



Vail's EpicPromise gives back to the Tahoe City Demonstration Garden

By Nicole Alison Toy, UC Davis TERC



Saturday, September 19, 2018 – Dark clouds overhead and cool temperatures were ominous indicators of rough weathers ahead at the Tahoe City Field Station and Demonstration Garden. Not that rough weathers could stop the TERC education crew and Vail's EpicPromise volunteers. The TERC education crew consisted of Program Coordinator Alison Toy, AmeriCorps members Liz Bronson and Bre Harris, and TERC docents Dave Long and Steve Klukkert. The Vail EpicPromise group was a mix of Vail employees and their families and is part of Vail Corporation's dedication to supporting their local community. There was quite the mix of Vail employees present, from personnel from accounting to ski instructors with decades of experience.

In short, everyone associated with Vail who had an interest in being outside and working with TERC came to help. Funding had been provided for materials ahead of time from EpicPromise and the TERC team had staged the garden so that the work ahead would flow seamlessly. The idea was simple, come prepared to work hard and get as much done as possible. After a quick introduction of TERC's mission, and programs, the 30 volunteers were broken into teams with each team led by a TERC education team member. Larger tasks included installation of two raised beds for garden phenology and intense removal of Woods' rose. Volunteers also had the opportunity to do some pruning, weeding, dead-heading, raking, cleaning, aquarium maintenance, citizen science, and break down pallet wood to be used for future garden workshops held at the Tahoe City Field Station.



While all volunteers were instructed to go at their own pace and hydrate consistently, many gung-ho volunteers chose to work with little to no breaks. After three and a half hours of non-stop work, there was a beautifully manicured native plant demonstration garden, over 20 bags of green waste, a sparkling clean aquarium, two gorgeous raised beds that tiered off the original raised beds, and no shortage of splinters, bent screws, and sore hands. When the group collectively gathered back up in the parking lot there were no sour face, only happy volunteers that were tired, but beaming with satisfaction of a job well done.

