program focuses on expanding and improving educational opportunity. CORE makes education more relevant and effective through the ability to target a child's needs, providing a strong foundation for lifelong success. [AC](#)

A Partnership for Home Schooling

PARENTAL DECISIONS AND STUDENT CHOICE

BY CHRIS MATEO

Jonathan and Lisa Fox chose to send their children, Autymn and Ethyn, to CORE @ The Camp-tonville Academy because they were impressed with the idea of being involved with their children's education. "We felt that, done right, home schooling is an incredible experience for the kids and the parents," Jonathan says.

"At first, we were kind of apprehensive about it because we heard a lot of bad examples of home schooling," Lisa says. "But then we said we'd give it a try because a lot of the people we talked to seemed to be doing a very good job of it."

Jonathan and Lisa invested their time and energy so the experience would be successful.

"Lisa and I spend a solid two weeks over the summer going over curriculum, keeping a path of where we're going," Jonathan says. "It's not something for the weak of heart."

Lisa says she frequently asks for feedback from her children to make sure they are enjoying and growing through home schooling. Though the children were given the option of attending other schools, they chose CORE.

"[Autymn] said she never wants to go back to a traditional school," Lisa says. "That made us feel like we're doing something right."

The Fox family agrees the resources available through CORE made a tremendous difference in their home education experience.

"What I love about doing it with Camptonville is that, before this, we were doing it on our own, and it was very overwhelming," Lisa says. She appreciates that they were assigned a teacher to support the work they did at home. The teacher is always available and meets with them regularly to make sure they are on track and check if there is anything they need, she says.

The resources and opportunities provided by CORE have allowed the Fox siblings to thrive.

Autymn, now in 11th grade, has the freedom to take college courses and nurture her passion for dance. She competes in dance competitions, teaches ballet classes and performs in the Sacramento Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" each year. Participation in CORE has also allowed Autymn to work ahead and in the learning style that suits her best, enabling her to complete enough



Autymn and Ethyn Fox enjoy the freedom of personalizing their studies to their interests at CORE.

credits to graduate by the end of her sophomore year. However, she's chosen stay in high school to deepen her studies and graduate after 12th grade.

Ethyn, an eighth-grader, pursues digital filmmaking and participates in MATHCOUNTS competitions through CORE. Ethyn was also involved with the Verizon Innovative App Challenge, a national competition to develop a novel software application for a mobile device. Ethyn and the rest of the CORE team took home the top prize for the state of California for their attendance-tracking app. He's also starred in several local commercials and last year's theater production staged by CORE. His father says his participation in drama classes offered at CORE have fueled his interest in acting and set a high standard.

Jonathan adds that because of the flexibility afforded by CORE, his kids get to follow their interests and skip the stress that often accompanies a packed extracurricular schedule.

With this wealth of options and support, it's easy to see how education, personalized by their parents and teacher, gave the Fox children their foundation to succeed.

WHY PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IS IMPORTANT

Jonathan and Lisa Fox appreciate the support offered by CORE. Even though she and her husband were fully capable of teaching elementary-level mathematics, Lisa admits, "My daughter's taking calculus, and I can't teach that sufficiently."

However, the Foxes also know that, while bringing in the "experts" for courses like new languages or upper-level mathematics is important, there is no substitute for the support of a child's parents during his or her education.

Parents, as experts on their own children, have the best opportunity to instill values and promote a healthy work-life balance.

What Lisa can teach her children is finding time to relax, she says. "Both of my kids like to be involved with things, but they really have their downtime, too," Lisa says. "[My husband and I] both feel that it's important that they feel like they're still a kid, or a teenager, and have time to chill and hang out with friends." **CM**

A Storyteller's Story

STUDENT FOLLOWS DREAM HE DISCOVERED AT CORE

BY CHRIS MATEO

Kameron Torres is a storyteller with the simple goal of changing the world. Okay, it's not that simple to change the world. However, thanks to the support Kameron, now 24, received throughout his time at CORE, the path to achieving that goal is a lot more in focus.

His path toward filmmaking started with his transition from public school to CORE @ The Camptonville Academy. Kameron and his mother decided that he needed a place to be creative without the distractions and worry that accompany a very large traditional school. They found this at CORE.

Kameron easily recalled a typical day at CORE. He would be at the center for two full days, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., similar to a traditional school. For the other three days, he chose a schedule that would allow him to be at home, take classes at Yuba College, visit the gym or travel with his family.

Growing up in a single-parent home, Kameron appreciated the opportunity for his mother to be involved in his education. "She knew who my teachers were, she knew who my friends were, and she didn't have to be intrusive about it."

Kameron's journey to filmmaking began during his first year with a psychology-class screening of Morgan Spurlock's "Supersize Me."

"I had some serious health and weight issues, so watching this movie really scared me," Kameron says. "It made me realize that I needed to make some changes; so I did."

Spurred to action by the film, Kameron dropped 70 pounds in the next year-and-a-half. In addition to improving his health, he also discovered a new passion.

"It impacted and changed my life for the better," he says. "I realized how important stories can be."

CORE staff encouraged Kameron by creating classes tailored to his newfound interest in filmmaking as part of his individualized learning plan.

"I was told that the video editing classes were starting, so I gathered other students and we jumped at this opportunity," Kameron

"I realized how important stories can be."

Kameron Torres,
CORE graduate



Kameron Torres was inspired to pursue his dream of filmmaking through classes custom-built for him at CORE.

says. The class culminated in the CORE Film Festival, which has become an annual event.

Kameron's early hands-on experiences at CORE provided a springboard into the professional world. As a student, he won an entrepreneurial scholarship as a result of the potential he demonstrated to launch a career in filmmaking. After graduating, Kameron became involved with the Sacramento film community and began freelancing. He started his own business, Towers Hill Media, and has produced numerous informational films for nonprofit and professional organizations. He even produced a film for CORE, showcasing the very place that gave him his start.

He has also produced a mini-documentary called "Short Stack: A Documentary about Second Chances," aimed at telling often overlooked stories as a means of helping others discover creative ways to help in the issue of homelessness.

Kameron now works for CineCrown Productions, originally a wedding video company. He was brought on as an executive producer to help them build an emotional connection through film for their clients.

As much as he's accomplished already, Kameron often refers to his current assignment as just starting down the path he wants to pursue. Thanks to CORE, the path looks very long and very bright.

THE INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING PLAN

The Individualized Learning Plan, or ILP, is one facet of CORE schools that contributes to student success. "In one word, I think I would describe it as 'customizable,'" Kameron Torres says. "They work with the student to find the student's strength. I was a creative type, but I wasn't great at math. So they focused on my creativity and got me a tutor for math as well." Because of this focus on his unique traits, Kameron was able to learn about filmmaking and, eventually, turn it into a successful career.

Teachers, parents and students collaborate to create an ILP that is custom-designed to suit each student's needs. ILPs may include a combination of a variety of learning opportunities, such as independent study, resource center classes, college classes, online learning, work study, tutoring, traditional texts, field trips and electronic applications. Teachers at CORE pay attention and get to know who the student is as a person. "They really seemed to care, and that's what I loved about it," Kameron says. [CM](#)

Parents Can Rely on CORE Resources

MOM FINDS SUCCESS THROUGH SUPPORT

BY TINKA DAVI

Jeanine Neher of Chico is a persistent person. Her son, Wyatt, wasn't reading or writing well during his first two years at a private school.

She pursued testing and special help options through a few schools, but wasn't getting results.

"I brought him home and thought, 'I'll do it myself.'"

That's when she discovered CORE Butte.

"They offered curriculum, guidance and helped us make sure he was keeping up with state standards of education," Jeanine says.

Wyatt then qualified for an individual education plan because of what Neher calls his "learning challenges."

"He's a smart guy and good with his hands. His father [Tim Neher] is a contractor and our son is great at putting things together," she says. "Wyatt and I redid first grade together with special help from tutors."

Now 15, Wyatt is in 10th grade. "He skipped eighth grade with help from CORE ... and now is with kids his own age," Jeanine says. "He did all the work himself."

Wyatt's brothers, twins Morgan and Jesse, are sixth-graders. When Jeanine began home-schooling Wyatt with the help of CORE, the twins watched from highchairs. Their turn soon came when they started kindergarten at age 5 through CORE Butte.

The boys' daily routine includes schoolwork from 8:30 a.m. to about noon. They also attend classes at the CORE resource center a couple of times a week. CORE resources provide library books and reading lists, field trips and projects.

The boys learned to make their own DVDs and Power Point presentations. They studied what Merchant Marines did in the



Jeanine and Tim Neher and sons Morgan, Jesse and Wyatt found the support through CORE to make education fun and successful.

early days and slept overnight on the square-rigger Balclutha in San Francisco as part of their hands-on history learning experience.

"It was really stressful as a mom not knowing what to do for the kids, but CORE has been really good," Jeanine says. "We spend time on individualized education and the boys get to do the things they like."

For example, they studied motorcycles and spelling words relating to that topic.

"It's exciting to see the kids learning," Jeanine says. "They wake up and are excited about school. ... They get to do what they like. It shifts the paradigm. They love to learn."

Jeanine teaches political science part time at Butte Community College. Her education helped when she needed to figure out ways to get things done.

"I just have to be an advocate and talk to everyone and I couldn't have done it without the resources. And if I struggle, I can always call the [personalized learning teacher]," she says. "It's an amazing school with amazing people who work there and help kids find solutions."

"They wake up and are excited about school ... They get to do what they like. It shifts the paradigm. They love to learn."

Jeanine Neher,
Parent

RESOURCES AROUND

From tide-pooling to national software development competitions, CORE provides myriad engaging resources for students and their families.

Angela Choate, administrative assistant for CORE, says there are many field trips in which students can participate, ranging from day trips to week-long stays.

One of the most popular is Sutter's Fort, Sacramento, where students spend a week dressed in period costumes and work as candle makers, bakers, weavers and more.

Shady Creek is a week-long environmental science camp for sixth-graders where they learn about trees, trails and outdoor living. Shorter trips include iFly, an indoor skydiving program that's "super cool," Choate says.

Students also enjoy Ashland, Oregon's Shakespeare Festival, Turtle Bay Exploration Park in Redding and Old Sacramento's underground tours, where students learn about the Gold Rush from a different perspective.

Standard curriculum catalogs and personalized learning resources are also available. Many families pool resources by co-teaching and working together with their students in cooperative groups. **TD**

The Flexibility to Follow Your Dreams

CORE ALLOWS STUDENTS TO PURSUE CAREERS

BY TINKA DAVI

Emma Farabee, 16, has had a penchant for performing for as long as she can remember.

"When I was really young, I was the classic kid who liked to belt out notes," Emma said. "I grew into my voice."

Her family nurtured her talent.

"Emma started in local theater," mother Tonya Farabee says. "Then we found out that she had an amazing voice and we fostered that."

Emma, who goes by the stage name Emma Knight, began auditioning at studios, performed at the California State Fair, and, at 12, won the Nevada County People's Choice Top Talent competition. At 13, she performed at Universal Studios and won the Los Angeles Best New Talent Award.

Juggling a show business schedule and the typical teenage concerns of homework and a social life can be a challenge. One thing that helps Emma keep her life in balance is the flexibility offered by her participation in the CORE Placer program. Emma attends classes or is tutored depending on her schedule, which is "flexible and wonderful," Tonya says. "School is an exciting part of her life rather than a chore."

Rather than worrying about missing school-work and falling behind, Emma can arrange her studies around her career demands. When someone calls for Emma to go to Los Angeles, Tonya and husband, Andrew, take her.

"School is an exciting part of her life rather than a chore."

Tonya Farabee,
Parent

"This is my job," Tonya says. "The only thing I'm required to do is what my children need. We foster them as whole human beings."

One of Emma's first experiences with the stage was through a drama class offered by CORE. Today, Emma's budding career shows no signs of stopping. She has performed in Los Angeles and locally at The Center for the Arts in Grass Valley. She also takes six dance classes a week and is recording a CD of her original songs.

Taking advantage of the flexibility offered by CORE Placer is a family tradition.

When Elyssa Farabee, Emma's older sister, was enrolled in a traditional site-based high school, she was bored with the classroom environment.

"Is this it?" she asked her mother. "I just want to work. I want to get into the world."

Tonya says she and her husband began looking into alternatives such as charter schools when someone recommended CORE.

"They offered so many different alternatives and acceleration. The teachers are well-motivated and gifted," Tonya says. "CORE completely welcomed Elyssa."

Through her participation in CORE, Elyssa was able to work as an intern in an orthodontic office during the hours she would normally have been sitting in a high school classroom.

In her senior year, Elyssa applied for a job as a dental assistant at the Nevada County Healthy Smiles dental program and has been with them for about seven years. She is now an educator and advocate for dental health to the Nevada County School District.

"She flourished," her mother reports.

Elyssa's sister Emma is likewise thrilled to be able to pursue her dreams through the flexibility afforded by CORE.

"My passion is to perform and feel emotion when I'm on stage in front of crowds," she says.



Emma Farabee's flexible study schedule gives a boost to her performance career.

PHOTO BY MIKE BLOUNT

A CUSTOM-BUILT EDUCATION

Student interest drives the curriculum at CORE schools. If a student shows a keen interest in a career or specialty, that's the impetus for CORE to create a class or develop a program for that student. Options vary from flying to farming to film.

CORE offers exciting opportunities such as introduction to aerospace and discover engineering, says Angela Choate, administrative assistant for CORE. The aviation ground school equips students to take their pilot licenses. For those with a green thumb, the farming program offers students an agricultural course where they work in farms, visit cattle ranches and harvest portobello mushrooms.

Student Kameron Torres was interested in film, video and editing. He started under the direction of Chris Mahurin, a CORE school director, and now works in film production in Sacramento.

Budding thespians hone their craft through theater courses teaching beginning and advanced drama. Students stage a play, gaining experience in all phases, from acting to working as stage crew to selling tickets.

CORE also offers more than 40 different fundamental courses, including chemistry and calculus. With so many choices, students can easily tailor their curriculum to personal needs and interests. **TD**

A Teacher's Take

WHAT IT MEANS TO TEACH AT A CORE CHARTER SCHOOL

BY CHRIS MATEO

When you think back to a favorite memory of school, it probably wasn't a textbook or a colorful classroom poster that captured your lasting attention. Most likely, it was a teacher. Someone who inspired and engaged you. Someone who made you want to try harder. Alessandra Apsley and Jessica Anderson are the kinds of teachers who make such a lasting impression on their students. Both Apsley and Anderson teach for CORE schools and exemplify what makes CORE unique.

When asked why she loves teaching at CORE, Apsley says it's all about the opportunity to enhance learning beyond the traditional 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. school day. To do this, Apsley says, teachers are encouraged to individualize the learning experience. "Projects are tailored to each student as much as possible. If I know a student is artistic, I ask him to do a drawing or diagram," she says. "It's about giving them options. The objective of learning about it is the same, but how you learn it is up to you."

The result is anything but boring. Students are regularly engaged in hands-on activities. For example, Apsley created a science wax museum day in which students create a display and dress in character to portray a famous scientist. She also organizes the Dinner with a Scientist program, enabling students to connect authentically with professionals. Nontraditional resources for learning, such as live webcasts from the International Space Station, make Apsley's classroom exciting.

Apsley also created two robotic engineering courses that feature collaborative, hands-on robotics engineering projects using Legos. Such activities provide both fun and challenge to students. In addition, Apsley coached the CORE team for the Verizon Innovative App Challenge, a national software design competition. The CORE team beat out heavy competition to win the "Best in State" award for 2013.



Alessandra Apsley's students enjoy learning through fun and alternative approaches, such as using Lego robotics to gain hands-on engineering experience.



CORE teacher Alessandra Apsley assists a student with his robot. She has helped create engaging and interactive science programs at CORE.

CORE teacher Jessica Anderson also takes learning beyond the four walls of the classroom, drawing on her passion for agriculture. "I started an entire agriculture program and we are currently heading into our third year," she says. Anderson advises the CORE chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA), which provides students firsthand experience raising their own animals.

When given the opportunity to teach at CORE, Anderson fell in love with this nontraditional style of education that affords teachers the flexibility and small class sizes to individualize learning to each student. "Many students love it and do so well when they get to be the driving force of their education. When you give them a choice, they own it and are more likely to stay motivated and involved," Anderson says.

For Anderson, the best part about teaching here is seeing the aha moment in her students' eyes. "It's knowing that what they are learning are life lessons and skills. I genuinely love helping these kids, whether it be with them in class, other subjects or the strains of teenage years," she says. "They aren't just students to me but rather like my kids. It's seeing the long hard hours spent practicing pay off and the excitement on their faces that are priceless."

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS

Educational success is all about relationships. Alessandra Apsley and Jessica Anderson emphasize that close cooperation between parents, students and teachers is essential to the success of the CORE program.

Both educators encourage parental involvement to enhance student success. Apsley believes parents are a student's primary resource. "The perception is that teachers are the experts. The reality is that parents are the most incredible resource to a student," Apsley says. "They know the student like the teacher will never know." She adds that teachers should actively involve parents in order to help personalize their educational approaches to the diverse and unique individuals that make up their classroom.

"The three-way relationship is the very basis of this program. If not all three are on board, the ship sinks," Anderson adds. "We have interviews before students are enrolled to make sure this is in place. Students have to be dedicated, as do the parents, since they may be the primary educator for independent study courses. So by far this is one of the most important pieces." **CM**



Want to Know More About CORE?

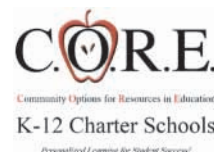
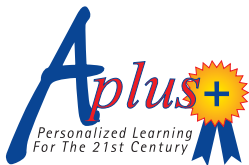
CORE serves students and their families! Personalization and flexibility are key benefits of CORE. A credentialed teacher works alongside parents to design a custom educational program that best suits the student's needs. All students are encouraged to extend learning through creativity and exploration. As a result of diverse choices and a flexible schedule, students may slow down to focus on a difficult subject, add depth to learning by investing in meaningful projects or accelerate learning in an area of interest to achieve a more advanced level. In any case, at CORE schools, the needs and interests of the individual drive the educational experience.

CORE serves students and their families in Butte, Yuba, Sutter, Placer, Nevada and other connecting counties.

CORE FEATURES:

- Independent study charter school
- Tuition-free California public school
- Fully WASC accredited
- Emphasis on personalized learning: tailoring an educational program to meet the needs of individual students
- Partnership between student, parent and credentialed teacher
- Standards-based curriculum options, including traditional texts and computer-based resources
- Classroom options including resource center, junior college, community vendors and ROP vocational instruction
- Tutoring services
- Special education services
- High school counseling
- High school community, including campus events, leadership development and field trips
- Educational activities and assemblies, community participation, school fairs

For more information about CORE programs or to enroll, find CORE online or call one of the CORE schools today.



FAQ

Are the schools accredited?

All CORE schools are fully accredited by WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges).

Is there a tuition charge?

No, it's free. CORE schools are California public schools and do not charge tuition.

Is there a charge for books and materials?

There are no charges for books and materials assigned as curriculum.

What grade levels are served?

CORE serves grades K through 12.

What are the class sizes?

The average resource center class size is 10 to 15 students.

What is a personalized learning plan?

Each student has a plan developed around his or her own aspirations, goals and needs. All plans are aligned to the approved standards for the appropriate grade level and meet state requirements for high school graduation.

Can I go to a four-year college upon graduation?

A high school diploma from CORE schools is the same as one received from a public school. CORE offers many courses approved by the University of California to fulfill A-G requirements.

Are there extracurricular activities?

There are hundreds of options for attending classes in the community. Each of the CORE schools offers a number of clubs, sports and activities. Contact the school in your area to find out more.

CONTACT US

CORE @ THE CAMPTONVILLE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

www.coretca.org
321 16th St.
Marysville, CA 95901
(530) 742-2786 Fax: (530) 742-6067

CORE BUTTE CHARTER SCHOOL

www.corebutte.org
260 Cohasset Road, Suite 120
Chico, CA 95926
(530) 894-3952 Fax: (530) 566-9819

CORE PLACER CHARTER SCHOOL

www.coreplacer.org
Main office:
1033 South Auburn St.
Colfax, CA 95713
(530) 346-8340 Fax: (530) 346-2446

Nevada City Resource Center:
650 Gold Flat Road, Suite C
Nevada City, CA 95959

Lake of the Pines Resource Center:
11010 Combie Road, Suite 214
Auburn, CA 95602