

# Minden/Gardnerville, NV

October 4-8, 2026

Sign-ups: June 1-13, 2026 (See last section)

Discover the hidden secrets where the Nevada high desert meets the California High Sierras. We will hike the Fay Luther trail in the high desert, Tahoe Rim Trail, Winnemucca Lake from Carson Pass via the Pacific Crest trail and visit the River Fork Ranch Nature Conservancy where the area's rich ranch history meets nature conservancy.

## Sunday, October 4, 2026

Drive Hwy 50 to the Holiday Inn (1659 Hwy 878, Minden, NV). There are many places to explore along the way: Placerville, ("Hangtown"), Coloma (start of the Gold Rush), Apple Hill <https://www.applehillca.com>), hiking at Pyramid Creek Trailhead, El Dorado National Forest, and Big Meadow, Tahoe Rim Trail just before Luther Pass.

## Monday, October 5, 2026 (Faye-Luther elev. 4800-5200)

AM: River Fork Ranch Nature Conservancy, West Fork trail. Guided walk to Whit Hall Interpretive Center. Level walk along the Carson River, rich with ranch history and protected habitat. 4.1 miles, 13 feet.



River Fork Ranch Conservancy, West Fork Trail



Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest,  
Fay Luther trail/Jobs Peak

PM: Fay Luther trail. High Desert. Walk through several different eco systems (scrub desert, forest, riparian creeks) at the foot of Jobs peak. 3 miles. 300 ft elevation. Longer and more elevation option available.

## Tuesday, October 6, 2026 (Carson Pass elev. 8200-9800)

Everybody drives 29 miles to the Carson Pass Visitor Center.

Group A: Carson Pass to Winnemucca Lake. Moderate group, 5 miles, out and back, 500 feet elevation, lunch at the lake and return via Frog Lake. Steps and rocky sections.

Group B: The group hikes 7 miles, 1400 feet elevation. After stopping at Carson Pass, drive to Woods Lake trailhead. Hike to Winnemucca Lake to have lunch at the lake and return via Frog Lake. Shuttle back to Woods Lake.

Winnemucca Lake



**Wednesday, October 7** ( Tahoe Rim Trail & Castle Rock. elev. 7600-7900)

Group A: Take the Castle Rock loop, with option to extend hike by taking a portion of the Tahoe Rim trail out and back. 4 miles, 570 feet elevation.

Group B: Take the Castle Rock. Loop, Extend the hike with a portion of the Tahoe Rim Trail. 7 miles and 1000 feet elevation.

Gorgeous views of Lake Tahoe on both hikes.

For a truly local experience, our group dinner will be at JT's Basque Restaurant.

**Thursday, October 8**

Drive home, option to go via Hwy 88 if it makes sense.

Other activities available in the area: historic Dangberg Ranch, Stewart Indian School (preserved boarding school), Douglas County Museum in Minden and Genoa, Minden Mills Distillery, tours by reservation. Markleeville, an old NV town has two great restaurants (Cutthroat for lunch and Stonefly for dinner). It is near Grover Hot springs (reservation) and Leviathan Peak which has a fire tower a short walk from a parking lot and views for miles. Nearby Carson City is the low-key state capitol which has tours, Nevada State Museum, Bank Saloon (pause for cocktails between demonstrations at the capitol.) Reno is not far away (one hour) and has an excellent art museum (Nevada Museum of Art).

**Signups:**

Sign up with Lynne Vogensen by email at [mslynn33@yahoo.com](mailto:mslynn33@yahoo.com). Sign up only during the sign-up window of June 1-13, 2026. Any attempt to sign up outside of the window will not be valid.

Just a reminder that all CCHC members are invited to sign up for overnight trips. However, members who contribute to club activities will be given priority for selection. See (CCHC Outings Information, Qualifying Criteria for Outings at <http://contracostahills.org/membership.html>)

Scouting team: Jan Lecklikner, Lynne Vogensen, Helen Johe, Ed Osada  
(Updated May 5, 2026, v3)

