



Mendocino High Schools
33rd Alternative Education Week
3/30/2026 - 4/3/2026

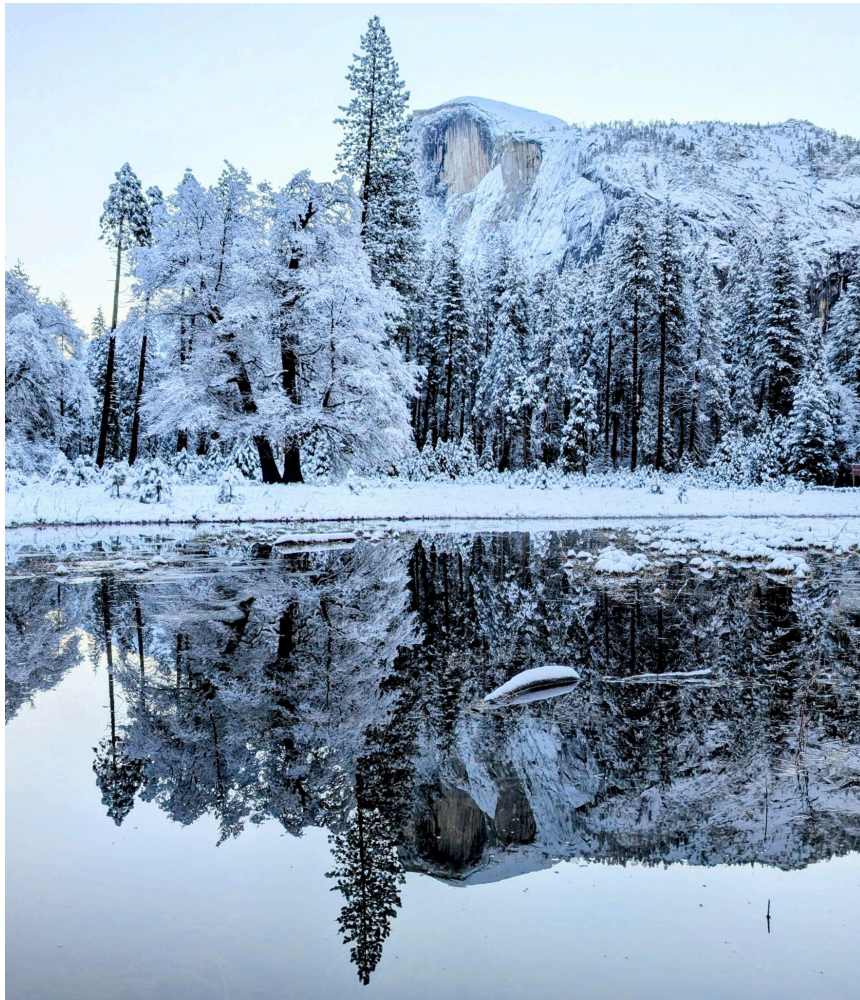


Photo credit: Yosemite AE Week 2025 Trip

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION WEEK

MARCH 30-APRIL 3, 2026

AE Week provides students a unique opportunity for learning beyond the classroom. This year will mark Mendocino High School's 33rd Alternative Education Week. The longevity of this program is a testament to its educational value. Students are encouraged to make their selections based on their interests. No student will be denied participation based on an inability to pay. While some fundraising may be necessary, Site Council has set aside funding to help support AE Week programs and students. Alternative Education Week is a two credit course. Students will receive Credit (2 credits) for participation and No Credit (0 credits) for no participation, which will appear on student transcripts. Students who violate the school's drug and alcohol policies in the second semester will not be allowed to attend overnight trips. Citizenship may also dictate eligibility for trips. All students must participate.

Friday, November 7: Brochure featuring activities is distributed to students.
Students will be emailed a google form to sign up

Wednesday, November 12: Google forms are due. Students must select their top 4 choices by this date.

Students are responsible for attending all trip meetings and returning all paperwork to participate. While seniority is a factor in determining trip rosters, there are other considerations. We try to get everyone in one of their top 3 choices, but if trips are impacted, there are no guarantees.

ACTIVE EXPERIENCES:

YOSEMITE

Bask in the glory of the amazing Yosemite Valley. Join us for a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit this national park and discover its hidden gems. This trip is a longstanding Mendocino High School tradition and it is reserved for 9th grade students. We will have the opportunity to participate in hikes, take in the natural beauty of the park through art and exploration, play and do team building experiences as well as see parts of the valley many don't know are there. This year we will be staying on the valley floor in Curry Village in heated tent cabins. Students who choose to join should be excited to hike and will need hiking and cold weather equipment (we will help provide equipment as needed). You should also be prepared to help with fundraising.

Leaders: Lora Barnett-Tuomala and Tobin Hahn

Estimated \$400

MOUNTAIN BIKING

The Mountain Biking AE Week adventure will take advantage of the awesome local trails, where we will hone our mountain biking skills. Depending on weather and trail conditions, we will also travel to Humboldt County and experience "Paradise Royal", a mountain bike trail in the Kings Range above the Lost Coast or head to Annadel State Park in Santa Rosa. Students will ride everyday, participate in local trail building, and learn some basic bike maintenance. The school has bikes and helmets to borrow. Participants need to be comfortable riding a bike and some trail or dirt road riding experience is highly recommended. If you bring your own bike it needs to be a mountain bike in good working condition.

Leaders: Derek Hutchinson and Marshall Brown

Estimated \$50

SURFING & SELF DEFENSE

Do you want to rip? Do you want to get ripped? Do you want to be calm amidst chaos? Join Eastman and Rain for Surfing and Self Defense this AE-week! Each day will feature a blend of surfing and martial arts in local locations. Beginners and advanced practitioners are equally welcome. We only ask that you come ready to challenge yourself, physically and mentally. Sign up now!

Leaders: Erik Rain and James Eastman

Estimated \$220

FIRST RESPONDER ACADEMY

For this AE Week experience, participants will engage in a week-long fire academy that prepares you for a career in first response and gives you the knowledge to save someone's life. These skills will stay with you for the rest of your life. Participants should be prepared for hands-on practice where you are pushed to the limit and reap the benefits. All participants will receive a duty shirt, medical bag and a whole lot of pride.

Leader: Noah Gold

Estimated \$100

COASTAL ADVENTURES

Please join us for Coastal Adventures this year! Walk the coastal trail, go whale watching, and visit the Noyo Center in Fort Bragg! Visit Montgomery Woods and hike the old growth redwood forest! Go kayaking in the ocean at Van Damme (if ocean conditions are safe) or on Noyo river (if the ocean is too rough) and hike through the ecological staircase at Jughandle. See zebras, giraffes, and other African animals at the B Bryan Preserve, and tour the historic Point Arena lighthouse! Go birding in the Big River estuary, enjoy the beach, and observe fine local art in the Mendocino galleries! Coastal Adventures is a low-cost, fun, active, educational and exciting local AE Week choice. We always have a good time and you can go home after school and sleep in your own bed too! Let's go have some Coastal Adventures!

Leader: Alex Fosse

Estimated \$150

PERSONAL EXPLORATION & ENRICHMENT:

LANGUAGE & CULINARY ADVENTURE IN OAXACA, MEXICO

Students will spend a week in Mexico exploring the culinary and cultural diversity of Oaxaca. Accommodations will be provided by host families. During the first half of each day, students will study at the Instituto Cultural Oaxaca, attending classes entirely in Spanish. Afternoons will include excursions to historical centers, markets, and the ruins of Monte Alban. A valid US passport with an expiration date of no less than 6 months after the return date will be required. Participating Mendocino HS students and their parents/guardians will need to attend monthly planning meetings and fundraising activities in advance of the trip.

Leaders: James Gilbert and Carolen Barrett

Estimated \$1100

ASHLAND, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Travel to Ashland, Oregon to watch world-class theatrical performances! We will see three plays: typically a modern comedy or drama, a period piece or musical, and one by the Bard himself, William Shakespeare. We will stay at a hostel in the charming mountain town of Ashland OR, take walks in beautiful parks, visit shops and bookstores, and have excellent restaurant meals in the evenings. We plan to attend a prologue or two, hopefully get a backstage tour of the theaters, and visit the local college Southern Oregon University.

Leaders: Tom Sosnovec and Taimi Barty

Estimated \$550

THE GREAT COLLEGE ROADTRIP

Explore. Discover. Dream Big.

Pack your bags and get ready for The Great College Roadtrip! We will start local by visiting our local Community College. Then we're heading northeast to the Sacramento area for an unforgettable trip exploring a variety of colleges and career pathways. From hands-on training at Universal Technical Institute, to campus life at Sac State, UC Davis, Chico State, and Butte College, you'll experience firsthand what each school has to offer. This is your chance to discover where your future could lead — whether it's a trade, a degree, or something in between. Don't miss out on this adventure to find your perfect fit and see what's possible beyond high school!

Leaders: Anna Yanez & Sam Skowan

Estimated \$350

SEW WHAT?!

Discover the art of sewing in this hands-on workshop designed for beginners! Students will learn essential sewing skills, from attaching buttons to mastering a sewing machine and exploring upcycling and patterns. Join us to start creating and styling with your own hands!

Leader: Diana Dominguez

Estimated \$50

VIDEO GAME APPRECIATION

Do you love video games? Join Sam & Pam for a week dedicated to sharing our passion for gaming. In addition to having daily gaming tournaments, we'll explore video games as an art form and a mode of storytelling, hear from guest speakers who work in the video game industry, and review a new game that you'll get to keep on your own console. This experience is open to both experienced gamers and those who are new to gaming.

Leaders: Sam Stump and Pam Duncan

Estimated \$25

E-Lab EXPERIENCE

Repair things, build things, experience all that E-Lab has to offer. Construct your dream computer from parts, install a bumping stereo in your car, design a robot to do your chores! E-Lab Experience is driven by what you want to accomplish. No experience necessary, learn the skills you need as you go. 3D printing, electronics kits, soldering skills, and more can be found in the E-Lab. The "E" stands for an Excellent Electronics Engineering Experience for Everyone!

Leader: Francis Rutherford
on last day

Estimated \$10 for group lunch

DRIVER'S EDUCATION

Interested in obtaining your driver's permit? Road Runner Driving School is pleased to bring their Driver's Ed course to MHS. This course is DMV certified and satisfies classroom training for new drivers. The training involves videos, reading material, lecture and discussion. The classroom course requires successful completion and attendance in order to receive the valid Certificate of completion. If you want to obtain your driver's permit, this is the activity for you.

Leader: Mark James, Road Runner Driving School

Estimated \$100

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Students grades 10-12 may design their own educational experience, but specific independent study guidelines will apply and deadlines for application and submission must be met. 30 hours of educational activities need to be planned, scheduled, and clearly described on your IS proposal; no more than 5 of the 30 hours can be attributed to travel time. Evidence of completion of your AE Week experience must be submitted by the end of April.

Leader: Meghan Miller

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