



# ATLAS Learning Academy

Achievement Through Leadership, Adventure and Service

## ATLAS Continues to Grow!!

### OUR PROGRAM

ATLAS Learning Academy had a terrific start of the school year! In a little over one month after opening, we are already serving 18 students in grades 5-12.

ATLAS Learning Academy serves K-12 students using a hybrid teaching model designed to provide customized and active learning emphasizing high academic achievement, leadership, character development, outdoor education/project based learning and teamwork.

### Our Labs & Expeditions

ATLAS labs and expeditions help set the program apart from all other Independent Study programs available in Placer County. Prior to being chosen to attend, students complete applications with questions like:

- “Why do you want to go on this trip?”
- “What do you have to offer others on the trip?”
- “What credits are you interested in earning?”

Once chosen to attend the trip, students attend a variety of structured labs to prepare them for the adventure ahead of them. Work is done in the labs that connects to work done in the backcountry. Labs taught this year have included topics such as:

- Exploring the 4 Leadership Roles needed and expected in the field (Designated Leader, Active Followership, Peer Leadership, and Self Leadership.)
- ATLAS Values and how they relate to expeditions. (Adventure, Integrity, Leadership, Excellence, Courage, Action, Vision, Self-Reliance, Compassion, Empathy, Joy, Purpose, Reflection, Respect, Accountability, Curiosity, Humility, Tenacity, and Grit.
- Leave No Trace Backcountry Ethics
- The science of spending time in nature by scientifically examining the question: Does something special and clinically therapeutic happen when people spend time in nature?

Once students return from the trip, they use all the work they did in the labs and in the field to complete project based lessons to earn credits. Project based lessons offered this year have included:

- English writing prompts
  - What are the different leadership roles in the outdoors and how can they be applied in everyday living?
  - What are the skills and values (characteristics) needed to develop your potential as a leader?
  - Do you think that people take enough time to appreciate nature? Why or why not? How and why do you think nature inspires so many writers and artists? What element of nature speaks to you the most? Why?
- Science projects that looked specifically at how nature affects resting heart rate, symptoms of ADHD, depression and anxiety?
- Geography projects making 3-dimensional topo maps of the land and formations visited.
- Art projects using various types of medium to represent what students learned, what was new and what they appreciated.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

FOLLOW US AND SHARE OUR SITES SO OTHERS HEAR ABOUT US:



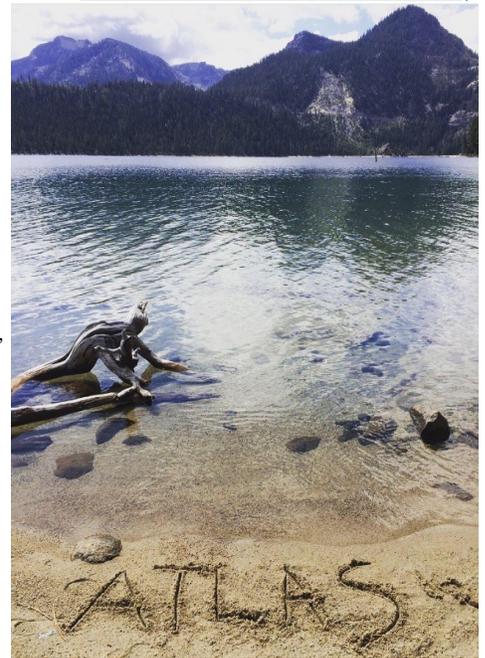
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### OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

- Our 2 night/3 day trip to Yosemite National Park in October was a complete success. Our 14.5 mile round trip hike to the top of Clouds Rest was a “bucket list” kind of trek.
- Our next adventure is on November 15th. We will either be day hiking or snowshoeing depending on the snow accumulation
- December 12th-Snowshoe trip
- January 4th– Snowshoe Trip
- January 11th– Ski DUCK skiing trip at Squaw Valley
- January 24th– Snowshoe trip