

Shine On Serrania Frequently Asked Questions

What does Friends of Serrania (FOS) do?

Friends of Serrania (FOS) is the fundraising booster arm of Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies. Our mission is to raise vital income to fund important academic, art, social, technological, and campus programs and services that are no longer funded by LAUSD. Our goal is to build upon the talent and skill of our teachers and staff by giving them more resources to create a comprehensive education for our all of our students.

FOS efforts are led solely by parent volunteers in collaboration with our teachers and staff. Without the funds raised through donations to FOS, many of our dynamic programs and services would not exist—including P.E., music, science lab, Accelerated Reader, teacher aides, technology upgrades, counseling services, and campus beautification—just to name a few. ***ALL of Serrania's students participate in and benefit from the programs funded by FOS. We ask that ALL Serrania families chip in to help fund these programs.***

What is the “Shine On Serrania” campaign?

“Shine on Serrania” is our school’s annual giving campaign. It is our most important fundraiser, making up approximately 40% of the FOS annual budget. Our goal is to get a donation from every family in order to pay for school-wide programs, resources, and services including music, P.E., computer lab, dance, Accelerated Reader, science lab, counseling services, and more. There is a significant gap between what LAUSD can fund and the enriched experience our children receive at Serrania. That experience is made possible **ONLY** through your donations to FOS. ***ALL of Serrania's students participate in and benefit from the programs and services funded by FOS. Please do your part and make your annual contribution to Serrania today.***

Is the money I give tax-deductible?

Yes! FOS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization (Tax ID #95-4291588). Your donation is 100% tax-deductible! Does your employer have a matching gift program? (Many companies do!) It is the simplest way to double your donation and double your support. With your company’s match, your gift will be credited at your matched level.

My tax dollars already go to Serrania. Isn’t that enough?

No, unfortunately it’s not even close! Tax dollars do not cover the cost of a school like Serrania. Due to severe budget cuts in state and federal funding, the funds we receive from LAUSD scarcely cover the bare minimum. There is a significant gap between what LAUSD funds, and the vibrant learning environment we strive for at Serrania. Now more than ever, the quality of our children’s education is in **OUR** hands.

Now that Serrania is a charter school, don’t we get sufficient funding?

No. Being a charter gives us more control over how we spend our money. But without the funding provided by contributions to FOS, Serrania would not have P.E., music for all grades, upgraded technology, Accelerated Reader, dance, science lab, enhanced counseling services, or campus cleanup and beautification from the Green Team. To continue with the quality of Serrania’s public education (and build on what we already have) the “Shine on Serrania” annual giving campaign needs significant financial support from every Serrania family.

Do other public schools have donation programs?

Yes! Many of our neighboring schools request \$400-600 per child, and raise as much as double and triple what we have been able to raise at Serrania. We are only asking for \$250 per child.

Why can’t I wait and give at another fundraiser?

While all of our fundraisers play an important role, the “Shine on Serrania” annual giving campaign is our largest fundraiser with the highest percentage of your gift going directly to programs and services. When this campaign is successful, we can relieve the pressure of creating additional, smaller fundraisers.

We encourage every Serrania family to help us shine. Your light helps us grow!

If you have any questions, please email us at sos@serraniacharter.org. Make **YOUR** donation today!