

# MENLO BORDERLANDS

## SOUTHERN ARIZONA



## SUSTAINABILITY IN THE SONORAN DESERT

May 22-June 2, 2023



# Menlo Borderlands Southern Arizona

## IN BRIEF

**Menlo Borderlands** aligns with the goals of Menlo Abroad, our global travel program: it 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 emphasizes transference of learned skills and knowledge to our home context so that students emerge with a better understanding of themselves and their world.<sup>1</sup>



***Borderlands: Southern Arizona is offered in association with Where There Be Dragons.***

**Dates: MTerm '22:** May 22-June 2, 2023  
(Participants will be in Arizona May 24-30)

**Enrollment Limits:** 16 students

**Enrollment Eligibility:** Menlo students in grades 9-11. To ensure the safety of all travelers and visited communities, all participants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. For medical questions or exemption requests contact the school nurse's office.

**Trip Leaders:** There will be two Menlo teacher/trip leaders: Educational Tech Specialist Dayna Rychen and Upper School Science Teacher Dietrich Schuhl. While in Arizona, we will be joined by two instructors from Where There Be Dragons.

**All-Inclusive Fee<sup>2</sup>:** \$2800. Financial aid may be available. Current financial aid recipients should contact Rose Garza regarding financial aid (rgarza@menloschool.org).

Borderlands service participation earns students 8 community engagement credits.

<sup>1</sup> Borderlands is an elective option for May Term (MTerm) and is considered and assessed as an MTerm course.

<sup>2</sup> 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 Borderlands' immersive experience, students will relinquish their cell phones to trip leaders upon entry into the target area. Cell phones will be returned to students when they are in the airport awaiting the return flight home.





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### COURSE OVERVIEW

Borderlands: Southern Arizona is a deep dive into issues of ecological sustainability. The course begins on the Menlo campus with two days of overview and orientation, including initial readings, research, and preparations for in-field experiential learning.

The group then departs for Tucson, one of four locations they will visit. In Tucson, we head to the Cooper Center, an environmental education organization that introduces us to the unique Sonoran Desert ecosystem. Second, we travel south to Patagonia, where we learn of traditional ways of survival in the Sonoran Desert, engage 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. Finally, we move to Ajo, where we are hosted by the International Sonoran Desert Alliance and the Tohono O'odham Nation. Upon return to Menlo, students meet with participants in other Borderlands trips, share findings and reflections and complete their projects for the M Term / Borderlands Expo.





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### ITINERARY

*(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)*

#### Monday, May 22-Tuesday, May 23 – Menlo Campus

- Borderlands course overview
- Project guidelines
- Initial research and group activities
- Trip preparation

#### Wednesday, May 24 – Transit to Arizona

- Morning flight to Tucson
- Afternoon orientation activities at the Cooper Environmental Center
- Dinner and lodging at Cooper Environmental Center

#### Thursday, May 25-Friday, May 27 – Patagonia, Arizona

- Transfer to Patagonia, Arizona
- Meet with Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN)
- Community engagement activities and facilitated discussion with BRN: Themes of land conservation, environmental justice and food sovereignty
- Visit to Bean Tree Farm: themes of *rewilding* and indigenous food systems
- Visit to the Nogales, AZ, border wall: themes of humanitarian efforts to stop migrant deaths
- Lodge for evening in Patagonia

#### Saturday, May 28-Monday, May 29 – Ajo, Arizona

- Transfer to Ajo, AZ
- Orientation to International Sonoran Desert Alliance
- Meet with members of the Tohono O'odham Nation
- Community engagement activities on migrant, indigenous rights, and environmental stewardship  
Themes of food sustainability
- Reflections on trip to date
- Lodge for evening

#### Tuesday, May 30 – Transit to Tucson and San Francisco

- Return to Cooper Environmental Center, Tucson
- Debrief
- Flight to San Francisco

#### Wednesday, May 31-Friday, June 2 – Menlo Campus

- Conference
- Project instructions
- Project work
- M Term Expo







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### TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

<b>January 6</b>	Announcement of Borderland programs at upper school assembly
<b>January 24</b>	Applications due
<b>February 3</b>	Participants notified
<b>February 10</b>	Forms and Payment due by 3:00 pm
<b>April 25, 6:00 pm</b>	Pre-departure information night (Martin Family Hall) for enrolled students and their parents (meeting is mandatory for student and at least one parent)
<b>May 22</b>	M Term Borderlands begins on Menlo campus
<b>May 24 - May 30</b>	Borderlands trip to Southern Arizona
<b>May 31</b>	M Term Borderlands resumes on Menlo campus
<b>June 2</b>	Final Day - Bordlerlands / M Term Expo



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### BORDERLANDS AND MENLO ABROAD ASPIRATIONS

1. Knowledge and Global Competency <sup>5</sup>: Borderlands and Menlo Abroad 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 Engagement <sup>6</sup>: Borderlands and Menlo Abroad programs cultivate 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: Borderlands and Menlo Abroad programs build sustaining relationships between students and diverse, underserved communities and individuals through shared common experiences of everyday life.
4. Community Engagement: Borderlands and Menlo Abroad programs contribute 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: Borderlands and Menlo Abroad programs generate sustaining interest and connections with Menlo curricula and program.

<sup>5</sup> *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.

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







# Menlo Borderlands

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### 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 expected to complete registration, waivers, and medical forms provided by both Menlo School and the third party organization.

**By February 10:** To secure a place in the program each of the following must be submitted.

1. A check payment payable to Menlo School for \$2800. 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 April 18:** Any remaining and required travel documents.

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, political unrest 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 Borderlands trip. Check your primary medical insurance provider to assure 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. (If you use the Academic Explorer option call the 877 number and ask for Kathy.) But Menlo makes no recommendation regarding these options: please read all policies carefully to insure that your needs are met.

**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](mailto:pbrown@menloschool.org)) and Where There Be Dragons Director of School Partnerships ([simon@wheretherebedragons.com](mailto:simon@wheretherebedragons.com)) in an email communication. Menlo will refund recoupable fees according to the following schedule: By 3/23, 75% refund; by 4/22, 50% refund; by 5/21, 25% refund. No refunds will be given for participants departing the day of the trip or departing 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 of emergency services when required.

**CELL PHONES:** In order to maintain the integrity of Borderlands' immersive experience, students will relinquish their cell phones to trip leaders upon entry into the target area. Cell phones will be returned to students when they are in the airport awaiting the return flight home.

**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.

**Please contact Peter Brown with any questions at 650.330.2001 ext. 2238 or email [pbrown@menloschool.org](mailto:pbrown@menloschool.org).**

READ THIS DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING FORMS.