



250 N. Fowler St.  
P.O. Box 755  
Bishop, CA 93515  
P: (760) 873-4554  
F: (760) 873-9277  
[www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org)

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CONTACT: Kay Ogden, ESLT Executive Director, at [kay@eslt.org](mailto:kay@eslt.org) or (760) 873-4554

**Local Kids Have the Chance to Get Creative in the Great Outdoors**

*Eastern Sierra Land Trust to host a free day of fun and learning in nature on July 29*

With school out and summer officially here, families everywhere are looking for ways to keep kids engaged and active – and local non-profit Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) is offering a great opportunity to do just that.

At ESLT's "Crayons & Paint" family gathering on July 29<sup>th</sup>, families with children between the ages of 5 and 15 will have the chance to have fun together getting creative in nature.

Crayons & Paint will take place at Karen's Preserve, a 33-acre parcel of land on the Sierra slopes overlooking Crowley Lake. Thanks to community support, this scenic spot was conserved forever in 2008 to protect important habitat for mule deer, birds, and other wildlife.

During this free family day, kids and parents will team up to play games that teach about local wildlife, animal tracks, native plants, and more. They will do art projects together out in the wild, take a kid-friendly hike on the Preserve, and enjoy a picnic lunch in the shade. At the end of the day, all participants will go home with an activity book to keep the outdoor fun and learning going all summer long.

Attendance is limited, and anyone interested is encouraged to sign up by July 21 by contacting Indigo Johnson, ESLT Education Coordinator & AmeriCorps member, at [indigo@eslt.org](mailto:indigo@eslt.org) or (760) 873-4554.

Guests should bring their own lunch and leave dogs at home; carpools will be offered. Anyone who wants to participate but who does not have children is encouraged to join other ESLT volunteers by helping organize activities; to learn more, contact Indigo.

*Crayons & Paint is made possible thanks to generous funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Connecting People with Nature" grant.*

*Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with willing landowners to conserve vital lands in the Eastern Sierra for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historical, and watershed values. To learn more about ESLT's work and how to get involved, please visit [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org).*

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Sample low-resolution images with captions displayed below; high-resolution images attached to email. For additional images, please contact Marguerite Merritt, ESLT Communications Director, at [marguerite@eslt.org](mailto:marguerite@eslt.org).



*Image Caption 1: At Eastern Sierra Land Trust's Crayons & Paint on July 29<sup>th</sup>, kids and their families are invited to play games, get creative, and explore nature.*



*Image Caption 2: Crayons & Paint will take place at Karen's Preserve, a scenic hillside overlooking Crowley Lake. To protect important wildlife habitat, Karen's Preserve was permanently conserved in 2008 – and it is now open to the public. Photo © Stephen Ingram.*