



# ATLAS Learning Academy

Achievement Through Leadership, Adventure and Service

## OUR PROGRAM

What a great year for ATLAS Learning Academy. A month into the school year, we are already serving 31 students in grades 6-12. Last year at this time we only had nine students total. Last year we also graduated nine seniors!

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.

## Two BIG Trips

Two teachers and five high school students went to Yosemite for a week long expedition. They were in Valley one day and night and in the backcountry the rest of the week. On the Valley floor students took in the views of Half Dome, Glacier Point, the Cathedral Spires and El Capitan. A short hike to the base of Lower Yosemite Falls afforded a quick dip in the icy cold pool. Time spent in the Visitor Center gave them a better understanding of both Yosemite and the National Park System. Two of the five students had never been to Yosemite before this trip.

The next three nights/four days were spent in the Ten Lakes area in the high country outside of Tuolumne Meadows. Over the four days students learned the basics of setting up/breaking down camp, meal preparation, Leave No Trace principals, water purification types, and leadership skills needed to travel both on and off trail. But above all, students learned to appreciate being immersed in nature, away from the stresses and pressures of technology and society if only for few days. On the last night, students presented papers they had been writing during the trip with a backdrop of a 9800 ft. elevation lake. It was a wonderful experience for everyone involved.

The second trip of the school year was another weeklong expedition, but this time a road trip paired with car camping. The group left ATLAS at 4:00 am on a Monday and drove straight to Bryce National Park.

On this trip students were challenged to develop their own project. Each project was centered on the National Park System, but each student needed their own central question and thesis statement. From there, students chose specific History, Government, and Economics California Common Core standards that they wanted their project to focus on. Each student participated in the events of the week with this project not only in mind, but also with scheduled time to work on those projects.

In Bryce, students hiked the Fairyland Loop, an 8 mile waterless hike through the amazing Hoodoos and red rock.

In Zion, students hiked the 8 mile "trail" through the water in the Narrows, a stretch of the Virgin River which is a gorge with walls a thousand feet tall and the river sometimes just twenty to thirty feet wide. The next day, students hiked to the top of Angel's Landing. Angel's Landing is one of the world's most renowned hikes, and is an unforgettable short adventure hike worthy of all bucket lists. Anyone in average physical condition can make the trek, but it can be mentally challenging with its steep switchbacks and sheer drop-offs.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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



<https://www.facebook.com/ATLASwpusd/>



[https://www.instagram.com/atlas\\_learning\\_academy/@atlas\\_learning\\_academy](https://www.instagram.com/atlas_learning_academy/@atlas_learning_academy)



[https://twitter.com/atlas\\_learning](https://twitter.com/atlas_learning)

## Upcoming:

- 10/5- Tahoe Rim Trail- Trail work Service Day
- 10/23- RUFF-Roseville Urban Forestry Foundation Service Day
- Winter snow shoe and ski/snowboard trips TBA



Yosemite National Park



Bryce Canyon National Park



Zion National Park

