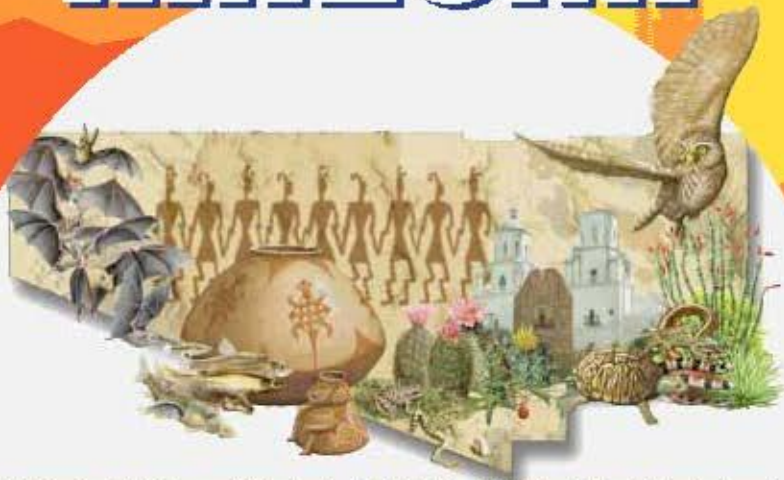


MENLO
MIDDLE SCHOOL TRAVEL

**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 6 - June 11, 2026

Enrollment Limits: 16 students

Enrollment Eligibility: Menlo students in grades 6-8. 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 former Menlo Middle School Physical Education Teacher and Coach 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: \$3400. 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, no cell phones or internet-connected devices are allowed on the trip.



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 orient to the location and a local museum via a scavenger hunt before traveling to Nogales on the southern border with Mexico. Here we learn through experience how currents of migration play an important role in the area's culture and environment. After a day and a half in Nogales we transfer 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 engage in challenges, hikes, and fun activities.





Middle School Southern Arizona



ITINERARY

(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)

Saturday, June 6 – SFO to TUS

- Morning muster at SFO
- Flight to Tucson
- Lunch
- Orientation
- Museum Scavenger hunt
- Transfer to Nogales, AZ
- Dinner and stay at Nogales

Sunday, June 7 – Nogales, AZ

- Breakfast and check in meeting
- San Rafael Border tour
- Debrief discussions
- Games and fun
- Dinner and stay at Nogales

Monday, June 8 – Nogales to Ajo

- Breakfast and check in meeting
- Nogales Art and Border
- Lunch
- Food Rescue warehouse tour
- Transfer to Ajo
- Dinner and stay at Sonoran Desert Alliance

Tuesday, June 9 – Ajo

- Breakfast and check in
- Orientation to International Sonoran Desert Alliance
- Organ Pipe National Monument visit
- Lunch
- Tom Kiefer studio - art and stories deriving from work in the border patrol
- Meet with members of the Tohono O'odham Nation
- Games and fun
- Dinner and stay at International Sonoran Desert Alliance

Wednesday, June 10 – Ajo

- Breakfast and check in
- Desert walk with Scott Warren, geographer and subject of documentary film
- Visit to local mine
- Games and fun
- Reflections on trip

Thursday, June 11 – Transfer to SFO

- Breakfast and check in
- Reflections, appreciations, and mementos
- Games and fun
- Transfer to Phoenix for flight to SFO



Middle School Southern Arizona



TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

January 21	Announcement of Program at Middle School assembly
January 27, 6:00 pm	Parent and Student information night on Zoom
February 10	Applications due
February 13	Admissions notifications sent
February 24	Forms and Payment due by 3:00 pm
May 7, 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 6-June 11	Middle School: Southern Arizona



Middle School 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.

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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 24, 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 MS-SAZ 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 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

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. 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 the Program Director of (lauren@wheretherebedragons.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 for 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 themselves, people of the host community, or other participants on the trip, or generally conducts themselves 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.