

Dear EDGE Youth Leadership participant,

Congratulations on being selected to represent your high school at the 2026 EDGE Youth Leadership Conference! Selection to attend the EDGE conference is a distinct honor, limited to just one sophomore from each of the more than 1,500 eligible high schools in California and Nevada. Be excited—you are in for an experience you will not forget!

The conference will be held at **Menlo College** in Atherton, CA from **Friday, June 5th to Sunday, June 7th**. Check-in begins at 8:00 AM on Friday, June 5th, and **we ask that you arrive no later than 8:30 AM**. The seminar will conclude by 4:00 PM on Sunday, June 7th. Please note these dates on your calendar now!

Parents/Guardians, when you drop off your student, you will have the opportunity to look around the campus, and staff will be present to answer any questions you may have. When you return to pick up your student on **Sunday, June 7th**, you are invited to attend the closing programs that begin at 1:30 PM. There you will learn about the transformational weekend your child experienced. The Family and Friends Program is a group discussion and presentation facilitated by program staff, designed to help you best support your student as they leave EDGE inspired to do 100 hours of service in their community. All family members are welcome.

Our seminar requires advanced planning and we are eager to confirm your spot at the seminar. Please help us by completing our registration forms (online at: <https://form.jotform.com/260567980583066>) as soon as you can, **no later than Friday, May 29th**. The registration forms will ask about important information, such as emergency contacts and any medical or dietary needs. If you are unable to complete the forms online and need a paper copy, please let us know, as we'd be happy to accommodate your needs. If you have any concerns or additional accommodation requests that you would like to discuss in-person with our staff, please don't hesitate to contact us.

The following packet includes logistical information about the seminar such as directions, maps, frequently asked questions, and a checklist of what to bring with you to EDGE. All this information is for you to keep, and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Congratulations again! We look forward to meeting you in June!

Best regards,

Isabella Book & Joseph Morones
EDGE Youth Leadership Recruitment Directing Team
Phone: 510-408-6606
Email: registration@edgeyl.org
(We can respond most quickly to email.)

We want you to experience this life-changing seminar, but if you no longer can participate, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can allow another student from our waitlist to take your place! If you have any concerns about participation, call us and we will help answer any questions you may have.

REGISTER TODAY!
<http://edgeyl.org/registration>

AT A GLANCE

KEY DATES AND TIMES	
Conference Dates	Friday, June 5 – Sunday, June 7, 2026
Friday Check-in	7:00 AM – 8:30 AM Please arrive by 8:30 AM at the latest Activities begin at 9:00 AM
Registration Deadline	Friday, May 29, 2026
Cancellation Deadline	Friday, May 29, 2026
Family & Friends Program	Sunday, June 7 at 1:30 PM Arrive 15 min early for parking. Eat lunch beforehand - light snacks provided
Closing Ceremonies	Sunday, June 7 at 2:30 PM
Check-out	Sunday, June 7, 3:00 – 4:00 PM Please don't plan on leaving before 3:30 PM

LOCATION

[Menlo College, 1000 El Camino Real, Atherton, CA 94027-4301](#)
Enter campus via Encinal Ave. Staff will direct you

MEALS

All meals provided starting with Friday lunch. Eat a good breakfast before arriving Friday morning. Note dietary needs on your registration form.

FAMILY & FRIENDS PROGRAM — SUNDAY, JUNE 7

When you return to pick up your student on Sunday, you are invited to attend the Family and Friends Program at 1:30 PM. You will learn about the transformational weekend your child experienced through a group discussion and presentation led by program staff. Light snacks provided, but please eat lunch before arriving. All family members are welcome. Closing Ceremonies follow at 2:30 PM.

KEY CONTACTS

Registration Team registration@edgeyl.org 510-408-6606	Executive Director Dr. Raquel Mendoza 408-707-0401	Board President Kathryn Liu 925-594-1782	Student Support Amanda Mark 707-803-9313
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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

EDGE is NO COST to students, parents, and schools. (Donations welcome!) Students must attend the entire weekend (Friday AM – Sunday PM). Ensure Friday school absence is excused — check with your school. If you cannot attend, notify us by May 29, so a waitlisted student can join.

PACKING LIST

WHAT TO BRING	
Every student will be provided with a “linen package” that includes the following: a pillow, bottom sheet, top sheet, a pillowcase, a towel, and a blanket. ☐ Toiletries ☐ Personal medications and medical items (please notify us via the registration form if the student must take any medication during the weekend) ☐ Neat, casual, and comfortable clothes (jeans/t-shirts are fine) ☐ A shirt to wear under your EDGE shirt ☐ Comfortable shoes for outdoor activities ☐ One “dress up” outfit to wear on Sunday (business casual) ☐ An outfit for the Friday night social event. Feel free to dress casual or formal, as long as it's something you can dance in! At the mixer there will be a chill-zone for additional activities such as board games, coloring, and a service activity. ☐ Flip flop shoes for shower (recommended) ☐ Light blanket, bath towel, or beach towel to sit on (if you don't want to sit directly on the ground during outdoor activities) ☐ Refillable water bottle ☐ Portable fan ☐ Extra blanket and/or pillow (highly recommended) ☐ ENTHUSIASM!	
LEAVE BEHIND	DONATION ITEM
• Valuables (jewelry, expensive electronics) • Schoolwork - It will be a very busy weekend. • Cell phones are allowed, but will not be allowed in the sessions. Inappropriate cell phone use will result in confiscation for the weekend.	Each year, EDGE partners with a community service organization and asks participating students to bring an item to donate to the organization if possible. This year EDGE will make care packages to support survivors of domestic violence seeking services from Next Door Solutions. Needed donations items include: toothbrush, toothpaste, body wash, soap, shampoo,

	conditioner, menstrual products (sanitary pads and tampons).
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ATTENDANCE AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Attendance Policy:

Every moment of EDGE is crucial and builds upon the previous one. Therefore, students must be present for the entire conference, beginning on Friday morning (arrive between 7:00 and 8:30 AM) and ending on Sunday afternoon (do not plan to leave before 3:30 PM). If there is a conflict that makes it impossible for you to attend the conference in full, such as a final exam on Friday morning that cannot be rescheduled, please contact our recruitment team as soon as possible with requests for special exceptions (email: registration@edgeyl.org, phone: 510-408-6606). Exceptions are rare, but will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Making sure your absence from school is excused:

Please note that students are responsible for ensuring that their school absence on Friday is excused. Because students are typically selected for the conference by their school, the school will usually automatically honor an excused absence for the missed Friday. Please check with the school official who nominated you right away to ensure that your absence is excused, and please notify your teachers and coaches to make sure they are okay with your absence on Friday, June 5th. See if you can rearrange any exams or other important activities that may occur on the 5th. If you need documentation from EDGE, we are happy to provide a letter explaining the event—just email us with the request at registration@edgeyl.org.

If you were not nominated by your school (e.g., if you were nominated by one of our partner organizations), please talk with your school right away to request an excused absence. If you need documentation from EDGE, we are happy to provide a letter explaining the event—just email us with the request at registration@edgeyl.org.

Cancellation Policy:

If you are no longer able to attend the conference, please notify us and the school official who nominated you for EDGE (e.g., counselor, teacher, activities director, principal) **as soon as possible and by May 29th at the absolute latest.**

We have limited space and if we do not hear from you, a student from the waiting list will not have the opportunity to take your place. Additionally, the majority of our fees are paid and non-refundable by May 29th, meaning that each student who cancels after May 29th, results in approximately \$350 of our hard-earned donations, and dozens of volunteer hours going to waste!

If you must cancel after May 29th, you can help ensure that these donations are not wasted by helping the school official who nominated you find a replacement participant from your school.

EDGE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Where and when will the conference be held?

The seminar will take place at Menlo College ([1000 El Camino Real, Atherton, CA 94027-4301](#)) from June 5th to June 7th, 2026. (Directions and maps are included in this packet of information on pages 8-9.)

Seminar participants may check-in anytime between 7:00am and 8:30 AM on Friday. The seminar will begin with orientation at 9:00 AM on Friday and will conclude on Sunday no later than 4:00 PM.

Q: How much does the conference cost?

Thanks to the generous support we receive from our sponsors throughout California, the EDGE seminar is **NO COST TO STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND SCHOOLS**. EDGE is funded by individual donations, corporate donations, and gift matching programs from companies such as Apple and PG&E. EDGE Youth Leadership is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. While the cost is \$0 to you and the school, donations are appreciated! Donate online at <https://edgeyl.org/donate>, at registration or closing, or by mailing a check to our office. Please see "Q: How can I help?" on page 7 for our mailing address.

Q: What happens between now and the seminar?

When we receive your online registration forms (found here: <https://form.jotform.com/260567980583066>), you will receive a confirmation via the email address you provided in your online registration. **Please provide an email address that you check frequently. If you do not receive a confirmation right away, check your spam folder. Reach out to registration@edgeyl.org for troubleshooting and support.**

As the weekend approaches, the student will hear from their Junior Staff member (JCrew) by phone. The JCrew will help answer any questions that you may have.

Q: What are the housing accommodations like?

Menlo College's Campus dormitories will be the home of our student leaders and volunteers for the weekend. More than 40 on-site staff members are dispersed throughout the dormitories to ensure the safety and security of the students. All on-site staff members have been vetted and have passed background checks.

Students will share a room with one other student of the same indicated gender. Male and female student accommodations are in the same dorm building with access restricted to only those student leaders and volunteers who reside in the building. Bed checks will be conducted each night at the seminar to ensure students are in their assigned rooms.

Students may not leave Menlo College's campus during the seminar. Any students who drive themselves to the seminar will turn over their keys to EDGE staff until check-out on Sunday. We take the safety of your child very seriously. **Contact Executive Director, Raquel Mendoza, at 408-707-0401 with any questions regarding our safety and conduct policies.**

Q: What is the food like?

During the seminar, all meals for students are provided. The meals provide a variety of choices, but if you have any food allergies or special dietary needs, please indicate them when you fill out your online registration forms.

****Note: the first meal served is Friday lunch, so please eat a good breakfast before you arrive.**

Q: What should students expect from the seminar?

1) During EDGE, students will have the opportunity to interact closely with dynamic leaders from the fields of business, education, non-profit, government, and the arts. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions on thought-provoking topics. Our presenters will address numerous aspects of our changing world and the challenges that future leaders face. **The program will not promote any specific political party, business, religion or way of thinking. We aim to help student leaders learn *how* to think, not *what* to think.** Our program is designed to develop an awareness of present and future issues by actively involving seminar participants in discussions and informal debate.

“The entire experience changed my life and is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I have been to numerous conferences from a few hours in duration to twenty-three days. [Some] with no budget at all to the largest amount possible. I can clearly say there is nothing that even comes close to this program.” –Bradley B.

2) There will also be many hands-on activities, including entrepreneurial games, public speaking exercises, and team-building practices. By the end of the seminar, students will develop useful leadership skills, and feel confident in taking initiative and communicating effectively with others.

3) Most importantly, students will be given the opportunity to interact with a very special peer group of young outstanding leaders. Beyond participating in the educational aspects of the seminar, they will be given the unique opportunity to bond with a diverse group of students that is united by an interest in leadership. The weekend will be filled with enthusiasm, energy, and an opportunity to freely exchange ideas with peers without fear of judgment. There will also be fun activities, including a social night and skit performances.

“EDGE has taught me so much! I can’t believe how much I have learned about myself. I learned to let go and trust other people. My opinion is that as many people as possible should come to EDGE. EDGE is one of the best things for high school students. I want more than anything to come back.” —Paige R.

4) Following the seminar, students will also be asked to become part of EDGE’s commitment to service in local communities. By undertaking 100-hour community service projects, they will have the opportunity to join thousands of other young leaders in making a difference in schools, communities, places of worship, or other environments in which help is needed.

“When I first arrived, I felt scared of what the weekend could bring...after about an hour I felt completely at ease. I have met inspirational people who I will never forget; this includes panel speakers, my group leader, my junior staff person, and most of all the new friends I made. I am now motivated to go out and make a profound impact on the world.”
–Annie D.

“It is an amazing experience meeting so many people just like you who are so friendly, intelligent and involved. I have been to many leadership conferences before, but this one was totally different because here it was all sophomores and none of us knew each other before we got here, but after one weekend we are so close.”
–Annie S.

Q: What happens after the seminar?

After the life-changing EDGE seminar, students often ask, "What's next?" We believe it is important that the EDGE experience is not limited to one weekend. Therefore, during days 1, 2, and 3 of our seminar, we help students think about the future through a concept called "Day Four." Day Four represents the beliefs and actions students will take back to their communities following the EDGE seminar.

At the conclusion of the seminar, students will officially become EDGE Alumni. Becoming an alum provides opportunities to connect with EDGE on social media and join the EDGE Alumni LinkedIn group. Alumni can volunteer with EDGE on a planning committee or as a JCrew for the next year's seminar. They are also invited to attend alumni events, allowing them to connect with familiar and new faces within the EDGE community. The impact of EDGE extends far past the three seminar days, to Day Four and beyond as we continue to support and foster the development of our EDGE alumni as leaders and change-makers within their own communities.

Q: If necessary, how can students be contacted during the seminar?

To show the utmost respect to our seminar speakers and volunteers and to ensure that students enjoy the full EDGE experience, a "No Cell Phones During Sessions" policy will be strictly enforced. Violation of this policy will result in cell phone confiscation for the weekend. Students are encouraged to call parents, family and friends members at night when activities have concluded for the day.

At any hour of day or night, in case of an emergency, parent(s) may call the Executive Director, **Raquel Mendoza (408-707-0401)**, in the event that Raquel Mendoza is not available, please contact Board President, **Kathryn Liu (925-594-1782)** or Student Support, **Amanda Mark (707-803-9313)**. At check-in, parents will also be provided with a contact list of staff members that can be called in case of an emergency.

Q: What is the appropriate attire for the seminar?

Dress is casual on Friday and Saturday. Students will be given an EDGE t-shirt to wear for both Friday and Saturday. We recommend wearing shirts/undershirts underneath the t-shirts. Sunday's attire is "Business Casual" (no jeans/t-shirts, wear button down or collared shirts, etc.) to the best of your ability—what you have is fine and there is no need to purchase new clothing.

There will be a social event Friday night themed "Dare to be Timeless - Y2K" – wear your best jerseys, appropriate baggy clothes, hats, appropriate graphic tees, and all things YEAR 2000. Dress is casual, but should be comfortable to dance and move around in and retain full coverage. Your JCrew will be in contact with ideas for dressing up for the theme.

Q: What transportation arrangements are available?

The only cost we are unable to cover is transportation to and from the seminar. On pages 8-9 of this document, we have included directions and maps for both driving and public transportation. We are able to arrange pick-ups for students from the following destinations:

- Airports: Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport or San Francisco International Airport
- BART Stations: Millbrae or Warm Springs/South Fremont
- Caltrain: Menlo Park or Santa Clara

Please email registration@edgeyl.org so we can arrange for a staff member to pick you up. When purchasing tickets, please be mindful that the seminar begins at 9:00 AM sharp!

If you are unable to drive to the seminar and do not live in an area with easily accessible public transportation, the best option may be to carpool with another student from your area. When you fill out your online registration

forms, you will have the option to offer to drive other students, as well as to ask for a ride from other students. Our recruitment team will work with you to help arrange carpools to and from the seminar.

If you cannot make it to the seminar by any of those methods, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can assist you in your transportation plans.

Q: Can I arrive late, leave early, or leave and come back?

Students must be present for the entire weekend. If there is an unavoidable conflict with classes or exams on Friday, please contact our recruitment team as soon as possible with requests for special exceptions (email: registration@edgeyl.org, phone: 510-408-6606). Exceptions are rare, but will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What if I'm unable to attend the seminar?

Please notify us and the school official who nominated you for EDGE (e.g., counselor, teacher, activities director, principal) **as soon as possible and no later than May 29th**, if you are unable to attend. We have limited space and if we do not hear from you, a student from the waiting list will not have the opportunity to take your place. Additionally, the majority of our fees are paid and non-refundable by May 29th, meaning that each student who cancels after May 29th results in approximately \$350 of our hard-earned donations going to waste.

If you must cancel after May 29th, you can help ensure that these donations are not wasted by finding a replacement participant from your school.

Q: How can I help?

There are many ways to help out EDGE. Volunteering, giving Gifts in Kind, sponsoring a student or a student's meals or housing...every bit helps support leadership education and inspires students to contribute to their own communities. EDGE Youth Leadership is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. **While cost is \$0 to you and the school, the seminar is not without cost or value. Donations are very welcome!** You can donate online (<https://edgeyl.org/donate>), at the seminar, or by mailing a check to our office:

EDGE Youth Leadership
c/o Claire Butterworth, Fundraising
4007 Coogan Circle
Culver City, CA 90232

Q: Who should I contact with additional questions?

Additional questions or concerns should be directed to our recruitment team.

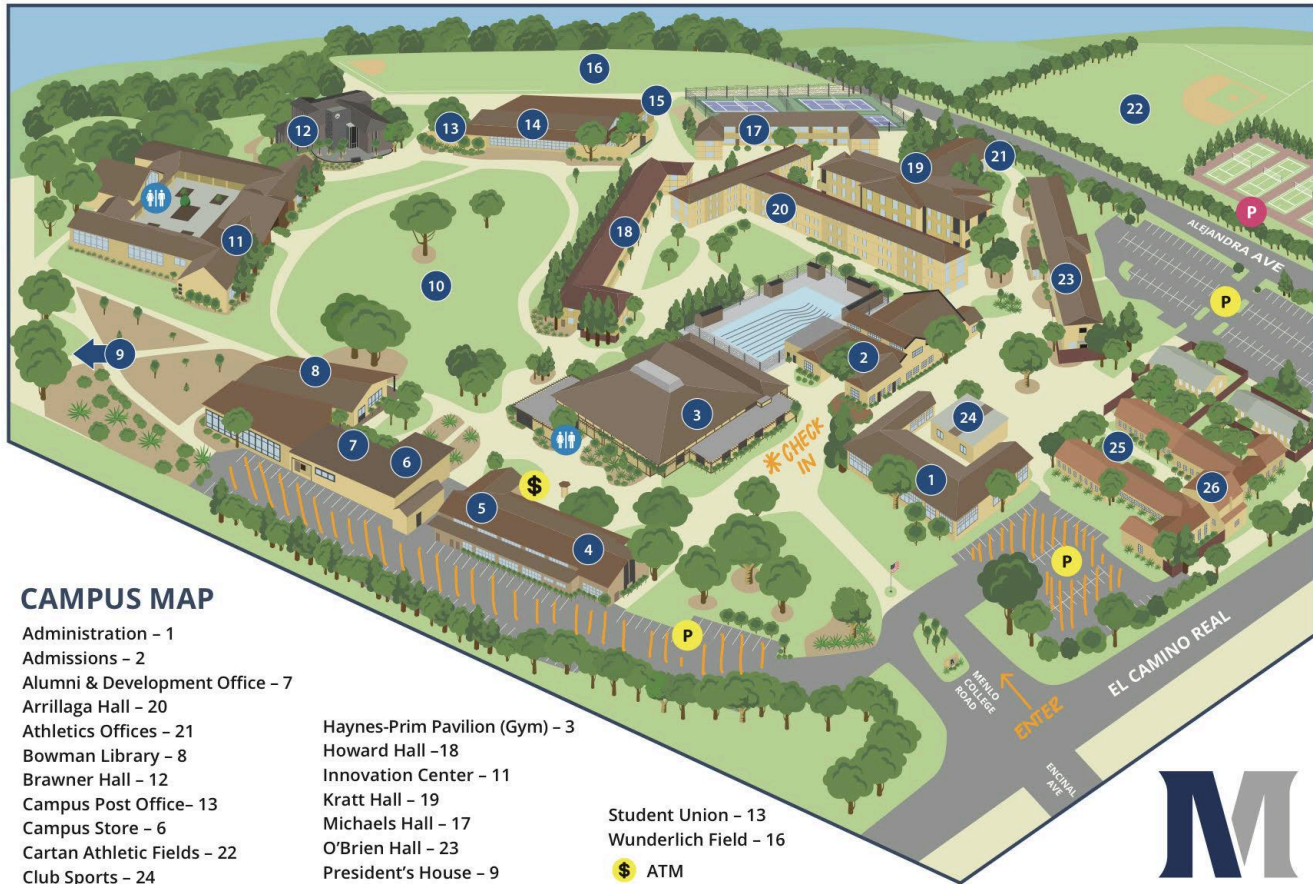
- Email: registration@edgeyl.org (*we can respond most quickly to emails*)
- Phone: **510-408-6606**
- Website: <http://www.edgeyl.org>

**Contact our recruitment team at 510-408-6606 or
registration@edgeyl.org with any questions.**

We look forward to meeting you on June 5th!!

MAP AND DIRECTIONS

to Menlo College [1000 El Camino Real, Atherton, CA 94027-4301](#)



CAMPUS MAP

Administration – 1
Admissions – 2
Alumni & Development Office – 7
Arrillaga Hall – 20
Athletics Offices – 21
Bowman Library – 8
Browner Hall – 12
Campus Post Office – 13
Campus Store – 6
Cartan Athletic Fields – 22
Club Sports – 24
Dining Hall – 14
El Camino Hall – 25
Fitness Center – 4
Florence Moore Hall – 11

Haynes-Prim Pavilion (Gym) – 3
Howard Hall – 18
Innovation Center – 11
Kratt Hall – 19
Michaels Hall – 17
O'Brien Hall – 23
President's House – 9
Quad – 10
Russell Center – 26
Security Office – 15
Sports Pavilion – 5

Student Union – 13
Wunderlich Field – 16

- \$ ATM
- Public Restrooms
- P Parking
- P Special Event Parking Only

For assistance, call Campus Security @ 650-400-5837

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Menlo College
1000 El Camino Real
Atherton, CA 94027
800-55-MENLO
www.menlo.edu

PARKING

Please park in the orange lined areas in the map found on page 9. Staff will be present to help direct you!

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From North Bay via US-101

1. Take US-101 South toward Marsh Road.
2. Exit Marsh Road and turn right.
3. Turn left on Middlefield toward Encinal Avenue.
4. Turn right on Encinal Avenue into campus.

From North Bay via Interstate 280

1. Take I-280 South toward Woodside Road.
2. Take exit 25 for Woodside Road/CA-84, turn left toward El Camino Real.
3. Turn right onto El Camino Real South on-ramp.
4. Stay on El Camino Real toward Encinal Avenue.
5. Turn right on Encinal Avenue into the campus.

From East Bay via Dumbarton Bridge

1. Take the Dumbarton Bridge/CA-84 West (partial toll road).
2. Continue on Bayfront Expressway toward Marsh Road.
3. Turn left on Marsh Road to Middlefield Road.
4. Turn left on Middlefield Road to Encinal Avenue.
5. Turn right on Encinal Avenue into campus.

From East Bay via San Mateo Bridge/CA-92

1. Take the San Mateo Bridge/CA-92 West toward US-101 South (partial toll road).
2. Take exit 13A for US-101 South toward San Jose.
3. Take exit 406 for CA-84/E. Marsh Road and turn left.
4. Turn left on Middlefield Road toward Encinal Avenue.
5. Turn right on Encinal Avenue into campus.

From South Bay via Interstate 280

1. Take I-280 North toward Sand Hill Road.
2. Turn right on Sand Hill Road toward El Camino Real.
3. Turn left on El Camino Real toward Encinal Avenue.
4. Turn left on Encinal Avenue into campus.

From South Bay via US-101

1. Take US-101 North toward Marsh Road.
2. Take exit 406 for CA-84/E. Marsh Road and turn left.
3. Turn left on Middlefield Road toward Encinal Avenue.
4. Turn right on Encinal Avenue into campus.