

MENLO



BORDERLANDS



# LAKE SUPERIOR

May 18-May 29, 2026



# Menlo Borderlands Lake Superior, Wisconsin



## IN BRIEF

**Menlo Borderlands** aligns with the goals of our global travel program: it aims to advance knowledge of self and others, connect students to diverse and distant communities, and to involve students in community engagement activities. It 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: Lake Superior is offered in association with Where There Be Dragons.***

**Dates: MTerm '26:** May 18-May 29, 2026

(Participants will be in Wisconsin from May 20-26)

**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: Financial Aid Manager Rose Garza and Zane Moore. They will be joined by one or two instructors from Where There Be Dragons when we arrive at the airport in Minnesota.

**All-Inclusive Fee<sup>2</sup>: \$3400.** 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).

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<sup>1</sup> Borderlands is an elective option for 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), or baggage fees.

**A Note About Phones:** In order to maintain the integrity of Borderlands' immersive experience, students should not take Smartphone or any Internet-connected device on the trip..



# Menlo Borderlands Lake Superior, Wisconsin



## COURSE OVERVIEW

Borderlands, Lake Superior, near the border between Canada and the United States is a deep dive into issues involving the Ojibwe, also known as the Chippewa or Anishinabe, 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 the cleanest and wildest of all the Great Lakes and relatively undisturbed compared to its more urbanized partners in the south. Less than 5% of Lake Superior's shoreline is developed, allowing for a rich and unique habitat for 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, is also 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 cultural perspectives, arts, mythology as well as the Ojibwe's unique history and relationship with the United States from the perspective of Ojibwe heritage holders. 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. 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.)*

Borderlands is an investigation of a topic, a journey into the field nested between two periods in the Menlo classroom. It broadly divides into three phases. The first is orientation, preparation and research on campus; the second phase is the overnight trip for discovery and project work; the third is debriefing, project completion and showcase on campus

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### Phase 1: Menlo Campus: Monday, May 18 - Tuesday, May 19

- Introduction and orientation
- Essential questions
- Group agreement
- Project descriptions and group work
- Library research
- Travel dos and don'ts / health and safety
- Packing checklist

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### Phase 2: Lake Superior, WI: Wednesday, May 20 - Tuesday, May 26

This phase takes place primarily around the town of Washburn, WI, on Lake Superior. Below is a sample of activities the group might engage in during the week.

- Transfer from SFO to MSP
- Drive to Washburn, WI (approximately four hours)
- Settle into Potter's Farm retreat, site for all lodging
- Orientation with Dragons instructors
- Visit to Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
- Afternoon visit to culture bearer April Stone: introduction to processing and weaving with Black Ash tree
- Visit to Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission offices on Bad River
- Excursion to Raspberry Bay with Red Cliff, Anishinabe storyteller and heritage holder
- Explore common resources and freshwater fisheries
- Travel to Mooningwaanakaaning (Madeline Island)
- Lake Superior swim
- Visit Community Recreation Center - Ojibwe
- Visit Manitou Makoonz Gitigan and indigenous farming project aimed at reclaiming native peoples lands,
- Visit to island museum run by tribal nation, Big Bay Town Park, and / or Wilderness Beach
- Learn about conservation and stewardship efforts from Ojibwe perspective
- Wild mushroom hunting hike with local mycologist
- Transference and closing ceremony activities
- Return to MSP and SFO

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### Phase 3: Menlo Campus: Wednesday, May 27 - Friday, May 29

This phase involves discussion and reflection, contextualizing and making sense of the experiences in the field as well as presentation preparation.

- Extended check in and reflection with cohort
- Structured discussion with other Borderlands group
- Project work and completion
- Debriefing and wrap up
- Showcase presentations

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



# Menlo Borderlands Lake Superior, Wisconsin



## TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

- January 9**                      Announcement of Menlo Abroad and Borderlands programs at upper school assembly
- January 27**                    Applications due
- February 6**                    Participants notified
- February 10**                  Forms and Payment due by 3:00 pm
- April 21 6:00 pm**              Pre-departure information night (MS Garage) for enrolled students and their parents (meeting is mandatory for student and at least one parent)
- May 18, 9:00 am**              Borderlands Lake Superior begins on Menlo campus.
- May 20- May 26**              Lake Superior trip
- May 27 - May 28**              MTerm Borderlands: Lake Superior resumes on Menlo campus
- May 29**                         Final Day - Bordlerlands / M Term Showcase <sup>4</sup>

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

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



# Menlo Borderlands Lake Superior, Wisconsin



## 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 programs.

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<sup>5</sup> *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.

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

1. A check payment payable to Menlo School for \$3400. Write participant's name and *Lake Superior* on the memo line. Financial aid recipients will be contacted by the financial aid with a revised program fee. Deliver to Dorelia Arias at Reception.
2. All required Menlo and third party forms via Permission Click.

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](mailto:pbrown@menloschool.org)) and the Program Director of ([erin@worldleadershipschool.com](mailto:erin@worldleadershipschool.com)) in an email communication. Menlo will refund recoupable fees.\*

**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:** No cell phones or internet-connected devices are allowed on the trip.

**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.

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\*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](mailto:pbrown@menloschool.org).**

READ THIS DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING FORMS.