

*Mendocino Adventure Ropes Course has established a  
'Friends Of-' organization.*

*We hope you will consider becoming a member!*

Northern Mendocino is home to a unique experiential education facility, Mendocino Adventure Ropes Course. A ropes or challenge course is a tool that utilizes a physical metaphor for an experiential open-ended variety of learning experiences enhancing self-confidence, -awareness and team/group functioning.

Our annual fund-raising goal is \$10,000. : \$5000.to augment the scholarship fund and \$5000. as an operational/augmentation/reserve fund.

**Any amount you feel you/your organization can help with is immensely appreciated!**

Although contributions to the general fund maximize our flexibility, we appreciate the enjoyment of having a more specific, even tangible, relationship to giving. Thus, we offer the following:

Help support adventure programming at MARC!:

General Fund\_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship fund \_\_\_\_\_

*School groups*\_\_\_\_\_ *Substance abuse recovery*\_\_\_\_\_

*Mixed age/family groups*\_\_\_\_\_ *Experiential Citizenship*\_\_\_\_\_

*Non-profit boards*\_\_\_\_\_ *Balancing cooperative and competitive play*\_\_\_\_\_

*Humboldt Co groups*\_\_\_\_\_ *Mendocino Co groups*\_\_\_\_\_

*Other*\_\_\_\_\_

Programming\_\_\_\_\_

*Training/continuing education*\_\_\_\_\_

*Conferences (ACCT,AEE, etc)*\_\_\_\_\_

*Your suggestion:* \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Plant\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor your favorite element:

High Elements

*Catwalk*\_\_\_\_\_

*CargoNet*\_\_\_\_\_

*Flying Squirrel*\_\_\_\_\_

*Giant'sLadder*\_\_\_\_\_

*LeapOfFaith/Perch*\_\_\_\_\_

*MultiVine*\_\_\_\_\_

*Rappel*\_\_\_\_\_

*ZipLine*\_\_\_\_\_

Low Elements

*BalancePlatform*\_\_\_\_\_

*RopeCrossing*\_\_\_\_\_

*SwingingLog*\_\_\_\_\_

*StationaryLog*\_\_\_\_\_

*TensionTraverse*\_\_\_\_\_

*Trollies*\_\_\_\_\_

*WooblyWoozie*\_\_\_\_\_

*PortableAdventure*\_\_\_\_\_

Equipment\_\_\_\_\_

Replacement fund:

*Helmets*\_\_\_\_\_

*Harnesses*\_\_\_\_\_

*Safety equipment, e.g. staff harness with D-rings*\_\_\_\_\_

*Belay Ropes*\_\_\_\_\_

Site and Grounds Maintenance

*Chips to provide safe ground surface and protect roots of trees*

*Regular arborist consultation  
Local indigenous landscaping  
Shed renewal/upkeep*

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## **Background to Appeal**

Mendocino Adventure Ropes Course (MARC) is a small challenge course in northern Mendocino County, under the auspices of Leggett Valley Unified School District, a preschool-12 facility. LVUSD has been wonderful to work with and has been available to provide a funding safety net when needed. With the current education funding cutbacks, LVUSD is no longer in a position to do that. Since shortly after its inception 1995, Mendocino County students have had the underwriting of the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) to facilitate access to MARC. In the current fiscal climate, not only is it more difficult for student groups to raise their share of fees, transportation costs and other special event/field trip costs, but the MCOE has needed to phase out this underwriting program. The Community Fund of Mendocino County generously matched the MCOE monies for FY 2008-09, bringing us back up to the previous year's amount in the scholarship fund that year. Their policies prevent approaching them for ongoing funds and they are experiencing a large increase in applicants in the current economy. A search for other grantmakers is in process.

An annual fundraising campaign of \$10,000. would allow continuation of participation in MARC programs by student and community groups in need of supplemental funding and/ or other basic needs such as inspection or insurance fees and maintenance and staffing costs. In addition, access to underwriting would be open region-wide.

Thank you for considering this request. Let us know if more information is desired or to schedule a course and experience the potential!

Sincerely,

Nonae Sears, Director

*Mendocino Adventure Ropes Course*

*P.O. Box 186, Leggett, CA 95585*

*Tel. 707-925-6285 Fax 707-925-6396*

*mendoadventure.com*

*[mendoadventure@yahoo.com](mailto:mendoadventure@yahoo.com)*

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*Yes, I would like to join Friends of MARC! I enclose \$10. \_\_ \$25. \_\_ \$100. \_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_*

*I request it be applied to: gen'l fund \_\_\_\_\_ scholarship fund \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_*

*I have a friend I think would be interested*

*:name: \_\_\_\_\_ contact info: \_\_\_\_\_*

*I can also help by:*

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*Thank you!*

## *About MARC*

*MARC provides physical, self-empowering experiences for participating groups.* In 2008, we served approximately 500 participants, students and adults. Our outreach to the community promotes broader application of this style of programming, especially to meet the current resurgence of the recognition of the need to be outside and more active to counter our sedentary cultural trends. Challenge Course activities are excellent tools for experiential education in group process and communication skills as well, always important skills but perhaps particularly timely at the present.

We are the only Ropes/Challenge Course in this region, in an approximately 2 hour radius. We are in a beautiful setting with access to a variety of outdoor activities to augment the activity options, well suited for coupling with outdoor environmental programming.

Physically, our course is a maze of challenges ranging from ground level to 45 feet in the air. Mentally, it is a fun-filled day that teaches powerful lessons instilling: cooperation, communication, trust, problem solving and teamwork. Our course consists of eight permanent low and eight permanent high elements. There is a 2 route climbing wall in the school gymnasium. Located in proximity to State Parks and Wilderness Areas, and within walking distance of the Eel River, our setting affords abundant opportunity for coordination with diverse outdoor activities: hiking, biking, swimming, boating, rock climbing, etc. Staff capacity permitting, all have been offered through our organization. MARC has a supply of backpacks for overnight hiking trips and gear including rafts, dry suits and life jackets for river outings. Portable adventure and professional trainings in adventure curriculum are also components of our program offerings.

Challenge courses at MARC begin with active mixer activities and an interactive discussion of the agreements the staff and group feel are needed to have a safe, fun day together. One or two trust activities, perhaps involving altered sense availability and creative communication strategies, are followed by group initiatives/ 'problem solves'. A favorite one at MARC is a group teeter-totter, a platform over a fulcrum that the group is challenged to balance. After each activity, time is taken to reflect on the experience: factors in success or frustration, what was learned about the group and oneself. Then, with safety gear donned, we move to the high elements. Each individual, while being supported by the group, has an opportunity to try two or more: e.g. a log secured at 20' between two trees - climb to the log, walk across, and be belayed to the ground again. Of course, for some, the ladder and staples to the log are sufficient challenge. A reflective closure on the day's experiences ends the day.

The mission of the Mendocino Adventure Ropes Course is to provide safe outdoor learning experiences that challenge youth and adults to exceed their perceived boundaries as well as serve as a catalyst for personal and professional growth and change.

Join Friends of MARC – Support the wonderful team- and self-confidence building tool that is Mendocino Adventure Ropes Course!