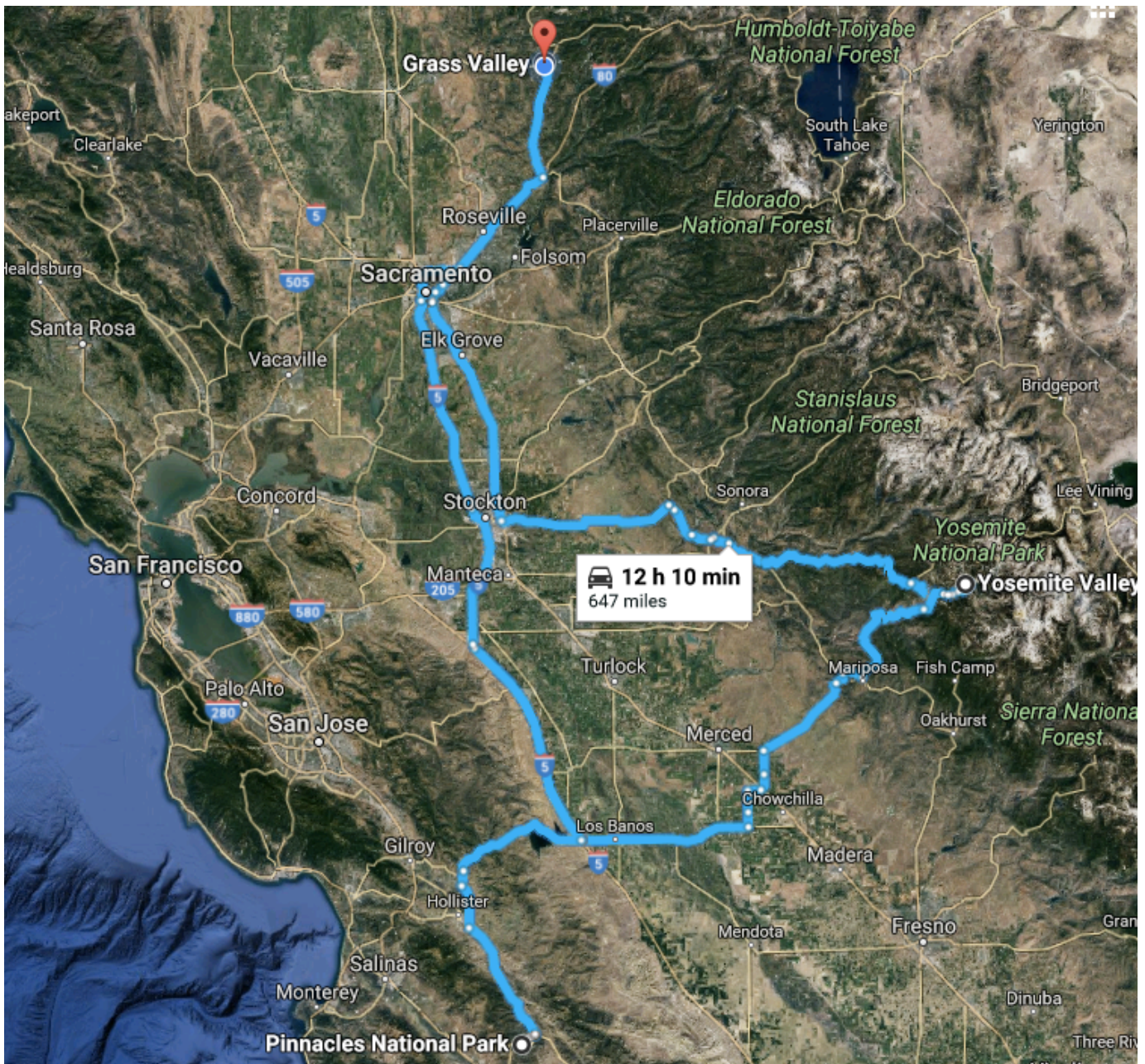


# National Parks Fieldwork

Yosemite National Park and Pinnacles National Park

Fieldwork Director: Mr. Berry

Monday October 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday October 19<sup>th</sup>



**Reason for fieldwork:**

This semester students are investigating their relationships with America’s public lands. As students learn about land management and how to enact change, we will be travelling out to Yosemite National Park and Pinnacles National Parks. This fieldwork will allow students to experience first-hand why these parks are so important to ecological preservation on the west-coast, and the competing interests that shape land management policy and practices.

**Itinerary:**

<b>Date/Day</b>	<b>Activity and Location</b>
Monday 10/15	Depart SAEL @ 7:30am. Drive to Yosemite NP. Spend the afternoon in Yosemite (Hetch Hetchy).
Tuesday 10/16	Early morning start, day hike to Clouds Rest.
Wednesday 10/17	Yosemite Valley for Solitude and Reflection. Drive to Pinnacles National Park. Spend afternoon meeting park and ecology experts. Camp in Pinnacles.
Thursday 10/18	Spend day in Pinnacles National Park hiking and exploring and meeting experts.
Friday 10/19	Early morning sunrise hike. Return to SAEL.

**Transportation:**

Students will be carpooling with SAEL parents and teachers who are registered and approved SAEL drivers. All SAEL drivers were specifically selected and asked to participate because they have demonstrated safe and responsible behavior at SAEL and have met the California Pull-Notice program , finger-print clearance, and SAEL’s guidelines for approval.

**Drop-off:**

Students will depart from the **SAEL campus at 7:30am** on Monday October 15th. If you have an emergency and may be late you must call Mr. Berry (203-841-7969) that morning ASAP and/or risk being left behind.

## **Pick-up:**

Students will return to the **SAEL campus in the evening** of Friday October 19th. Families will be called during the drive back with an updated ETA.

## **Adventure Gear & Clothing Recommendations:**

Student can bring their own adventure equipment if they have it. For example, students may bring their own tents and sleeping bags. We will be car camping and will **not** be hiking with backpacks over-night. Students should bring a day-pack to carry water and food for our activities and hikes. Students should bring no more than two bags (ie, a day pack and a duffel). Space will be extremely tight in vehicle's so please consider this when packing. No coolers or excessively large bags and equipment.

## **Students will be provided with the following equipment if they do not have their own.**

- Sleeping Bags (please bring your own if you have it)
- Sleeping Bag Liners
- Ground Sheets
- Head Lamps
- Shelters (Mids or tarps). Students can bring their own tents.

## **Personal Items Required:**

- Long pants (warm layers)
- Warm clothes to sleep-in.
- Shorts and a spare t-shirt
- Long Sleeve sweater for warmth and mosquito protection
- Warm jacket
- Swim gear
- Hat (mandatory)
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses (recommended)
- Bowl, spoon, folk
- Hiking shoes
- Waterproof rain protection
- Shoes to swim in (sandals, Chaco's, old shoes, whatever you have and don't mind getting wet!)
- Notepad, pen/pencil

## **Food:**

**Students must bring their own food on this fieldwork.** Students should bring enough food for 4 x Breakfast and 5 x lunches, and 4 evening meals. Students should also bring snacks. Please keep in mind that students will be expending large amounts of energy and therefore require additional calories. I would estimate doubling the amount of calories students usually consume during a normal school day. SEAL will provide stoves, pots, and all cooking equipment.

\* Please contact Mr. Berry if you cannot provide lunch.

## **Medication:**

All medication must be detailed on the Extended Medical Form AND on the Medication Required During School Hours Form. These forms must be fully filled out and on file in the SAEL Main Office in advance of fieldwork. Students should check in their meds with Mr. Berry on the morning of the trip to ensure our records match the bottle dosage, prescription, and correct medication type. ANY medication (prescription or over the counter) requires an official doctor's note or prescription to be on file in the main office for it to be allowed with us on fieldwork.

## **Safety:**

Mr. Berry is Wilderness First Responder certified. This means he is First Aid, CPR, and AED certified. Mr. Berry is also lifeguard certified and a certified top rope climbing guide. He has specific training to respond to emergency medical situations in the backcountry. Mr. Berry will be directing this program using the latest best practices in Adventure Education.

## **Sleeping:**

Students will be sleeping in Mid, tents in small groups in order to ensure our entire group is visible at all times. Students will also be separated by gender. This means students of different genders will not share a shelter and will not be allowed into each other's shelters at any time. SAEL staff will support the experience to ensure everyone is properly monitored.

We will ensure all bathroom use can happen in separated bathroom areas at the campground and with privacy in the backcountry while hiking. If families have questions, concerns, or would like to discuss gender identity and how this plays a role in the field, please reach out to Mr. Berry directly, if you have not already.

## **Personnel:**

Mr. Berry will be the Field Director. He will organize and coordinate this experience. Ms. Crane will be the main point of contact back at SAEL. She will keep her phone on at all times in order to receive updates from Mr. Berry's regular cell phone or the SAEL Satellite Phone, if needed.

Families will also be able to contact her in emergency situations. SAEL personnel in the field and students in the field will not be focusing on updating parents back at home. They will be immersed in the experience and will therefore not be reaching out with updates home unless there is an emergency. Ms. Beck and 6 SAEL parent drivers will also be attending this fieldwork.

## **Parent/Guardian Contact:**

We ask that families do not visit students during this fieldwork. (We know it is farther away this time, but parents have still pulled it off before!) All parent drivers will not be engaging every day all day either. This is a school program that is intended to support student growth and achievement. It is essential that students are allowed to be fully immersed in the experience. Please do not intend on seeing or speaking with your child during this experience, unless it is an emergency in which case you should contact Ms. Crane. **NO REGULAR CONTACT WILL BE MADE TO HOME UNLESS IT IS AN EMERGENCY. Please also do not expect regular updates from any personnel in the field or Ms. Crane as the experience develops unless it is an emergency.** There may be some positive social media posts with pictures, but these are not intended to be official updates for families that are coming at any regular interval. Please reach out to Ms. Crane if you have questions or concerns about this policy.

## **What Not To Take:**

- **Knives**
- Matches/lighters, fire starting equipment
- All banned/illegal/controlled substances or anything outlined as inappropriate for school in our SAEL Student and Family Handbook and/or Ed Code. All school rules apply in the field as it is school.
- Electronics\*

\*Chromebooks, ipods, or any personal or school electronic devices are not NECESSARY on this trip. SCHOOL CHROMEBOOKS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THIS FIELDWORK.

***SAEL accepts no responsibility for lost or damaged electronics/gear.***

## **Phone Coverage and Safety:**

Cell phone coverage is not guaranteed. Mr. Berry has a Satellite Phone that will allow us to always communicate with the group in the field. We do not want students or parents to depend on daily check ins. Pictures may be posted on Facebook and the website, but daily calls will not be made home. We want students to be working and focused on being immersed in the experience and in nature. If a parent needs to contact a student for an emergency, please call Principal Erica Crane (at SAEL during regular school hours or on her cell phone after hours). If there is any issue in the field, Mr. Berry will contact Ms. Crane and she will contact families.

**Contact Information:** SAEL: 530-268-2200

Principal Erica Crane's Cell Phone (for emergencies only after school hours): 203-725-8875

