

MENLO



BORDERLANDS



**LAKE
SUPERIOR**

May 19-May 30, 2025



Menlo Borderlands Lake Superior, Wisconsin



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.¹



Borderlands: Lake Superior is offered in association with Where There Be Dragons.

Dates: MTerm '25: May 19-May 30, 2025

(Participants will be in Wisconsin from May 21-27)

Enrollment Limits: 16 students

Enrollment Eligibility: Menlo students in grades 9-11. For medical questions or exemption requests contact the school nurse's office.

Trip Leaders: There will be two Menlo teacher/trip leaders: Upper School History and Journalism Teacher Miles Bennett-Smith and Menlo School Head Librarian Brittney Otero. We will be joined by one or two instructors from Where There Be Dragons when we arrive at the airport in Minnesota.

All-Inclusive Fee²: \$3100. Financial aid is available for one Menlo sponsored trip for students on financial aid. Current financial aid recipients should contact Rose Garza regarding financial aid (rgarza@menloschool.org).

Borderlands service participation earns students 8 community engagement credits.

¹ Borderlands is an elective option for MTerm and is considered and assessed as an MTerm course.

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), or baggage fees.

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, Lake Superior at the border between Canada and the United States is a deep dive into issues involving the Ojibwe or the Anishinaabe Nation (aka the Chippewa) as well as the non-indigenous population living in the beautiful environment of Lake Superior. The largest freshwater lake in the world, Lake Superior is also the cleanest and wildest of all the Great Lakes, relatively undisturbed compared to its more urbanized partners in the south. It boasts the longest undeveloped coastline with less than 5% of total developed shoreline and a unique wealth of plant and animal species. But to those who call this place home, *Gitchigumi*, as it is called by the Ojibwe, or *the Boss*, as it is also known locally, represents much more than statistics or natural resources – it is a powerful spirit, a dangerous teacher, and a shapeshifter.

As the *People of the Big Water*, the Ojibwe and their perspectives are at the center of our visit to the Bayfield Peninsula and the Apostle Island National Park. Visiting Red Cliff Reservation, Madeline Island, and Frog Bay Tribal National Park, the first indigenous-run National Park in the United States, we learn from Ojibwe heritage holders and leaders about their lives, cultural perspectives, arts, mythology, as well as their unique history and relationship with the United States government. Engaging diverse perspectives, we will also learn from non-indigenous leaders and government officials about historic and current conflicts between the Ojibwe and their non-indigenous neighbors. Along the way we will meet and engage with Ojibwe youth and play lacrosse in the Ojibwe way. We will lodge at the cozy Potters Farm. Borderlands Lake Superior promises to give students a new and valuable experience in a beautiful area of our country and a unique indigenous perspective.





Menlo Borderlands Lake Superior, Wisconsin



ITINERARY

(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)

Monday, May 19-Tuesday, May 20 – Menlo Campus

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

Wednesday, May 21 – Transit to Lake Superior

- Morning flight to Minneapolis (MSP)
- Meet Dragons instructors
- Travel by van to Potter's Farm and enjoy opening meal with local wild foods
- Welcome ceremony and fire
- Stay at Potter's Farm

Thursday, May 22 – Potters Farm and Ashland, WI

- Breakfast and check in
- Orientation and safety briefings
- Lunch
- Afternoon visit to Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
- Dinner
- Stay at Potter's Farm

Friday, May 23 – Raspberry Bay and Red Cliff Reservation

- Breakfast and check in
- Morning excursion to Red Cliff with Ojibwe storyteller Laughing Fox
- Lunch in Red Cliff
- Afternoon visit to Tribal Fish hatchery and Red Cliff Fisheries, exploring common resources
- Return to Potter's Farm

Saturday, May 24 – Madeline Island

- Breakfast and checkin
- Transfer to Madeline Island via ferry
- Engage in indigenous-led farming project, reintroducing traditional food staples.
- Introduction to the history of the island and its place in Ojibwe mythology.
- Visit the island museum and wilderness beach
- Return to Potter's Farm





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ITINERARY (Cont.)

(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)

Sunday, May 25 – GLIFWC and Bad River Reservation

- Breakfast and check in
- Learn about environmental and conservation efforts from an Ojibwe perspective.
- Potential field visits with resident biologists
- Meeting with local craftswoman and culture bearer April Stone: weaving with the Black Ash tree
- Wood fired pizza dinner in Washburn
- Return to Potters Farm

Monday, May 26 – Bad River Reservation

- Breakfast
- Checkin
- Mushroom hunting hike with local mycologist
- Meeting with Northland College professor on climate change impacts and freshwater ecology
- Meeting with Ojibwe youth and Lacrosse Game
- Closing dinner
- Stay at Potters Farm

Tuesday, May 27 – Transfer to SFO

- Early Departure to MSP for flight back to SFO

Wednesday, May 28-Friday, May 30 – Menlo Campus

- Conference
- Project instructions
- Project work
- MTerm / Borderlands Expo



Interested in applying? [Apply online today!](#)



Menlo Borderlands Lake Superior, Wisconsin



TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

- January 10** Announcement of Menlo Abroad and Borderlands programs at upper school assembly
- January 28** Applications due
- February 5** Participants notified
- February 11** Forms and Payment due by 3:00 pm
- April 14, 6:00 pm** Pre-departure information night (Spieker Theater) for enrolled students and their parents (meeting is mandatory for student and at least one parent)
- May 19, 9:00 am** Borderlands Lake Superior begins on Menlo campus.
- May 21- May 27** El Paso trip
- May 28 - May 29** MTerm Borderlands: Lake Superior resumes on Menlo campus
- May 30** Final Day - Bordlerlands / M Term Expo ⁴

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⁴ Students must attend the final day to receive full credit for the course. The time and nature of the celebration is to be determined.

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BORDERLANDS AND MENLO ABROAD ASPIRATIONS

1. Knowledge and Global Competency⁵: 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 Engagement⁶: 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 programs.

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⁵ *Global competency* includes the ability to investigate the world beyond the immediate environment, the recognition of one's own and other perspectives, and 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.





Menlo Borderlands Lake Superior, Wisconsin



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 forms, registration, waivers, and medical forms provided by both Menlo School and the third-party organization.

By February 11: To secure a place in the program each of the following must be submitted.

1. A check payment payable to Menlo School for **\$3100**. 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 forms, waiver and release.

By April 14: Any remaining and required forms.

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

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 or social 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.

You might consider purchasing a travel insurance package through an organization such as InsureMyTrip to provide some financial protection against unforeseen circumstances or withdrawal. Menlo makes no recommendation regarding these options: Please read all policies carefully to ensure 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 tuition. 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 the Program Director of (erin@worldleadershipschool.com) in an email communication. Menlo will refund recoupable fees according to the following schedule: By 3/18, 50% refund. No refunds will be given for withdrawal after 3/18 or 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 of emergency services when required.

CELL PHONES: In order to maintain the integrity of the 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.

*Recoupable fees do not include airline fees and deposits Menlo pays to 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.