MARIN ACADEMY
OUTINGS PROGRAM
WINTER/SPRING 2020
Attention in Motion

It’s incredible what a walk can do. The conversations I have while moving, with old friends and new connections, with myself and with the land and the organisms around me, can open me up in a way nothing else can. The poet Cole Swensen, author of On Walking On, likes giving herself constraints when she walks: sometimes thought prompts, like “Imagine where everyone you pass has just come from or Put a name to the mood you see expressed by each face that you pass,” and sometimes literal physical directives, like “Turn left whenever you hit an obstacle.” These small challenges drive her attention in new ways.

Working in the other direction, at a lunch meeting of OLE (Outdoor Leadership Emphasis) last semester, we spent some time collectively defining what made a hike a hike. To paraphrase: “It has to be on a trail,” some said, while others asserted, “It’s got to be a certain number of miles.” “You have to be wearing boots.” “It should be a challenge to the person doing it, but that can change a lot based on the person.” “It has to be for fun, not on the way to somewhere else.” “Hills!” “Nature!” “Urban hikes are hikes too!” “It should take a few hours!” Ideas flew. Debate coursed. I know I’m forgetting some of my favorite answers, but one theme that stood out was that intention mattered. “When I want to sweat, I go for a run. When I want to notice things, I go for a hike.” Noticing can be peaceful and small like observing the travel of a banana slug; it can be majestic and enormous, like watching sunset over the Pacific. It can also be a form of grappling with things we don’t yet understand. Anna Tsing, anthropologist and author of The Mushroom at the End of the World, addresses the scope and scale of planetary change during our lifetimes, and offers that “our way of engaging that, then, is to begin with the concrete materiality of the world around us, and to
argue that we need to start noticing it more.” Even if we can’t understand, can’t immediately resolve or fix, we can notice ourselves, the world around us, and the relationship betwixt and between.

I think that noticing is a crucial throughline to many of the trips featured in this season’s catalog. On more technical trips like skiing and surfing, there’s the chance to notice where you are, and push yourself to learn a little more. We’re offering a few intermediate trips, so that there’s room for folks with some experience to approach their growing edge. We’re offering astronomy outings and mushroom hunts, so we can scale way up or way down in what we notice. We’re offering two-hour after-school hikes and climbing trips, so the busy among us can remember it doesn’t take long to shift our attention to the beautiful wild places around us. And we’re offering longer camping and backpacking programs-- the longest, a six day trip in Big Sur over Spring Break-- so the eager among us can feel what it’s like to drop in deeper to a particular place, to learn its contours and its biota, to weave a group into a community that supports, entertains, challenges, and uplifts itself 100%. Not every trip in this catalog will appeal to every single member of our community, but I sincerely hope that there is at least one trip that appeals to you-- that invites you to step off your daily track and immerse yourself in the practice of noticing. Come play, come strengthen, come stretch, come grow your curiosity and your sense of yourself.

Leslie Beach (‘04)
Interim MA Outings Director
Winter/Spring 2020
SUNDAY EVENINGS

A special offering by the MA Outings Program!

Six Sunday Evenings
5:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
March 8th, 15th, and 22nd; April 19th and 26th; May 3rd, 2020

MA INWARD BOUND: MINDFULNESS IN THE GARDEN
Mark Stefanski & Invited Guests

If you are interested in ways to reduce stress, build greater self-awareness, and make better decisions according to your own interests and values — all in the relaxed natural setting of the MA garden — then this series of “innings” is for you. You will take part in engaging and fun activities that help build greater mindfulness - the ability to pay attention, in the moment, with kindness and curiosity, so we can choose our behavior. Adopting a program designed for teens by the internationally-recognized non-profit, Mindful Schools (http://www.mindfulschools.org), you will learn meditation skills that will help you to manage impulses and difficult emotions, providing you with tools to become a more happy, confident and compassionate person both in and out of school. By conducting the activities in a natural setting, and focusing some of our experiential explorations into our interdependence with the rest of nature, you will gain a greater sense of connectedness and appreciation for our human place in nature. And, perhaps most fun of all, you will participate in preparing and consuming a delicious communal potluck dinner, using some ingredients gleaned from our garden. In addition to meditation and body movement exercises, you will have the opportunity to enjoy some student-led discussions, gardening, journaling and art.

To create community and provide you with the best benefits of the program, we ask that you commit to attending at least four out of the six Sunday evening sessions offered.

15 students
Anticipated Cost: $30 for the series of six sessions.

For questions and further information, please contact MA science teacher and mindfulness educator, Mark Stefanski, at mstefanski@ma.org
JANUARY 24-26, 2020

Friday
January 24th, 2020

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY & STARGAZING IN THE GARDEN
Jon Bretan & Daniel Colón

This is an on-campus Outing—an “Inning!” We will start out in the classroom at 5pm, learning techniques for photographing the night sky and in low light and the basics of using different kinds of telescopes. Then we will take a short break for a potluck dinner, after which we will bring our gear to the Garden and see what we can observe and photograph! No photographic or astronomical gear is required, though if you have any equipment and what to learn how to use it, please bring it! We will finish by 10pm.

14 students
Anticipated Cost: $5

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Saturday
February 1st, 2020

INTERMEDIATE SKIING & SNOWBOARDING IN TAHOE!
TRIP #1
Ian Hodges, Abby French, & Vini Enriquez

Celebrate winter with us on the slopes in Tahoe! Sugar Bowl is the expected destination (could change if conditions necessitate). We will meet at MA at 5:00 am and head up to the mountains for a day of skiing and riding. The cost of the outing includes transportation, lift tickets, & dinner on the way home. This trip gives priority to those who have some experience, but if the beginner trip doesn’t fit in your schedule, talk to us and we’ll see what we can do to schedule you a lesson! Rentals are not included and will be an additional cost, but we are happy to help students get set up with rentals if needed. Please plan to pack a lunch or bring money to purchase lunch at the mountain. We will return back to MA at about 8pm.

We look forward to seeing you in the snow!

12 students
Anticipated Cost: $175
PE Credit Available
February 7-9, 2020

Friday to Sunday
February 7th-9th, 2020

OLE LEADERSHIP TO POINT REYES
Leslie Beach ’04 & Another Magnificent Mentor

Outdoor Leadership Emphasis seniors will prepare for their culminating leadership experience by co-planning and leading this weekend trip. What we know: we’ll depart at lunch on Friday, missing G block, and head out to Point Reyes. We’ll spend the first night at Coast Camp, and the second at Sky camp, and return to MA by 4pm on Sunday. Within that framework, possibilities abound: Tide pooling? A beach campfire? A short route between camps, or a long one? Mushroom identification? Games? Feasts? Our peer leaders decide!

4 students
Anticipated Cost: $80
PE Credit Available

February 14-17, 2020

3-DAY WEEKEND!

Sunday
February 16th, 2020

INTERMEDIATE SKIING & SNOWBOARDING IN TAHOE!
TRIP #2
Ian Hodges & Vini Enriquez

Celebrate winter with us on the slopes in Tahoe! Sugar Bowl is the expected destination (could change if conditions necessitate). We will meet at MA at 5:00 am and head up to the mountains for a day of skiing and riding. The cost of the outing includes transportation, lift tickets, & dinner on the way home. This trip gives priority to those who have some experience, but if the beginner trip doesn’t fit in your schedule, talk to us and we’ll see what we can do to schedule you a lesson! Rentals are not included and will be an additional cost, but we are happy to help students get set up with rentals if needed. Please plan to pack a lunch or bring money to purchase lunch at the mountain. We will return back to MA at about 8pm.

We look forward to seeing you in the snow!

6 students
Anticipated Cost: $175
PE Credit Available
Monday
February 17th, 2020
MUSHROOM HUNTING EXPEDITION
Bayard Walsh ‘20, Liz Gottlieb, & Carinne Lemaire

Ever wonder what mysterious fungi populate Northern Marin? Ever wanted to spend a day with the notorious trail running, environmental science teaching, three twins eating, mushroom hunting, Liz Gottlieb? Ever had a deep longing for adventure and exploration?

If any of these apply to you, come sign up for this day trip to go Mushroom hunting! It’ll be a total blast, and you’ll learn a tremendous amount about our fungi friends. We’ll be venturing up on Presidents Day (February 17th), so don’t worry about missing any school for the adventure.

You will need a day pack with water, a waterproof layer and a packed lunch. We will leave at 10 AM from the circle and plan on being back by 4 PM.

6 Students
No Cost
PE Credit Available
FEBRUARY 21-23, 2019
FIRST WEEKEND OF MINICOURSE!

Saturday to Sunday
February 22nd-23rd, 2020

WOC HEAD TO THE SNOW
Jazmin Moreno ’21, Neha Menon ’21, Joann Gatine, & Another Lively Leader

Do you identify as a woman of color? Do you enjoy spending time in the snow and having fun? If so, you should sign up for this outing! Join the Women of Color club on our overnight trip to a weekend in the snow. We will be staying in a cabin at Soda Springs where we will be cooking together, playing games in the snow, and watching a movie together before the night ends. This will be a great way for students to meet other women of color at MA, and build new bonds with people they might not have interacted with before! Sign up!

4 students
Anticipated Cost: $120
PE Credit Available

MARCH 6-8, 2020

Saturday
March 7th, 2020

HANGING OUT WITH BABY ANIMALS
Karina Brunn ’20, Tania Bettis, & Taylor Tan ’06

Do you want to hang out with baby animals? Come for a fun afternoon of visiting a few of the best kids’ attractions in Tilden. We will start with visiting the little farm where (hopefully) there will be newborn pigs, some cows and goats that love to eat celery from visitors. There will be an easy hike from Inspiration Point, and a ride on the steam trains to see some of the best views in the Bay Area. Somewhere within this timeframe we will have a picnic lunch, so bring something to share! Plan to be back at MA in the mid-afternoon.

6 students
Anticipated Cost: $5
PE Credit Available
Experience the game that crossed 1 billion worldwide downloads last year! From beginner level 1 to top level 40, come join us for a solid day of pursuing rare virtual creatures.

According to Niantic Labs, “The design goals of Pokémon Go are to get people exercising, teach them to ‘see the world with new eyes,’ and to break the ice for people to have adventures with strangers.” On this outing, students will use the app on an urban hike through San Rafael and take the SMART Train to Petaluma.

Train will depart from downtown San Rafael at 9:42am, and we will return to MA at 4:30pm. Students will need good walking shoes, an iPhone or Android device, battery pack/charging cable recommended.

14 students
Anticipated Cost: $35
PE Credit Available
Celebrating winter with us on the slopes in Tahoe! Sugar Bowl is the expected destination (could change if conditions necessitate). We will meet at MA at 5:00 am and head up to the mountains for a day of skiing and riding. Lessons will be available so this trip gives priority to beginning skiers and snowboarders, but all are welcome to sign up. The cost of the outing includes transportation, lift tickets, & dinner on the way home. Talk to us about rentals-- they’re included with the lesson but you’ll need to pay for them if you need gear and aren’t taking a lesson. Please plan to pack a lunch or bring money to purchase lunch at the mountain. We will return back to MA at about 8pm.

We look forward to seeing you in the snow!

6 students
Anticipated Cost: $175
PE Credit Available
Saturday
March 14th, 2020

**PT. REYES DAY HIKE & TULE ELK RESERVE**
Rachel Kernodle & Aaron Fulk

Join Rachel and Aaron for a day hike on the Tomales Point Trail, which traverses through the Tule Elk Reserve in Point Reyes. This is the perfect way to spend a day outside with an awesome group of MA folks during the three-day weekend at the end of the third quarter. Prepare for sightings of the majestic Tule Elk, found only in California. In addition, we will be surrounded by spectacular views of Tomales Bay, Bodega Bay, and the Pacific!

We will leave campus by 8:30 AM and return by approximately 5 PM. The entire trail is ~8.5 miles so you should expect to be on your feet for a few hours, but otherwise, no other experience is necessary. We’ll take the hike at a casual pace, but you should come prepared with sturdy shoes and appropriate layers. The hike is exposed along its entire length, so depending on the weather, be sure to bring a hat and sunscreen, or other appropriate gear. You will need to bring your own backpack with water and lunch, and we will plan on stopping in Point Reyes Station for a bite on the way back to campus.

8 students
Anticipated Cost: $10
PE Credit Available

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**MID-WEEK TRIP!**

Thursday
March 19th, 2020

**AFTER SCHOOL TIDEPool SESH**
Leslie Beach ‘04 & Mary Collie

On Thursday March 19th, a minus tide falls right at 4:24 pm, in perfect time for us to do some invertebrate-seeking after school! We’ll meet in the circle at 2:30 and drive to Agate Beach in Bolinas, then follow the tide out in search of urchins, gooseneck barnacles, mossy chitons, ochre stars, and nudibranchs. Once the tide turns, we’ll enjoy the afternoon light on the beach for a while, maybe toss a frisbee or make some sand sculpture, and be back at MA by 6.

8 students
No Cost
PE Credit Available
**MARCH 20-22, 2020**

Saturday  
March 21st, 2020  

**MT TAM SUNRISE SUMMIT**  
Jon Bretan & Stella Beale

Mt. Tamalpais, the “sleeping maiden” of Marin County, is not a very tall mountain, but parts of it are rather rugged. While the vernal equinox is a few days before, the Sun will still rise almost due west at 7:11am on Saturday, March 21st. We will meet at MA at 5am and head to Summit Ave in Mill Valley, and start our trek up the Temelpa Trail, with the goal of summitting Mt Tam before sunrise (about 1.5 miles to the top), just in time for some Instagram-worthy photos. We will head back down a different route, completing a 5-mile loop. We’ll stop and get breakfast at the Dipsea Café before heading back to school (the cost of the Outing is for breakfast and gas).

7 students  
Anticipated Cost: $30  
PE Credit Available

**MARCH 29-APRIL 3, 2020**

Sunday to Friday  
March 29th-April 3rd, 2020  

**BIG SUR BONANZA-- VICENTE FLAT TO CONE PEAK**  
Leslie Beach ’04 & SF Newell

This epic loop will encompass 25 miles of the rugged Ventana Wilderness! Take the first week of your spring break to get seriously burly on the steepest climb on the California coast. According to Big Sur trail expert Jack Glendening, “Cone Peak in Big Sur’s Ventana Wilderness rises to 5154 ft only 3¼ miles from the ocean - an average gradient of over 30% and reportedly the steepest from ocean to a mountain summit along the west coast.” We’ll take a slightly more gradual approach, since we’re backpacking, following some gorgeous trails that cut through chaparral, redwoods, mixed forests, meadows, and more. Each day we’ll walk between 5 and 8 miles, climb a couple thousand feet, and soak up the beauty and company. Willingness to suffer in the short term for glory in the long term’s a definite pro on this outing. Expect to be pushed, and also to laugh, eat a lot of good food, and experience a hard reset from the school routine.

8 Students  
Anticipated Cost: $120  
PE Credit Available
MID-WEEK TRIP!

Thursday
April 16th, 2020

DE-STRESS IN THE WILD WORLD!
Sarah Janoff-Brinn ’03 & Leslie Beach ‘04

Feeling the pressures of school and life? Finally glimpsing some free time and realizing you don’t know what to do with it? Just in the mood for a pleasant wander? These are all brilliant reasons to join Sarah and Leslie on a walk in the woods. We’ll meet after school and head up to the water district to take a mellow stroll around Lake Lagunitas. While we’re up there, we’ll share some ideas about how to relax and shift the focus of your attention to something more interesting to you, whether that’s a good conversation, an adventure, a nap, a creative project, a frisbee-toss, or something else entirely. Leslie’s definition of fun: something you do for its own sake. That’s what we’ll be pursuing this afternoon. We’ll be back by 4:45, in time for the late bus, so don’t let transportation stress you out!

8 Students
No cost
PE Credit Available

APRIL 17-19, 2020

Saturday to Sunday
April 18th-19th, 2020

WOC EXPLORE SANTA CRUZ VIA SURFING AND CAMPING
Maribel Albarran, Joann Gatine, & Mya Sullivan

Every day is a great day to visit Santa Cruz! Come with us on a mini road trip where we will explore Santa Cruz via surfing, camping, and also by visiting the UCSC campus. We will leave campus by 9:30AM on Saturday morning and return by late afternoon Sunday. This trip will kick off with a surf lesson where we will take on the waves for a two-hour lesson. After, we will head over to our campsite and set up for the night where there will be s’mores, hot chocolate, and other yummy food. Sunday after more yummy food we will head over to the UCSC campus where we will explore the school. Surfing and camping experience are not essential. The surf school will provide everything we will need to surf. A swimsuit, water bottle, and other camping gear will be needed. You can borrow camping gear from the outings room if you need to. As this trip is being led by the Young Women of Color Affinity Group, you must identify as a woman of color to attend.

8 students
Anticipated cost: $150
PE Credit Available
A DAY AT THE ROBERT FERGUSON OBSERVATORY IN SUGARLOAF RIDGE STATE PARK
Jon Bretan & Olivia Bronson ‘09

We will spend the day at the Robert Ferguson Observatory (www.rfo.org) in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. What can we look at during the day? The Sun! With proper equipment, of course! We will observe the Sun and all its spots from 2-3pm, then we will hike the planet walk, a double-scale model of the solar system along a 2.5 mile stretch of trail (5 miles round trip). We will have a potluck dinner, attend an astronomy lecture and then participate in the “star party,” where many come and bring telescopes to complement the three already at the observatory. We will enjoy the sky until about 11pm, and then return to MA around midnight. THIS OUTING IS DEPENDENT UPON THE WEATHER.

16 students
Anticipated Cost: $20
PE Credit Available

GOAT ROCK CLIMBING
Leslie Beach ‘04 & Hannah Hohle

Sitting above and on the ocean, Goat Rock is an epic California climbing destination for both bouldering and top roping. Bouldering is a form of climbing without the use of a rope or harness, while top roping requires tying yourself onto a rope that is anchored to the rock (and allows you to safely gain more elevation than bouldering). No climbing experience necessary, just a desire to push your comfort zone and spend time outside! If you’re looking to gain some experience rock climbing and enjoy the beautiful NorCal coast, this trip is for you.

We will leave MA at the early hour of 7 am and drive a few hours up the coast to Goat Rock to learn the basics of climbing, have a picnic lunch, and return to MA by 4pm.

7 students
Anticipated Cost: $20
PE Credit available
Join us in the MA Garden for an afternoon and evening of cooking over open fire. Not a professional chef yet? No worries! We’ll be teaching cooking fundamentals like knife skills, lighting camp stoves, and the fine art of cooking over open fire. We’ll meet up in the circle on Saturday in the late afternoon and set up camp in the garden. We’ll make an early dinner, utilizing the fire pit and cast-iron cookware. We’ll do some baking in the fire pit while enjoying the sunset and telling stories. After dinner, we’ll pack up, clean up, and head out by around 8pm, leaving plenty of time to finish up weekend homework.

While this outing will definitely have a cooking and eating focus, no prior experience in the kitchen is required. However, a love of delicious food and a willingness to try new things will be essential. You’ll also need layers of clothing, something to eat out of and with, something to drink out of, and a healthy appetite. We will tailor the menu to the likes and dislikes (and allergies!) of the group so we will schedule a lunch meeting for before our inning to discuss options.

8 students
Anticipated Cost: $16
CITY TREKKING: EXPLORING OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT, FROM THE TREES OF SAN FRANCISCO TO AUTODESK’S DESIGN GALLERY

Sachi DeCou & Juliet Dana

The urban landscape provides a unique opportunity for hiking and exploring both designed spaces and the natural world. On this outing we will explore the flora and fauna along San Francisco’s Embarcadero, from the Canary Island Date Palm and the Indian laurel fig to the sea lions lounging outside of the Exploratorium. Which species were planned and which ones just arrived? Why might it matter?

Our urban design journey will then take us to Autodesk’s Design Gallery at One Market, for a tour of projects that focus on the intersection of design, technology and sustainability. This cutting-edge gallery describes itself as a place that “[brings] together stories of exceptional design and engineering from around the globe” and “celebrates the creative process and shows how people are using new technology to imagine, design, and create a better world.” Further, “named a top destination by Wired magazine and the San Francisco Chronicle, the gallery features dozens of exhibits, including original works by Lego, Mercedes-Benz, Nike, and more.”

As a further opportunity to experience design and sustainability in action, we will be taking the Larkspur ferry to and from San Francisco for this outing. We will leave at lunch time (with early dismissal + excused absence from your F block class) and return to MA around 5:30pm.

7 students
Anticipated Cost: $20
PE Credit Available
Friday to Saturday  
April 24th-25th, 2020  

STARGAZING & NIGHTTIME PHOTOGRAPHY  
Jon Bretan & Olivia Bronson ‘09

Come and partake in the oldest science humanity has practiced! We will camp at Lake Sonoma, spending the night looking at the sky, through binoculars and telescopes, and we will also learn how to photograph some of the brighter objects we see in the heavens. No prior camping experience is necessary—this Outing is also a great introduction to spending the night outdoors! We will depart from MA at 3:30pm and return before noon the next day. THIS OUTING IS DEPENDENT UPON THE WEATHER.

8 students  
Anticipated Cost: $45  
PE Credit Available  

Friday to Saturday  
April 24th-25th, 2020  

CAMPING AND CRAFTS!  
Ellie Ringness ’20, Leslie Beach ‘04, & Moriah Buckley ‘96

Looking to hang out and “chill” in the beautiful Californian wilderness? Want to make some super cool crafts? You can do both in this overnight car camping trip to Half Moon Bay! We will drive down after school on Friday April 24th where we will camp at the Francis Beach Campground. Get ready for a relaxing weekend by the seaside where we will do arts and crafts. Nighttime photography, stargazing, drawing, and cooking good food are all part of this outing! On Saturday we will do some art, play some fun games by the beach, and just hang out! We will return to MA by around 3 pm on Saturday.

Anyone is welcome to join! Bring any crafting supplies you would want to use and we will bring supplies for basic drawing, watercolor, or anything that is requested.

5 students  
Anticipated Cost: $75  
PE Credit Available
Friday to Saturday
April 24th-25th, 2020

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2020: THE OVERNIGHT
TWINS, Liz Gottlieb (Marin Academy, Science & XC) & Mary Churchill (San Domenico, Science & XC)

BlendEd Outing: Students from Marin Academy & San Domenico will participate in this outing challenge!

Cities around the world will be competing to see who can make the most observations of nature, find the most species and engage the most people in the 2020 City Nature Challenge! In 2019, 159 cities and 35,000 individuals around the world participated by making over 963,000 observations! Participants in this outing will begin making observations after school on Friday and throughout the day on Saturday. Participants will spend the first part of the outing capturing wildlife on the MA campus, our very own hotbed of diversity with over 203 unique species observed over the last three years. During the course of 24 hours we will adventure to different hotspots in Marin with the primary goal being to make the most number of unique observations of nature! We will car camp at Samuel P. Taylor State park. Please consider joining us (& the world) in this citizen science bioblitz!

We will use phones and cameras to make observations. We will then upload photos to inaturalist to record our data.

8 students
Anticipated Cost: $20
PE Credit Available

Friday to Sunday
April 24th-26th, 2020

SENIOR SISTAHS AND SISTERS BY THE SEA
Lynne Hansen & Megan Wheeler

Come spend a fun filled weekend in Sea Ranch with the infamous MA sisters, Lynne and Megan. Days will be spent hiking and beach combing. Evenings will involve awesome dinners and rich conversation about high school memories and hopes and dreams about the future. We will drive up to our condo after classes on Friday and be back to MA by early afternoon on Sunday. Senior girls, are you up to this much fun in 48 hours?

6 Students
Anticipated Cost: $150
Saturday
April 25th, 2020

ON THE PATH WITH CROSSROADS!
Abby French & Maribel Albarran

Crossroads and Outings have come together to create a joint outing with MA and Crossroads students! We’ll be going on a beautiful hike from approximately 10am - 2:30pm.

We’ll meet on the MA campus at 10am, head to a local trailhead, and enjoy the wild world around us, playing games, hiking, and keeping an eye out for wildlife. If you’re a Crossroads fellow or tutor, come hang out with your students in a new environment! There will be opportunities for MA students to lead activities along the way. If you haven’t had a chance to join Crossroads yet, this is a good opportunity to engage with the program! We’ll be back at MA by 2:30pm.

5 students
No Cost
PE Credit Available

Sunday
April 26th, 2020

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2020: THE DAY TRIP
TWINS, Liz Gottlieb (Marin Academy, Science & XC) & Mary Churchill (San Domenico, Science & XC)

Cities around the world will be competing to see who can make the most observations of nature, find the most species and engage the most people in the 2020 City Nature Challenge! In 2019, 159 cities and 35,000 individuals around the world participated by making over 963,000 observations! Participants in this outing will spend Sunday afternoon capturing as many unique observations as possible around Marin county. During the course of 6 hours we will adventure to a few different hotspots in Marin with the primary goal being to make the most number of unique observations of nature! Please consider joining us (& the world) in this citizen science bioblitz!

We will use phones and cameras to make observations. We will then upload photos to inaturalist to record our data.

8 students
No Cost
PE Credit available
HIKE MOUNT TAM!
Ellie Beyers & Juliet Dana

What better way to celebrate winter’s transition to spring than to get outside and take a hike? Join us for a special one-day journey up the gorgeous slopes of Mt Tam to enjoy the seasonal waterfalls, beautiful lakes, and magnificent views. We’ll get to experience the many microclimates on this magical mountain. This trek is certainly an excellent way to get to know the amazing peak that overlooks MA.

We’ll go rain or shine unless there’s a full-on deluge. We will meet at MA early and drive together to our trailhead. We will return just after sunset. Our hike will cover approximately 13 miles of trail.

You need to be comfortable with some physical challenge in order to enjoy this adventure, but you don’t have to have lots of “hiking” experience. You will also need layered clothing appropriate for the weather, a waterproof jacket, good hiking shoes, a headlamp, a daypack, lunch, 2 water bottles, snacks to share, and good energy.

6 students
No Cost
PE Credit Available

MAY 1-4, 2020
NO HOMEWORK WEEKEND! 3-DAY WEEKEND!

TURTLE ROCK BOULDERING
Leslie Beach ‘04 & Hannah Hohle

Ever see a really great rock and just have the sudden urge to climb it? Well then bouldering is for you! All bouldering is, is getting on top of the rock no matter the method. Come and enjoy a Friday afternoon at Turtle Rock, a nearby boulder popular for being climbed on. This outing will leave right after school. We will spend a few hours scrambling up the rocks (with large pads underneath) and will be back at MA by 6pm.

8 Students
No Cost
PE Credits Available
Do you enjoy s’mores? Beautiful views? A weekend getaway? Well, look no further. On this outing, we’ll spend a weekend down in Big Sur, one of the most gorgeous places in the world. We will be camping in tents, cooking meals, hiking, visiting the beach, and hanging out at the campsite. Bring any camping gear you have (sleeping bags, mats, lanterns, flashlights...etc), and any equipment you don’t have you can borrow from the outings department. Tents will be provided. We will be camping on platforms so no need to bring a backpacking backpack, but a day bag or drawstring is encouraged for day hikes and other excursions. No prior camping experience is necessary. We will leave Friday afternoon and return on Sunday.

6 students
Anticipated Cost: $60
PE Credit Available

Surf’s up early! How ‘bout you? Join James and other experienced MA surf lovers for a morning drive to Bolinas and a fun time on the waves. We will be joined by surf instructor, Nicki, who is available to give you tips to improve your skills. However, this trip is designed for intermediate surfers who have experience and proficiency in the water and on a board. Wetsuits and boards are available, but you are also welcome to bring your own. After our morning surf session, we will enjoy an early lunch locally before returning to campus in the early afternoon (7:30am to 1:30pm).

Please note - you need to complete two waivers for this outing: the standard Marin Academy Outings Permission Form and a waiver for the instructor. Both must be turned into the Outings Office to secure your spot on this Outing.

7 students
Anticipated Cost: $70 with own gear, $105 with gear rental
PE Credit Available
Saturday to Sunday  
May 2nd–3rd, 2020

CAMPING ON THE COAST
Nima Heffelfinger ‘20, Ellie Jackson ‘20, Leslie Beach ‘04, & Another Curious Camper

Do you enjoy beautiful sunsets, playing games on the beach, spending time under a sky full of stars, and falling asleep to the sound of waves? If so, this may be the outing for you. We’ll set up for the night at a coastal campground and see where the day takes us!

No matter your experience, you won’t want to miss the sights to see and the fun to be had. Anyone and everyone is welcome! We will head out from MA on Saturday, May 2 and come back late afternoon on Sunday (no school on Monday!).

6 students
Anticipated Cost: $60
PE credit available

Sunday  
May 3rd, 2020

INTRO TO SURFING IN BOLINAS!  
Daniel Colón & Abby French

Want to try a day of surfing at our local break in Bolinas? We will leave from MA in the early morning (7:45 am) to meet with Nicki, our surf instructor. Her basic surfing lesson will build your confidence whether you’ve never surfed before or you are the occasional surfer. After a shared picnic lunch we will return to MA around 2:30pm. You must be a proficient swimmer for this adventure. Wetsuits and surfboards will be provided. Bring something to share for lunch, your swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, sun hat, warm layers and a wooly hat.

Please note - you need to complete two waivers for this outing: the standard Marin Academy Outings Permission Form and a waiver for the lesson. Both must be turned into the Outings Office to secure your spot on this Outing. Let’s go surfing!

14 students
Anticipated Cost: $105
PE Credit Available
Saturday
May 9th, 2020

RUN A HALF MARATHON OR 7-MILE TRAIL RUN!
Moriah Buckley ‘96 & Abby French

Join Moriah and Abby for the Muir Woods Half Marathon or 7-Mile Trail Run on Saturday, May 9th. This outing is geared for individuals who have some experience running, but slow-and-steady runners are welcome! We will provide you with an 8-week training plan that you can follow to prepare you for race day. On the day of the race, May 9th, participants will meet at Marin Academy at 6:15 am. The race begins at 8 am at Stinson Beach, and the trail winds through Muir Woods, next to waterfalls, up and down natural rock staircases, and amidst towering redwoods and oaks. Students participating in this course can sign up for the 7-mile or the half marathon. After the run, participants will celebrate their journey with brunch together. We will return to Marin Academy around 1pm.

8 students
Anticipated Cost: $45
PE Credit Available
MA outings are open to everyone and each outing has a maximum number of students it can safely accommodate. Our sign up system is designed to be smooth, to increase communication with families, and to maximize trip participation. The process is outlined below:

Outings sign ups have three steps. You are not signed up for an outing until all three stages are complete.

**Step 1: Sign Up Online**
Students receive an email with a link to an online sign up form on the day that sign ups open. Students should fill out a separate form for each outing they hope to participate in.

**Step 2: Receive “Trip Status” Email**
Students will receive an email from Leslie letting them know if they are ON an outing, or on the WAITLIST for an outing.

**Step 3: Turn In Permission Form To Confirm Spot On Outing or Waitlist**
Once they have received email confirmation of their outing’s status, students must turn in permission forms to Leslie Beach’s office in Thacher to confirm their spot both on an outing and on an outing’s waitlist. If students do NOT wish to be on a trip or waitlist, they must email outings@ma.org.

Turning in a permission form signifies that students and families have CHECKED THEIR CALENDARS and have confirmed that the student will be participating in the outing. It also signifies that all parties understand that a trip cancellation fee will be applied to the family if the student cancels within two weeks of the outing. (See below for details on trip cancellation)
PERMISSION FORMS

Permission forms will be attached to the “trip status” email that students will receive. Permission forms are also available on the MA Outings office door, online through the outings page, and on the Outings Group My MA page.

SIGN-UP DATES FOR THE WINTER/SPRING 2020 OUTINGS SEASON

Thursday, January 23rd -
Outings Assembly, Catalog Released to Campus and Online

Monday, January 27th -
Student sign ups for trips through Spring Break begin Online

Monday, March 9th -
Student sign ups for trips after Spring Break begin Online

TRIP PARTICIPANT SELECTION PROCESS

Trips are filled on a first come, first serve basis EXCEPT for signups that are received on the first day of a sign up period. Sign ups received on this first day will be considered with equal weight, and trip participants will be selected with a lottery system. Important Note: You can continue to sign up for trips that have space up to 2 weeks before the trip runs.

WAITLIST

Students are OFTEN selected from a waitlist. If you are still interested in an outing and you are on the waitlist turn in your permission form to confirm your spot and keep the weekend free for as long as you can!
GEAR FOR LEND

The MA Outings Program maintains a collection of clean and quality gear available to students to borrow through the gear check out system. Please do not let not owning gear keep you from going on an outing. Talk to Leslie about what gear you need and we will try to supply you with the necessary equipment. Borrowed gear should be returned promptly and clean. Students may be charged for lost, broken, or non returned gear.

ELECTRONICS AND CELL PHONES

Use of cell phones and other electronics is not permitted on MA Outings without permission from the outings leaders. As a standing rule, students may not text or make calls or receive calls from the vans or while on an outing. If communication with home or elsewhere is necessary, check with your MA Outings leader first.

MISSING CLASSES AND PRACTICES

Students are responsible for pre-arranging their absences with their teachers and coaches. No prearranged absence form is required but clear communication prior to going on the outing is. Going on an outing is not an excuse for not completing one’s homework or missing tests, and extensions are not guaranteed. However, in the spirit of supporting MA’s co-curricular programs, teachers and coaches are asked to be as flexible as possible in allowing students to participate in outings.

Check with your teachers and coaches at least a week in advance of your trip and make every effort to complete required work ahead of time. You are still accountable for class assignments, assessments, and homework.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that MA Outings take place on the ancestral lands of indigenous people past and present. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. We commit to strengthening our understanding of the past and present colonization of this land, and how we can be better stewards. This semester, outings will take place on the traditional lands of Coast Miwok, Pomo, Ohlone, Washoe, Esselen, Salinan, Amah Mutsun, and Kashayah people.
TRIP FEES

MA Outings leaders make every attempt to be frugal in running outings and to price them as affordably as possible. Student trip fees are calculated to cover only the necessary expenses. These include food, fuel, equipment rental, and permitting. We publish an anticipated cost, with the expectation that trips may go slightly under or slightly over budget. We will charge families what the trip costs, while pledging not to go more than $15 over anticipated cost for overnight trips, or $10 over anticipated cost for day trips.

Financial aid is available for those students who qualify through the Admissions Office and Trent Nutting, Director of Admissions. (tnutting@ma.org)

PE CREDIT

PE credit is automatically granted for MA Outings carrying the “PE credit available” notation. Credit is awarded for outings with a strong skills basis and a clear athletic component. Credit is given at a rate of 0.25 credits for a qualifying multiday outing, 0.125 credits for qualifying day trips.

CANCELLATIONS

Once you turn in your permission form you have committed to going on your chosen outing. If you cancel on your commitment to an outing within two weeks of your trip’s departure date your family will be charged a cancellation fee: $25 for day trips and $50 for overnight trips. Additionally, if we are unable to fill your spot your family may still be charged whatever cost of the outing the program cannot recover in order to maintain the affordability of the outing for all students.

Cancellations are permissible in the event of illness or family crisis. Such cancellations should be made with the Director of Outings directly as soon as the student and family are aware of them.

These policies are intended to assure that the value of our Outings Department is realized, and experienced by as many people as possible.