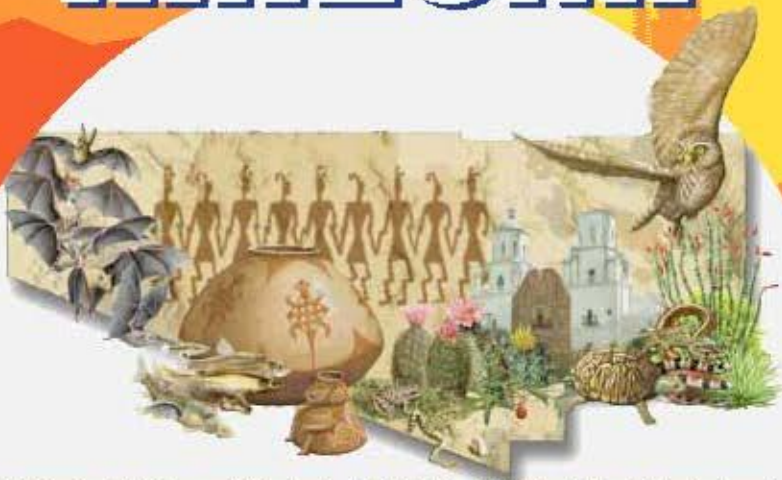


MENLO MIDDLE SCHOOL TRAVEL

SOUTHERN ARIZONA



**LIFE IN THE SONORAN DESERT:
IMMIGRATION, INDIGENEITY,
AND SUSTAINABILITY**



Middle School Southern Arizona



IN BRIEF

Middle School Global Travel aims to advance knowledge of self and others, connections to diverse and distant communities, the *distant other* in our midst, and community engagement. It also aims to advance transference of learned skills and knowledge to our home context so that students emerge with a better understanding of themselves and their world



Dates: June 9- June 14, 2024

Enrollment Limits: 16 students

Enrollment Eligibility: Menlo students in grades 6-8. We are not requiring pre-testing but reserve the right to change that to requiring pre-testing if Covid numbers are higher at departure time. For medical questions or exemption requests contact the school nurse's office.

Trip Leaders: There will be two Menlo teachers/trip leaders: Middle School Faculty Support Ricky Lambert and Middle School Physical Education Teacher Parnika Patel. In addition two upper school students will assist with leadership on the trip. While in Arizona, we will be joined by two instructors from Where There Be Dragons.

All-Inclusive Fee²: \$3000. Financial aid may be available. Current financial aid recipients should contact Rose Garza regarding financial aid (rgarza@menloschool.org).

.....
² Fee includes all flights • hotel accommodation • all meals • all surface transportation • museum, park, and temple entrance fees • reading materials • administrative support 24/7 • The fee does not include trip cancellation insurance or expenses for petty cash expenditures (est. at \$100).

A Note About Cell Phones: In order to maintain the integrity of the immersive program, students will have only limited access to cell phones.



Middle School Southern Arizona

COURSE OVERVIEW

Middle School: Southern Arizona is a fun and rewarding trip emphasizing hands on engagement with issues of environment, indigeneity, and immigration. The richly diverse landscapes of Southern Arizona serve as a backdrop for the diverse peoples and shared histories of the Sonoran Desert. After arrival in Tucson, AZ, we travel south to Patagonia, where we learn of traditional ways of survival in the Sonoran Desert and work on permaculture projects with the Borderlands Restoration Network and the Bean Tree Farm. A short distance from the border wall at Nogales, we also experience and learn how currents of migration play an important role in the area's ecology. From Patagonia, we move to Elgin for a visit with the Canelo Project, where students learn and practice creative, real-world responses to life in desertified environments, such as building houses with straw and earth. Finally, we move to the unique town of Ajo, six miles north of the Mexico border, where we are hosted by the International Sonoran Desert Alliance and the Tohono O'odham Nation. Here students learn and meet people who are involved in the preservation of indigenous art and culture, as well as the stories of border patrol and recently arrived migrants from Mexico. Throughout the trip students will be engaged in projects, hikes, and fun activities.





Menlo Middle School global travel

Southern Arizona



ITINERARY

(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)

Sunday, June 9 – SFO

- Morning muster at SFO
- Flight to Tucson
- Lunch or afternoon meal
- Transfer to Patagonia
- Games and introduction to Sonoran Desert
- Dinner and stay at Middle School Global Travel Restoration Network

Monday, June 10 – Patagonia

- Breakfast and check in meeting
- Orientation to Middle School Global Travel Restoration Network
- Hands on projects involving species, local water, food systems, and land conservation
- Debrief discussions
- Games and fun
- Dinner and stay at Middle School Global Travel Restoration Network

Tuesday, June 11 – Patagonia and Canelo

- Breakfast and check in meeting
- Travel to Canelo
- Workshops on ecological and sustainable design
- Lunch
- Hands on projects
- Debrief discussion
- Return to Patagonia
- Games and fun
- Dinner and stay at Middle School Global Travel Restoration Network

Wednesday, June 12 – Ajo

- Breakfast and check in
- Transfer to Ajo
- Orientation to International Sonoran Desert Alliance
- Lunch
- Meet with members of the Tohono O'odham Nation
- Community engagement activities on migrant and indigenous rights
- Games and fun
- Dinner and Stay at International Sonoran Desert Alliance

Thursday, June 13 – Ajo

- Breakfast and check in
- Meet with recent migrants
- Hands on projects involving migration
- Visit local area sites
- Games and fun
- Reflections on trip

Friday, June 14 – Transfer to SFO

- Breakfast and wrap up
- Return to Tucson for flight to SFO



Menlo Middle School

Southern Arizona



TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

January 25	Announcement of Program at Middle School assembly
January 30, 6:00 pm	Parent and Student information night in G-06 and G-07
February 6	Applications due
February 9	Admissions notifications sent
February 13	Forms and Payment due by 3:00 pm
May 9, 6:00 pm	Pre-departure information night for enrolled students and their parents (meeting is mandatory for student and at least one parent) - G-06 and G-07
June 9-June 14	Middle School: Southern Arizona



Menlo Middle School global travel

Southern Arizona

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRAVEL ASPIRATIONS

1. Knowledge and Global Competency⁵: Middle School travel with global programs advance students' self-knowledge and global competencies, including intercultural capabilities, historical perspectives, and attentiveness to diversity. Through direct experience, students develop awareness of global systems and issues impacting host communities.
2. Dispositions of Global Engagement⁶: Middle School travel with global programs cultivates internationally minded students who recognize their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet and strive to create a better and more peaceful world. Among the many positive dispositions they develop are agency, leadership, confidence, empathy, compassion, humility, feelings of interconnection, and respect.
3. Relationships: Middle School travel with global programs builds sustaining relationships between students and diverse, underserved communities and individuals through shared common experiences of everyday life.
4. Community Engagement: Middle School global travel with global programs contributes to solutions based on mutually beneficial work, apprenticeship, or study, activities that support students' knowledge and appreciation for local cultures and the challenges they face.
5. Transference: Middle School travel with global programs generates sustaining interest and connections with Menlo curricula and programs.

.....

⁵ *Global competency* includes the abilities to investigate the world beyond the immediate environment, the recognition of one's own and other perspectives, the ability to communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences.

⁶ By *Global engagement* we mean the dispositions necessary to be connected and of service to others, including those beyond national borders.





Middle School Southern Arizona

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The program is being offered by Menlo School in conjunction with Where There Be Dragons. In cases of programs offered in conjunction with other organizations, participants are required to complete registration, waivers, and medical forms provided by both Menlo School and the third party organization.

By February 13: To secure a place in the program each of the following must be submitted.

1. A check payment payable to Menlo School for \$3,000. Financial aid recipients will be contacted by the financial aid with a revised program fee.
2. Completed and signed *Parent Permission and Waiver, Medical Release, Emergency and Medical Information Form - Overnight*
3. Completed and signed *Waiver and Release for Program within the United States*
4. Completed and signed Menlo School *Trip Contract*
5. Third party organization health forms, waiver, and release.

By May 8: Any remaining and required forms.

Equipment lists, air travel instructions, and further information about the program will subsequently be provided.

Our intention is to address the goals and curricular elements listed in the program description, but all participants are advised that course itineraries will likely change to incorporate participant goals and interests, to adjust to the health of members of the group, or in response to weather conditions, problems with transportation or other unforeseen problems. Regardless of such changes, we will always work to structure and implement the course so that it stays true to the original intent.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Given the uncertainty of conditions at the current time, Menlo encourages participants to consider the purchase of a travel insurance or trip cancellation insurance policy for the trip. Check your primary medical insurance provider to ensure your child will have medical coverage while traveling. If that is in question, travel insurance, including medical coverage, should be purchased.

If the participant is on financial aid, travel insurance purchases for this trip will be reimbursed at the rate of financial aid.

[Here](#) are some insurance options you might consider. [Academic Explorer Adventure](#) is another option designed especially for school travel and especially this trip. But Menlo makes no recommendation regarding these options: Please read all policies carefully to ensure that your needs are served.

CANCELED TRIPS: A full refund will be made for canceled trips that arise out of insufficient registration, though Menlo is not responsible for other costs incurred by the student or family preparing for the trip. For trips canceled due to any other circumstance that is beyond Menlo's control, Menlo will refund all recoupable payments. If Menlo decides to cancel the trip at its own discretion, Menlo will fully refund participants' payments.

REFUND POLICY: If Menlo does not cancel the trip but a participant chooses to withdraw, the participant must inform the Global Programs Director (pbrown@menloschool.org) and Where There Be Dragons Director of School Partnerships (simon@wheretherebedragons.com) in an email communication. 60-89 days prior to departure: Dragons: 75% refund; 30-59 days prior to departure: 50% refund; 15-29 days prior to departure: 25% refund; 1-14 days prior to departure: 5% refund. No refunds will be given for participants departing the trip early.

MEDICAL AND EVACUATION EXPENSES: It is the responsibility of the student and the student's family to understand the limits of any medical and evacuation policy, and to provide up-front payment for emergency services when required.

CELL PHONES: In order to maintain the integrity of the immersive experience, students will have limited access to cell phones.

VIOLATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS: If a participant acts in a way that is injurious to himself or herself, people of the host community, or other participants on the trip, or generally conducts himself or herself in a way that is disruptive to the trip, we reserve the right to send the participant home without refund or to require parental pickup at the travel site. Underage use of alcohol and the use of illegal drugs are cause for dismissal. Participants sent home early or who choose to return for any reason, including sickness, personal emergencies, or injury, will be responsible for all medical costs and will absorb travel and related costs associated with an unscheduled departure.

*Recoupable fees do not include airline fees and non-refundable fees Menlo pays to the travel organization on the student's behalf

Please contact Peter Brown with any questions at 650.330.2001 ext. 2238 or email pbrown@menloschool.org.

READ THIS DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING FORMS.