The Taos Experience

Menlo Middle School Trip
June 14-19, 2020

EXPLORING NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Offered in partnership with

Menlo School

Global Programs & Studies

Crossroads Student Travel
The Taos, New Mexico Trip
June 14-19, 2020

IN BRIEF
Menlo Middle School: Taos introduces Menlo students to the indigenous Taos Pueblo, where they develop global competencies, engagement, and self-knowledge. Through mentorship and facilitation, students have fun learning first hand about realities facing the Taos Pueblo and emerge with a better understanding of themselves and their world.

Enrollment Limits: 18 students

Trip Leaders
There are two Menlo faculty leading this program: Athletic Director Joe McDonald and Cody Carefoot, Middle School history teacher. The trip is also led and organized by Crossroads Student Travel Director Stuart Morris, who has taught American History in the San Francisco Bay Area for 25 years and led trips to Taos for the past 20 years.

Upper School Student Assistants
One or two Menlo Upper School students will complement the leadership of the trip.

All-Inclusive Fee: $1,950
(Includes round trip airfare and transportation by vans, all meals, private lodging, and all activities.) Financial aid students are eligible for financial aid. Contact Rose Garza (rgarza@menloschool.org) for more information.

Deadline to apply:
Complete the online application by Wednesday, January 14, 2020, 3:00 pm
For the past 19 years, students have described the Taos trip as one of their most valuable experiences of their time in school.

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to continue Menlo Middle School’s collaboration with Crossroads Program to Taos, New Mexico, which first began in June, 2014.

Taos, NM, is a magnificent place to learn about traditional Native American culture. A scenic tapestry of mountain ranges, gorges, rivers, open spaces and rock formations, Taos has lured artists to this region for over a century. More recently, Taos has become one of the most desirable recreational regions in the Southwest. Due to the high desert elevation, Taos enjoys mild temperatures during the summer months.

Our trip to Taos, NM, is a six-day experience designed to immerse 18 Menlo Middle School students into Native American culture at the Taos Pueblo, one of the oldest continuously inhabited communities in North America, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Students will spend their mornings working with Native American children at a Pueblo summer camp and engaging in a variety of community restoration projects at the Pueblo elementary school and a local organic farm. Throughout the week we actively engage in cultural awareness experiences at the Taos Pueblo such as traditional Native American drumming, bread making, storytelling, and musical performances, and other activities designed to address the aspirations of Menlo Global travel (see below). Finally, we will enjoy the many outdoor adventures available in the scenic Taos region such as short hikes and explorations to ancient Pueblo sites.

The students and the teacher chaperones will all live together in a private lodge located near the Taos Pueblo. Each room in the lodge will house 4-6 same-gender students with a shared bathroom.

Interested in applying? Apply online today!
ITINERARY

Sunday, June 14
- Morning departure from Bay Area airport to Albuquerque airport
- Load into private vans
- Visit Santa Fe Plaza and early dinner
- Drive to Taos and settle into private lodge

Monday, June 15
- Breakfast at lodge
- Community service project at the Taos Pueblo
- Lunch at lodge
- Short hike overlooking Rio Grande Gorge
- Taos Cow Ice Cream in Arroyo Seco
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Traditional Native American drumming and dancing

Tuesday, June 16
- Breakfast at lodge
- Community service project at the Taos Pueblo
- Lunch at lodge
- Private tour of the Taos Pueblo
- Dinner at lodge
- Evening with artists and historian Larry Torres on the folklore traditions of New Mexico

Wednesday, June 17
- Breakfast at lodge
- Community service project at the Taos Pueblo
- Lunch at lodge
- Swimming at the Rio Grande (weather and river conditions permitting)
- Traditional bread making, dinner, and hatchet throwing

Thursday, June 18
- Breakfast at lodge
- Community service project at the Taos Pueblo
- Lunch at lodge
- Visit hot springs at the Rio Grande
- Visit downtown Taos
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Private Pueblo concert with two-time Grammy-Award winner Robert Mirabal

Friday, June 19
- Breakfast at lodge and packing/clean up
- Afternoon departure from Albuquerque airport
- Early evening arrival at Bay Area airport

Interested in applying? Apply online today!
TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

- **Wednesday, December 4**
  Announcement of Taos program at Middle School assembly

- **Thursday, December 5, 7:00 pm, Room 710**
  Informational meeting for parents and students

- **Tuesday, January 14, 3:00 pm**
  Deadline for submission to submit trip application

- **Wednesday, January 22**
  Notification of accepted applicants

- **Tuesday, January 28**
  Final fee payment, permission, and waiver forms due

- **Wednesday, April 29, 6:00 pm, Room 710**
  Mandatory meeting for all enrolled students and one parent or guardian

Interested in applying? [Apply online today!]
MENLO TRAVEL ASPIRATIONS AND TAOS PROGRAM

The itinerary is designed to address the five components of Menlo Abroad Travel and at the same time to be a great time and memorable experience. The purposes of GPS-related travel, parallel in both Middle and Upper School divisions, is to help our students become at home in the world by advancing the following goals:

1. **Knowledge**: GPS travel aims to advance students’ self-knowledge and cultural competency, including the ability to investigate the world, recognition of students’ own and others’ perspectives, and the ability to communicate effectively with others. Through direct experience students should develop awareness of how global systems and issues impact particular communities.

2. **Dispositions of Global Engagement**: GPS travel intends to cultivate internationally minded students who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, strive to create a better and more peaceful world. Among the many positive dispositions they should practice and develop are agency, confidence, courage, empathy, humility, and respect.

3. **Relationships**: GPS travel aims to build sustaining relationships, particularly between students and diverse communities and individuals. These relationships should develop from shared common experiences of living, work, or study.

4. **Service**: GPS travel intends to contribute to solutions based on mutually beneficial work, study, apprenticeship, or internship, which in turn should support students’ knowledge and appreciation for the cultures and issues at hand.

5. **Connections**: GPS travel intends to generate sustaining interest and connections with Menlo School curricula and with Menlo’s program in general.

There are many ways that Taos-bound students will develop global competency and knowledge. For example, students will learn about Taos’ conceptions of gender roles, women’s leadership and about how Taos people govern themselves. They will develop global citizenship skills, for example, by practicing Taos’ ways of addressing elders and learning the importance of eye-contact. Their close engagement work will vary and depend on circumstances at the Pueblo during our visit. In the past, students have been involved in a levee-creation project, a house cleanup and making bread in a traditional manner. The Taos trip extends or anticipates our seventh and eighth grade social studies and history units on Native America as well as other subjects such as arts, music classes and community service.

Crossroads Student Travel is a nonprofit organization founded by Stuart Morris, an American history teacher who has taught in the Bay Area for 25 years.

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