

Steller Secondary School: California Service Adventure

May 6 - 18, 2013

Trip Highlights:

- Explore the Wonder of San Francisco and the Iconic Golden Gate Bridge
- Participate in a Conservation Based Project in Lake Tahoe
- Serve Meals to San Francisco's Homeless in Partnership with Bay Area Non-Profits
- Paddle Cache Creek in Whitewater Kayaks
- Backpack through the Stunning Point Reyes National Seashore
- Learn to Surf and Ride the Epic Waves of the Golden State's Coastline
- Experience Life as a Scientist at the Marine Mammal Center
- Earn 30 Hours of Community Service



May 6: Travel Day

Participants are met by their Adventures Cross-Country leader at Reno-Tahoe International Airport. From there, we drive into the scenic beauty of North Lake Tahoe. One of the deepest and most beautiful lakes in the world, Lake Tahoe is not only an adventurer's paradise, but an incredible natural habitat for flora and fauna alike. It is here we have our first evening orientation. Through games, teambuilding activities and cooking our first meal together, the adventure truly begins. We also introduce the role of "Leader of the Day" which is an essential component of every ARCC trip.
Accommodations: Lodge/Hostel, Lake Tahoe

May 7: Lake Tahoe and Truckee Donner Land Trust

We wake up today refreshed and ready to roll up our sleeves participating in a service project for the Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT). The mountains, canyons, meadows, lakes and rivers that make Lake Tahoe an outstanding area continue to face threats from growth and development spilling over onto these treasured natural areas. We join forces with our friends at the TDLT who have already successfully protected over 22,000 acres of land. Picking up our shovels and work gloves, we create and help maintain trails so everyone can access these splendid wilderness areas. We then take a 3-4 hour scenic drive from the mountains to the river and arrive at our next destination, Cache Creek.
Accommodations: Lodge/Hostel, Lake Tahoe; Campground, Cache Creek



May 8 - 9: Cache Creek Kayaking

The next two days we experience the thrill of whitewater kayaking down Cache Creek. Together with our river guides, we learn the basics and paddle inflatable kayaks down the Class II and III rapids on this scenic river. Perfecting our paddling skills through rapids such as “Mother” and “Jaws”, Cache Creek is the ideal river for a spring day in California. After our second day, we travel back to the San Francisco Bay where we prepare for our city service projects! *Accommodations: Campground, Cache Creek*

Mail Pick-Up! Here we can pick up any mail our friends and family have sent. Please address mail exactly as listed below, just fill in the student name.

Mailing Address: Adventures Cross-Country: Steller School
c/o (Name of Student)
242 Redwood Hwy
Mill Valley, CA 94941

(Please send all mail at least 7-10 days before the mail pick-up date.)

May 10 – 11: Marine Mammal Center, Golden Gate & Treasure Island Community Service

These two days are full of dynamic service projects in the bay area! This morning we join the Marine Mammal Center for a ½ day of education about their rescue and rehabilitation efforts for injured marine mammals. Led by marine science experts, we learn how x-rays, hematology, marine mammal tracking, and marine mammal radiology are essential for the continued health of this California marine ecosystem. We continue our service adventure by joining forces with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and Angel Island as we help to preserve and enhance the picturesque landscapes. It is the hard work from volunteers like us that make it possible to restore sensitive natural habitat, maintain trail systems, protect important historic and cultural resources, and educate and engage the local community. National Parks belong to all of us and through our volunteer efforts, we make a vital contribution to the health of our parks and the local community. *Accommodations: Campground, Marin County*

May 12: Surfing

Today we prepare to ‘Hang Ten’ surfing at a famous Northern California surf break. Our surfing lessons begin with an early morning meeting with our surf instructors on the beach. After an ocean awareness/safety class, we jump into the water to try out surfing and boogie boarding along the beautiful Pacific Coast. Ripping the curl, learning the art of the cut back, hanging ten or just having a blast in the Pacific, we indulge in our ocean time.

This evening, we enjoy a nice meal around the campfire and prepare for our 3 day backpacking expedition in the Point Reyes National Seashore. *Accommodations: Campground, San Francisco*

May 13 - 15: Point Reyes National Seashore Backpacking

As we drive just 30 miles North of San Francisco to Point Reyes National Seashore, we enter a whole new world of pristine coastline and protected land. From its rocky headlands and expansive sand beaches to its open grasslands, brushy hillsides and forested ridges, Point Reyes offers visitors over



1,000 species of plants and animals to discover. For the next three days, we backpack 12.5 miles through the rugged undeveloped coastline and are rewarded with scenic vistas, wildlife viewing and unmatched ocean views. *Accommodations: Backcountry camping, Point Reyes*

May 16: St. Anthony's Justice Education Program

We come back from our backpacking section energized and ready to volunteer in San Francisco. This morning, we are welcomed by St. Anthony Foundation, an organization that provides over three-thousand people with food, clothing, medical care and recovery help for their drug and alcohol addictions. To date, more than 35 million meals have been served.

After we receive a detailed orientation, our group joins other staff and volunteers to serve approximately 2,600 lunches to our poor and homeless neighbors. We spend our lunch time with the homeless exchanging conversation and educating them on the help they can receive from St. Anthony's. Afterwards, we participate in meaningful debrief conversations about the issues facing the homeless today. *Accommodations: Campground, Marin County*

May 17: Glide Foundation and San Francisco Sites

We wake up early today and head back into the heart of downtown San Francisco to spend a few hours serving food to the homeless at Glide's Soup Kitchen. Featured in the movie "The Pursuit of Happyness", we join the Glide Foundation to feed the impoverished of San Francisco. Glide helps those in need to rise above their current circumstances through a free meal program and technical job training. Open 365 days a year, this program is an integral part of helping alleviate poverty and suffering for people of all ages. Spending the morning sharing meals, smiles, and stories with these children, men, and women, we brighten their day, and our own!

In celebration of our amazing adventure together, we spend this afternoon exploring the famous sights of San Francisco including the ever-popular Fisherman's Wharf, Ghirardelli Square, Golden Gate Bridge, and taking a unique ride on San Francisco's iconic cable car. *Accommodations: Campground, Marin County*

May 18: Departure

Eventually all good things must come to an end. With an early rise, we drive to the San Francisco International Airport, say goodbye to our ARCC Leader and board our flight home. The memories of the experience and our group will stay with us forever!