

## **Description & Purpose of Golden Trout Natural History Workshops**

### **A Brief Description**

The Golden Trout Natural History Workshop is a non-profit organization incorporated within the state of California. In 1975, a founding group began taking students into the Golden Trout Wilderness to immerse them in a natural classroom without walls. This tradition continues today. Workshops are led by trained naturalists and others with detailed knowledge of the workshop subject matter, and include local hikes into the surrounding areas and evening workshops at the camp facility. Workshop topics typically include botany, bird-watching, zoology, geology, astronomy and photography. The curriculum is loosely structured, allowing students plenty of time to explore on their own. Facilities are semi-primitive, with students packing in their own clothing, sleeping gear and personal items (although local pack companies can do this for you). Meals are prepared and provided by the camp staff.

### **Purpose**

The Workshop organization exists to promote awareness and education for the general public about the natural history, conservation, and ecology of the southern Sierra Nevada and to allow for a better understanding and appreciation of these unique ecosystems by coordinating an educational wilderness camping experience. You will have the opportunity to explore the Sierra through daily hikes with experienced workshop leaders. In addition, informal workshops and evening programs will examine varying subjects related to the Sierra and the workshop subject matter.

During daily hikes, many species of wildlife can be observed. They include mule deer, yellow-bellied marmot, porcupine, pika, and possibly bighorn sheep. Along with the usual mountain bird species, northern goshawk, golden eagle, blue grouse, Williamson's sapsucker, and rosy finch can usually be observed on daily hikes.

The flora of the Golden Trout area has many unique components. You will encounter several endemic species of plants while being overwhelmed by the abundance of wildflowers in the meadows adjoining camp and on your daily hikes. Lodgepole pine is the dominant tree surrounding camp, and foxtail pines (a species closely related to bristlecone pine) provide settings ideal for photographers.