



2026 MESA Student Leadership Retreat
Happy Valley Conference Center, Santa Cruz, California
April 10-April 12, 2026

Welcome to the 30th Annual MESA Leadership Retreat!

One hundred and sixty students and staff representing California MESA Community College programs throughout the state are here this weekend. Meet your peers and future colleagues who come from colleges as far north as the Oregon border; down through the wine country, the rural and farmland country; big cities; all the way to the very southern deserts of the state. In addition to getting to know each other and your common journeys, this weekend is intended as a time of reflection, inspiration, exploration, skill-building, and challenge.

Agenda at a Glance

Friday, April 10, 2026

3:00 pm- 5:30pm	Registration (Outside Dining Hall) settle in to your room, explore, relax, or study Set up dining room tables:
5:30pm- 6:30pm	Dinner (Dining Hall) Serving: Clean Up wipe down tables 6:35 pm
6:15pm- 7:00pm	Orientation/ Welcome (Dining Hall)
7:00pm- 8:00pm	Opening Session (Dining Hall) Keynote Get inspired by a powerhouse in STEM!

8:15pm- 9:00pm	Field Project Meetings Plan out your weekend long project with your team.
8:15m- 8:45pm	Mandatory MESA Directors’ and Chaperone Meeting (Outside Lodge)
9:00pm- 11:45pm	Free Time Activities Marshmallow Roast.....Campfire Circle Campfire Duty : Study TimeCreekside Hall All Quiet or Indoors Reminder Duty :
11:45pm	Lights out Duty

Agenda

Saturday April 11, 2026

7:30 am	Rise & Shine <i>Wake up call Duty:</i>
8:00am-8:50am	Breakfast (Dining Hall) <i>Serving: Clean Up wipe down dining room tables: (8:45 am)</i>
9:00am-10:15 am	Breakout Session #1 Renewable Energy Lab Parking Lot Natural History WalkCampfire Circle Evolution GameLawn Arduino-Based ProgrammingDining Hall Intention– Setting and Mindfulness Practice.....Gazebo Leadership Network.....Creekside Hall
10:30am-11:45am	Breakout Session #2 (See Breakout Session #1 for sessions and locations.)
12:00pm-12:45 pm	Lunch (Dining Hall) <i>Serving:</i> <i>Clean Up wipe down dining room tables</i>
1:00pm-2:15pm	Breakout Session #3 (See Breakout Session #1 for sessions and locations.) Director’s meeting (patio)
2:30pm-3:45pm	Breakout Session #4 (See Breakout Session #1 for sessions and locations.)

4:15pm	Mystery Spot Field Project (Front of Kitchen)
5:00pm-6:00pm	Break time Quiet study time Lodge and Creekside Hall
6:00pm-7:00pm	Turn in your Autograph Sheet Ping Pong Table Dinner (Dining Hall) <i>Serving:</i> <i>Clean Up wipe down dining room tables (6:45 pm)</i>
7:00pm-8:30pm	Saturday Night Live
8:30pm-9:30pm	Ice Cream Sundaes (Outside Lodge) <i>Sundae Service Duty:</i> <i>Clean-Up:</i>
9:00pm	Stargazing (Front Lawn) Cosmic Joe explores the wonders of the universe.
9:00pm-11:45pm	Free Time Activities Marshmallow Roast.....Campfire Circle <i>Campfire Duty : (9:00-10:00 pm)</i> Quiet Study TimeCreekside Hall <i>All Quiet or Indoors Reminder Duty :</i> 10:00pm

Agenda

Sunday April 12, 2026

7:00 am	Rise & Shine <i>Wake up call Duty:</i>
8:00am- 8:30am	Breakfast (Dining Hall) <i>Serving:</i> <i>Clean Up wipe down dining room tables: (8:25 am)</i>
8:30am- 11:00 am	Field Study Finale!
11:00am- 11:30am	Design Test– Engineering Field Study (Front Lawn)
11:30am- 12:00 pm	Field Study Awards & Closing (Front Lawn)
12:00pm- 1:00pm	Lunch (Dining Hall) <i>Serving:</i> <i>Pick up tables and chairs</i>
1:00pm	Everything Must be Out of the Rooms And Cabins Items left behind will be donated