

Chalk Talk

Ophir Canyon Education Center

By Clint Spindler

Have you ever wondered what it might be like to take a class where teaching and learning happens in an outdoor setting? Well, wonder no more!

The Tooele County School District and Tooele Education Foundation are partnering to offer a summer program that provides such learning via a newly established Ophir Canyon Education Center (OCEC). As a result, we are excited to be part of this visionary journey together and look forward to progressively enhancing and enriching teaching and learning in the Tooele County School District. Part of the vision with the OCEC is to become a school of wonder and inquiry, rather than simply be known as a destination for weekend camping and tourism activities.

Experiences will be more than fun, as students will also gain skills that invoke creativeness, build confidence, and have value added to their lives via enhanced learning. Activities will be designed to challenge a student's physical, mental, and artistic abilities.



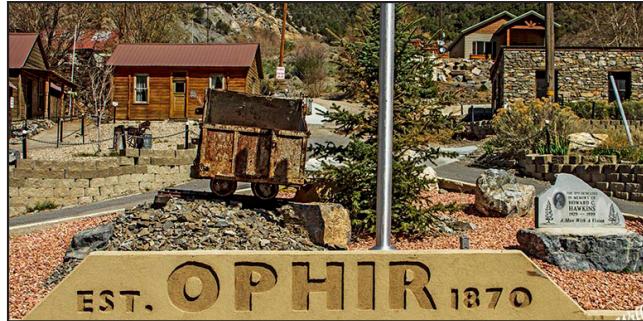
Students from West Elementary School enjoying a field trip at the historic site in Ophir. Field trip was sponsored by Cargill Salt.

Imagine students immersed in an outdoor setting in a hands-on, engaging way unlike any seen before in our community. This new opportunity offers great potential to meaningfully connect students with the great outdoors and enhance student learning. These kinds of challenging and absorbing activities encourage students to explore and enjoy learning, and bring them closer to the natural world at the same time.

What would it be like to learn about geology while exploring an old Ophir mine? Or how about learning about early Utah pioneer history with

an authentic experience in the rustic schoolhouse at Ophir? What might participation in lifelong activities and sports, like hiking and archery, be like while up in Ophir? How about taking a painting or drawing, or photography course located in the beautiful Ophir Canyon? All of this, and much more, will be possible at the Ophir Canyon Education Center this summer. The OCEC has infinite potential to help enrich learning and reconnect students to the outdoor environment, and we anticipate students will indeed want to sign up and have these kinds of learning opportunities.

If interested in learning more about the Ophir Canyon Education Center and its summer offerings, be on the lookout for more information in the near future.



Ophir historic site.



Tooele Education
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