

***Journal #6141 from sdc 12.23.25***

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***Linda Karen Smith***



**Putting on the brakes for the locals by Leon Campagna**

## **ExploraVision: A National Science Competition for High School Students & Middle School (K-12)**

### **About Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision**

More than just a student science competition! For a quick summary, please watch a video about ExploraVision.

Since its inception in 1992, more than 450,000 students from across the United States and Canada have participated in Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision. It's a fun and engaging program that can inspire a lifelong love of science, technology and innovation for students and teachers alike.

### **What is ExploraVision?**

*The [ExploraVision competition](#) for K-12 students engages the next generation in real world problem solving with a strong emphasis on STEM. ExploraVision challenges students to envision and communicate new technology 10 or more years in the future through [collaborative brainstorming](#) and research of current science and technology.*

ExploraVision is a science competition that goes beyond the typical student science competition and into what it takes to bring ideas to reality. A teacher will sponsor and lead his/her students as they work in groups of 2 – 4 to simulate real research and development. A teacher will guide his or her students as they pick a current technology, research it, envision what it might look like in 10 or more years, and describe the development steps, pros & cons, and obstacles. Past winners have envisioned technologies ranging from a hand-held food allergen detector to a new device to help people who have lost limbs regain movement in real time.

### **Who can participate?**

**ExploraVision is designed for K – 12 students of all interest, skill and ability levels. The competition is open to students enrolled in public, private or home school in the United States and Canada. See our full [eligibility requirements](#) here.**

### **How do I get my students involved?**

The most important step is educating them about the program. You can then either implement it as part of your curriculum or [become a coach](#) for the students who would like to participate. But if they don't know about it they'll never know if they want to register. See our [Teacher Resources](#) page for more information.

### **Why does Toshiba sponsor ExploraVision?**

Toshiba was founded with a strong commitment to technological innovation, and this commitment goes hand in hand with the company's passion for [science education](#). Through Toshiba's shared mission partnership with NSTA (National Science Teaching Association), the Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision competition makes a vital contribution to the educational community. Participants are provided the opportunity to better understand the core disciplinary ideas in science, and engage in the scientific and engineering practices espoused in the [Next Generation Science Standards](#), as they wrestle with solving real-world, authentic problems presented via the ExploraVision competition. ExploraVision is one of the world's largest K-12

science competitions and is a cornerstone of Toshiba's efforts to inspire youth in the fields of [science, technology, engineering and math \(STEM\)](#).

### **About NSTA**

The National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) is a vibrant community of 40,000 science educators and professionals committed to best practices in teaching science and its impact on student learning. NSTA offers high quality science resources and continuous learning so that science educators grow professionally and excel in their career. For new and experienced teachers alike, the NSTA community offers the opportunity to network with like-minded peers at the national level, connect with mentors and leading researchers, and learn from the best in the field. For more information, visit [www.nsta.org](http://www.nsta.org), or following @NSTA on Twitter, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

[Toshiba ExploraVision](#) is a [national K-12 science competition](#) that inspires students to explore STEM through real-world problem solving and future technology innovation. Since 1992, more than 450,000 students across the United States and Canada have participated, making it one of the largest [STEM competitions](#) in the world. Students work in teams to [research](#) a current technology, envision its future form 10 or more years ahead, and present the scientific breakthroughs needed to make it real. Supported by NSTA educators, ExploraVision builds science, engineering and research skills while encouraging creativity, collaboration and long-term interest in [STEM education](#).

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### **ExploraVision — National Science Competition Rules & Requirements**

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Rules and Requirements 2025-2026

**Download a pdf version of the rules and requirements, click [here](#).**

#### **Eligibility: All students must meet the following requirements:**

- All students must be United States or Canadian citizens and living within the United States or Canada, U.S. Territories, or a Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school abroad, and enrolled full-time in a public, private, parochial, virtual school, or home school.
- Students must be no older than 21 years of age.
- National Science Teaching Association employees, NSTA board members, ExploraVision judges and their respective families are not eligible to enter the competition.
- Any student who was a regional or national finalist in ExploraVision can only compete in subsequent years with a new team — i.e., with students who have not previously been selected as ExploraVision regional or national finalists.
- Students enter as a team of 2-4 students with a teacher/coach and optional mentor (no individual entries).
- Students may only submit one project per year. However, each teacher/coach can participate in multiple projects per year.

All coaches must meet the following rules:

- A coach must be at least 21 years of age.
- Coaches may be one of the following: a teacher, coach, counselor, leader in a youth organization, or parent/guardian.
- A coach must know at least one student on the team.
- A coach cannot be a judge in the same competition year.

**All projects must meet the following rules:**

- Any project that has won at ExploraVision's regional and/or national level may not be resubmitted in future years.
- Any project previously awarded a prize in another competition may not be submitted.
- AI and the tool ChatGPT may be used to brainstorm and/or research your project ideas. These should be used as a tool, but not as the only resource for your project. Any information generated by these resources must be included in the bibliography with the proper citations from the original resources.

For more information, please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

### **Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Requirements/Categories**

Each team must choose the appropriate category, the oldest student on a team determines the category. Each category will be judged separately, based on the abilities of students in those grades. ExploraVision has four categories:

- Primary Level (Grades K – 3)
- Upper Elementary Level (Grades 4 – 6)
- Middle Level (Grades 7 – 9)
- High School Level (Grades 10 – 12)

**Project Requirements: Each complete project must consist of:**

- A title (50 characters max.)
- An [abstract](#) (150 words max.)
- The [project description](#) (11 pages max.)
- [Bibliography](#)
- Five [sample Web pages](#)

The coach submits a team's project online before the deadline of 7:00 PM ET, February 3, 2026. Please follow the guidelines in the [project format](#) section listed by grade level category.

Submission materials will not be returned. Please retain a copy for your records. You may photocopy any part of the submission materials.

\*If there is a critical online issue, please contact [exploravision@nsta.org](mailto:exploravision@nsta.org) immediately.

## **Rights, Patents and Trademarks**

Toshiba and the National Science Teaching Association reserve the right to use a student's, coach's or mentor's name, photograph, quote, likeness, descriptive essay or sample Web pages for publicity and promotional purposes. Students who participate in the Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision program retain rights to all ideas and products generated through their participation in the program. Neither NSTA nor Toshiba will attempt to patent any student work.

### **For information on patents and trademarks, contact:**

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or call 800-786-9199 or 703-308-HELP.

Ready to enter, Coaches, Click [here](#) to register now!

[Introduction to Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Program](#)

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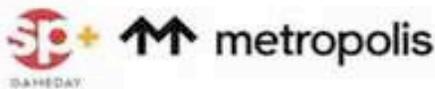
## **Trump EPA Plan Would Restrict Public's Right to Know About Climate Pollution**

"The problems don't go away when the reporting goes away," says the Corporate Toxics Information Project's co-director.

C.J. POLYCHRONIOU | TRUTHOUT

**UNR Extension seeks input to guide efforts ([nevadaappeal.com](http://nevadaappeal.com))** — University of Nevada, Reno's Extension program is asking Washoe County and other Northern Nevada residents to complete a needs-assessment survey by Jan. 31 to shape future programs. If you've used Master Gardeners, 4-H, or Living With Fire resources, this is your chance to influence what services Extension prioritizes next across the region.

**Bill by Nevada's Amodei to ramp up mining on public land passes House ([rgj.com](http://rgj.com))** — Nevada Rep. Mark Amodei's Mining Regulatory Clarity Act has passed the U.S. House and now heads to the Senate with support from both of Nevada's senators. While Titus' office explained her opposition to the **Reno** Gazette Journal, the bill could reshape how mining waste is handled on public lands statewide and create a fund to clean up abandoned hardrock mines.

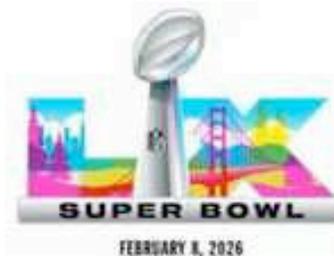


### Job Title:

Mobility Assistance Program Teammate - Local Hire Staff

**Location:** Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, CA

**Company:** SP+ | A Metropolis Company | GAMEDAY



We're seeking enthusiastic, dependable individuals to join our Mobility Assistance team for America's biggest sporting event! Help guests navigate the stadium with safety, courtesy, and a smile—while enjoying the excitement of being part of a dynamic, high-profile team.

### Available Positions

All positions require a strong commitment to guest service, a friendly demeanor, and professionalism when assisting guests. Assignments are pre-arranged based on experience and qualifications:

- Wheelchair Ambassador
- Escort Guide (limited availability)
- Golf Cart Driver (limited availability; requires valid driver's license, background check, drug test, and successful completion of Golf Cart Driver training)

### Position Type & Duration

Competitive hourly rate (rate provided during application process).

Shifts will vary from 8 to 13 hours. Meals and hydration will be provided.

### Key Responsibilities

- **Guest Service:** Greet attendees and provide courteous, accurate information to enhance their experience.
- Assist guests requiring mobility services, including **transport by wheelchair or golf cart**, within the defined campus and stadium.
- Log all service provided via a smartphone application in real time.
- Take direction from SP+ Supervisors and follow proper ADA protocols and guest privacy guidelines as instructed in training.
- Work with other stadium operations teams to ensure seamless experience to the guests.
- Learn and adhere to all policies and procedures for SP+ GAMEDAY and the NFL.

### Requirements & Skills

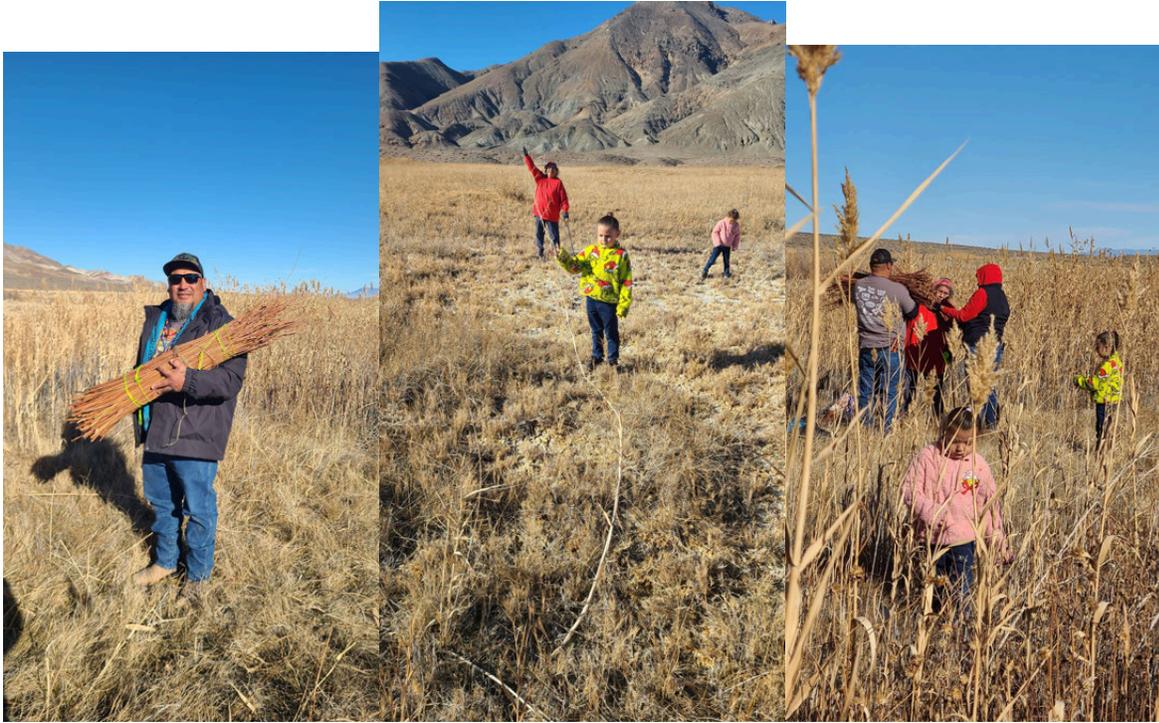
**Training:** Attendance to both training sessions is mandatory:

1. **Virtual:** 1 hour, approx. 8 days before the game
  2. **In-Person:** 4 hours at stadium, during Super Bowl week, multiple slots to choose from.
- Excellent communication skills and a customer-focused, professional attitude.
  - Must have a smartphone capable of running the operational app.
  - Physical endurance to push wheelchairs for multiple trips, including guests up to 300 lbs, on varied terrain.
  - Ability to stand and walk for extended periods, navigate through large crowds, and work in loud environments.
  - Comfortable working outdoors in various weather conditions.
  - Stamina to complete entire shift without interruption.

### Additional Information

- You will sign out any assigned equipment; loss or damage may result in liability for replacement costs.
- Uniform: Black or khaki pants, comfortable athletic shoes, solid-color polo or similar shirt. High-visibility vest and event gear will be provided and must be worn for the entire shift.
- Professional appearance and conduct are required at all times in this high-profile, televised event environment.
- Respect guest privacy and provide assistance with discretion and sensitivity.

Donna Cossette



(l)  
(m) The wacoco also propagate by shooting roots. This is a great example of this root trying to re-establish itself by traveling along the surface for the perfect spot.

(r) Grandma taking charge on the bundling our weha. The tall grass like vegetation is wacoco, or wild cane. It was an essential material used by the Toi-Ticutta People. The rods were the perfect size and thickness and the straightest I've seen.

**American taxpayers own a stake in this Nevada lithium mine. Will it pay off?**

([reviewjournal.com](http://reviewjournal.com)) — Reno readers are at the center of this story, with the University of Nevada, Reno's Mackay School of Mines and local experts helping shape how Nevada taps lithium for the clean-energy economy. The piece follows the controversial Thacker Pass project, federal investments, and market swings to ask whether taxpayers' stake in Nevada lithium will ultimately pay off.

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Just so we are clear:      With thanks to Indigenous Revolution

 TikTok - [vm.tiktok.com/ZNR2fJA4c](https://vm.tiktok.com/ZNR2fJA4c)

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**[From the Schumacher Center end of year message:](#)**

**You helped bring visionary thinkers to the Annual E. F. Schumacher Lectures.** Wendell Berry, Jane Jacobs, Ivan Illich, Winona LaDuke, John Todd, and Bayo Akomolafe are just some of many. Their talks are gathered in a notable collection of [pamphlets](#) and [podcasts](#) – distinctive voices for an alternative future. Perhaps some of the pamphlets are on your own shelves.

**You made the Schumacher Center’s Research Library a reality.** Your support of building, collecting, and maintaining this resource ensures that the [history of a movement](#) is preserved for future generations. Did you, like others, fall in love with the old apple trees and splendid view when you visited the Library?

**You championed the preservation of cultural archives.** Because members insisted these initiatives deserved honoring, we have been able to digitize and publish legacy materials such as [MANAS Journal](#), the [Lindisfarne Tapes](#), and the [Decentralism File](#).

**You empowered experimentation and innovation.** Berkshire staff’s ability to innovate new land tenure methods with [Berkshire Community Land Trust](#) and new approaches to local exchange and finance with [SHARE](#) and [BerkShares](#) – that was your willingness to fund thoughtful risk-taking.

**You helped build global connections.** Your stories about [community land trusts](#) and [local currency programs](#) from your regions led to the Schumacher Center’s comprehensive international directories for these programs —resources that are now used by practitioners worldwide.

**You contributed to a digital resource for a new generation.** [Our website](#) is rich with the 45 years of programming shaped together with our members and aligned organizations. The website serves as a tool for training a new generation in the principles outlined in Schumacher’s *Small is Beautiful*.

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Moonlit Whispers ·

**Three hours after solstice, the light already proves it.**

December 21st, 7:41 AM Mountain Time. Winter solstice sunrise at Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. On Fajada Butte, sunlight pierces through carefully positioned rock slabs and strikes an ancient spiral petroglyph carved into the cliff face. Not randomly. Two daggers of light bracket the spiral's center—left and right—creating a pattern that appears only on winter solstice.

The Ancestral Puebloans carved that spiral over a thousand years ago. They positioned three stone slabs above it to control how sunlight hits the carving throughout the year. Summer solstice: a single dagger of light pierces the spiral's center. Equinoxes: light bisects the spiral. Winter solstice: two daggers bracket it symmetrically.

This isn't approximation. The alignment functions with precision that rivals modern instruments. The stone slabs act as apertures—controlling light like a camera shutter. The spiral acts as the target. The sun's position determines the pattern. Change the date by even three days, and the light hits differently.

They built this before telescopes. Before protractors. Before GPS. They used observation, patience, and stone. They proved the sun's movement is predictable. That the lowest point in winter marks a threshold. That geometry is reliable.

Three hours after solstice, the light returned to Fajada Butte exactly as it has for a millennium. The daggers appeared. The pattern held.

The cosmos doesn't break its promises.

[#WinterSolstice2025](#) [#ChacoCanyonNM](#) [#FajadaButte](#) [#AncientWisdom](#) [#SpiralPetroglyph](#)  
[#AncestralPuebloans](#) [#SolsticeAlignment](#) [#NewMexico](#) [#DesertAstronomy](#) [#GeometryReliable](#)  
[#MoonlitWhispers](#)

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[Native Health Phoenix](#) ·

Indian Health Services Scholarship program opened Monday, December 15, and closes February 28. This program is for multiple Preparatory, Pre-Graduate and Hea...

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**Temperance *[A Parody on "Uncle Sam's Farm"](#)* puts forward the thought:**

...The water is much cheaper, and much more healthy too, And never makes a man a fool—  
which liquors often do.

...Cold water never caused man in the gutter to be found, And never, as I know of, to feel  
upward for the ground.

## Bay Nature Talk: Harmful Algal Blooms in Clear Lake

Online | January 7 | 12pm-1pm

Join Bay Nature and Sarah Ryan, environmental director at the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians for a virtual talk on the effects of harmful algal blooms in Clear Lake on Wednesday, January 7 from 12pm - 1pm. Harmful algal blooms have plagued Clear Lake for years, killing millions of fish, including a 7-foot white sturgeon during the most recent bloom in August 2025. Ryan will talk about the work being done to monitor and mitigate for these ongoing disasters and how the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians has tracked harmful algal blooms in Clear Lake since 2014. **This talk is free for Bay Nature Members and \$5 for Nonmembers.**

This event is inspired by "[Fish Kill at Clear Lake Reveals a Seven-Foot Sturgeon Surprise.](#)" a piece published on our website in our Fall 2025 issue of the magazine.

Dear Relatives,

In this final month of 2025, we are taking time for both reflection and gratitude – reflecting on all that we have withstood and accomplished this year for our communities, for our people, and feeling a deep sense of appreciation for those who supported us during this challenging and transformative time.

This month, we lift up gratitude for our colleagues, both past and present, whose courage and commitment helped secure a [victory against the Grand Gateway Hotel](#) and hold racism accountable in the court of law. More than three years ago, we filed this [federal civil rights lawsuit](#) after the hotel denied service to Native people in a blatant act of racism.

Throughout the week of the trial, we took time to reflect on the history of racism in Rapid City, including [conversations about the origins of the Lakota Nation Invitational](#), which was taking place at the same time. These reflections were further strengthened by a powerful dialogue between Nick and Leonard Peltier on [NDN's LANDBACK For the People podcast](#). Their words reminded us of our collective histories, encompassing both challenges and victories, and how Indigenous resistance has always been connected to our survival.

This month showed us that our struggles are always worth the fight when they are rooted in justice and love for our people. As the year draws to a close, we are called to slow down, to rest, and to care for ourselves and one another, so that we may continue the work of building a more just and equitable world. Relatives, we wish you balance, rest, and renewal in these final weeks of 2025, and we look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with you in the year ahead.

In Solidarity,  
The NDN Collective Team

If you see global challenges as a call to action, **join us**. Our master's degrees cut across disciplines to give you the knowledge, skills, and experience to drive meaningful change in the world.

### Degrees that Make a Difference

- [M.S. in Climate and Society](#)
- [M.S. in Environmental Science & Policy](#)
- [M.S. in Geographic Information Science \(GIS\)](#)
- [M.A. in International Development](#)
- [M.S. in Sustainable Food Systems](#)
- [M.A. in Community Development & Planning](#)
- [The Clark MBA – Concentration in Social Change and Sustainability](#)

### What Sets Clark apart?

- **A Diverse and Supportive Community:** Rooted in social and environmental justice
- **A Legacy of Leadership:** Over a century of pioneering work in geography, urban studies, and environmental science
- **Expert Faculty:** Learn from researchers partnering with NASA, Oxfam America, and other global leaders
- **Local AND global perspectives:** Tackle real-world challenges at every scale

### Generous Scholarships Available for January and Fall 2026.

For graduate program information and personal advising, visit [clarku.edu/graduate](https://clarku.edu/graduate) or email: [gradadmissions@clarku.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@clarku.edu)



### Tribe recognizes River as a Person

Journalist Ian James writes, “As I’ve followed the long-running negotiations over the Colorado River the last couple of years, very little progress has been made in transforming the century-old system of managing the river’s dwindling water. The Colorado’s giant reservoirs have dropped because of heavy water use and a quarter-century of drought, worsened by climate change, yet seven Western states have remained deadlocked on how to take less water and live within the river’s limits. In the last month, though, leaders of a tribal nation on the California-Arizona border offered a concept that might help transform the discussions — or at least ensure that the health of the river itself isn’t completely ignored. The Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes decided to recognize the river as a legal person under tribal law. It’s the second time a Native tribe has declared legal personhood for a river in the United States. The Yurok Tribe in Northern California in 2019 declared the Klamath River a legal person. ...” [Read more from the LA Times.](#)

*In Loving Memory*

*Linda*

*Karen*

*Smith*

*1959-2025*



Viewing: Friday, 01/02/2026

From 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Walton's Funerals & Cremations – Ross, Burke & Knobel  
2155 Kietzke Ln. – Reno, NV

Cremation to Follow

*A Celebration of Life will be held in the Spring, 2026*

