

SPOTLIGHT

We still need your support

During school closures and distance learning, projects and programs supported by the Merced County Education Foundation continue and we look forward to finding ways to offer experiences outside the classroom to Merced County students. Even though students are not able to attend Camp Green Meadows in-person due to the pandemic, the staff have been hard at work creating virtual content for schools to use so that students continue to receive outdoor science education. The MCE Foundation strives to serve students of all abilities, and the new nurse's station at Camp Green Meadows will do just that. Unfortunately, the removal of the old nurse's state uncovered some sewer line work that will delay the project until next year, with construction set to begin in Summer 2021.

Other programs, such as visual and performing arts are also creating virtual lessons and content that will be available to schools and districts in the coming months. We are exploring ways to help teachers and schools bring these virtual lessons to their classrooms.



While some schools are starting their return to campus, we will look for ways to continue to support the programs that are part of our goals and mission. We understand that our support might look different as we adjust to fit the needs of our students, educators, and the sites. Your continued support will help us expand those offerings, create more grants for schools, adjust to a more virtual world, and continue to strengthen our current programs.



YOUR DONATION MATTERS

Please send your donation to:
MCE Foundation, PO Box 1, Merced, CA 95341

MCE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS:

- Outdoor Science Education
- STEM Education
- College & Career Education
- Visual & Performing Arts

Program Updates

Visual and Performing Arts

The Merced County Office of Education recently hired Noelle Chandler as the Arts Program Specialist. Noelle has worked with Arts Now California to start Arts Now MCOE and MCEF is the fiscal sponsor. As a fiscal sponsor, Arts Now MCOE and MCEF are eligible to apply for grants that will support additional arts programs for Merced County students. Locally, nominations are open for the Merced County Young Artists Network, which is a partnership between the Merced County Arts Council and Arts Now MCOE. Students will take part in bi-monthly virtual meetings with other arts students from across the county and receive a package of supplies allowing them to participate in countywide collaborative arts projects, as well as classes, training and leadership support. Students must be either 12-17 or 18-22 years old.

To learn more or apply, contact Noelle Chandler at (209) 381-6047.

As we work with Noelle to expand Arts offerings through MCOE and MCEF, we are excited to continue to support the Merced Symphony Association and the UC Merced Opera for Children as they also work to find new and creative ways to bring their programs to students.



Merced County Office of Education



STEM Education

The Merced County STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Fair is now in its fifth year. Last year's winners from the Merced City School District and Our Lady of Mercy were set to attend the California Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles in April, but like many other events, it was cancelled. The CSEF team and the Merced County STEM Fair team have worked to find solutions for the 2020-21 school year and we are happy to report that both events will run in a virtual format. To transition to this new format, MCOE must purchase new software that will allow students to showcase their research and projects and allow judges to score them virtually. Support to STEM Education will continue to benefit the Merced County STEM Fair and a virtual competition. The Merced County STEM Fair is working with UC Merced Research Week to continue the partnership started a few years ago to offer virtual lab tours and other events.

Program Updates

Though the Campus is Closed, Camp Green Meadows Continues With Virtual Lessons

The traditional week-long outdoor education program offered by Camp Green Meadows is another casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic, but that doesn't mean students can't learn about the outdoors in a virtual format.

Camp Green Meadows Principal Bob Bassett confirmed that the outdoor school program and other activities have been cancelled through the fall season. The Merced County Office of Education, which operates the school, will reassess later this year if the outdoor school will operate during the spring semester.

Bassett said, "If students are not able come to Camp Green Meadows we will bring Camp Green Meadows to the students. We are developing a rich, standards-based distance learning curriculum for our students."

Camp Green Meadows is located in the Sierra National Forest outside the town of Fish Camp on Highway 41 just 2 miles from the southern entry to Yosemite National Park. The 5,000-foot elevation offers a very different environment than what Merced County students normally experience. The summers are warm and during the winters, the campus is covered in snow. Camp Green Meadows has been serving the students of Merced and surrounding counties for nearly 60 years.

According to Bassett, who is starting his 11th year as principal of the outdoor school, the last school program ended March 13. During the spring, Camp Green Meadows staff created outdoor videos to aid teachers delivering distance learning curriculum. That will differ from the lessons they are working on now.

The school staff is going to not only recreate the outdoor



school program's Next Generation Science Standard Based lessons in a distant learning format; they are also working to recreate some of the camp experiences through the use of technology. "We know it won't be the same as being here but we hope that it will be rewarding, fun and students will learn about the outdoors," Bassett said.

Camp Green Meadows had 37 weeks of outdoor school programs scheduled for the 2020-21 school year with nearly 5,000 6th grade students and 600 high school students set to attend during those weeks. Bassett followed up with, "If we are able to open in the spring, we will run shorter programs so that we can give as many kids as possible this learning experience and the Merced County tradition of Camp Green Meadows." For more information on the outdoor school, visit www.campgreenmeadows.com.

2020 College and Career Education

Congratulations to the 2020 Scholarship Awardees

Brian Amador - Career Technical Education Transportation HS (Delhi High School)

Tria Xiong - Evelyn Eagleton Adult (Merced College)

Alexis Goodnight - Evelyn Eagleton HS (Hilmar High School)

Rashel Hernandez - Evelyn Eagleton HS (Valley Community School - Los Banos)

Emmanuel Ramirez Sierra - Evelyn Eagleton HS (Le Grand High School)

Camp Green Meadows



PROPOSED NURSE'S BUILDING



EXISTING NURSE'S BUILDING



FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN



Merced County Office of Education – New Nurse's Building

Nurse's Station Update

While CGM staff continue their work with schools all over the county in distance learning mode, we continue to see progress on the nurse's station project. The latest hurdle to begin construction, is an archeological study of the buildings that is required by the National Forest Service. Another challenge is the removal of trees on the school grounds and the delay to that project by the Creek Fire. As of October, the tree removal project has received the "go ahead" and the archeological study has been completed and is awaiting Forest Service approval. We anticipate the nurse's station to be out for bidding again in December. This is necessary because the old bid timed out since it was over 6 months since we awarded it. Our current expectation is to begin construction this Spring as soon as weather allows.

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Outdoor Science Education

I want to:

- Provide a week-long outdoor science experience for one student with my donation of \$300.
- Support the remodel of a cabin with my donation of \$1,000.
- Enhance the experience for all who enjoy Green Meadows with my donation of \$_____.

College & Career

I want to:

- Purchase a Little Lending Library built by Merced County students with my donation of \$100.
- Provide opportunities beyond the classroom for students to transition to college and/or career with my donation of \$250.
- Further develop our local workforce to prepare students for college and/or career with my donation of \$_____.

STEM Education

I want to:

- Support the Merced County STEM Fair with my donation of \$250.
- Send a team to the California State Science and Engineering Fair with my donation of \$1,500.
- Provide STEM learning opportunities for Merced County students with my donation of \$_____.

Visual & Performing Arts

I want to:

- Sponsor Foster Youth in a Visual or Performing Arts Program with my donation of \$300.
- Introduce students to arts activities during the year with my donation of \$500.
- Increase and promote the arts in Merced County with my donation of \$_____.

Thank you for helping create educational experiences beyond the classroom.

Please make your tax-deductible donation payable to
MCE Foundation
PO Box 1, Merced CA 95344

See the impact of your donation at
www.mcoe.org/foundation or donate online at
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I want to contribute \$_____ as selected above or for

- Area(s) where my contribution is most needed
- Outdoor Science College & Career
- STEM Education Visual & Performing Arts



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