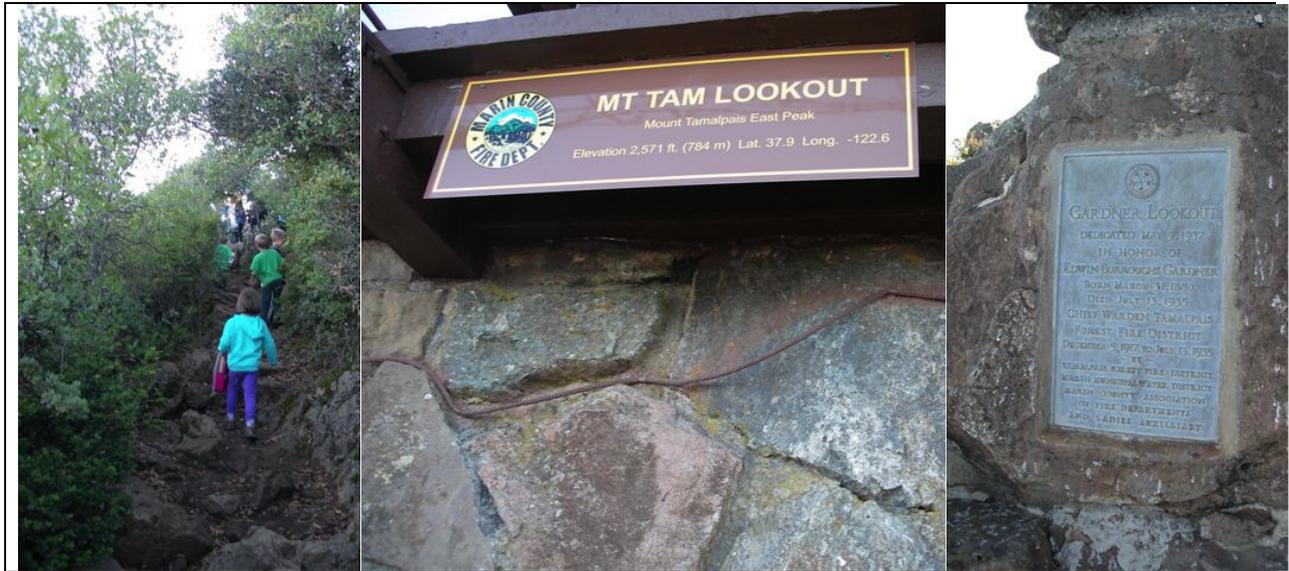


Hey there Adventurers,

Sunday sure was fun! With a short pit stop at Golden Gate Park, where we had lunch and stretched our legs. It felt great getting a chance to visit one of the best city parks in the US. The kids had a blast. Maybe we should have a class in the Spring highlighting all the things there are to do in the park.

We had others plans, so onward we traveled - to the top of the mountain! The drive was brief and beautiful. We drove over the tall coastal bluffs, through oak woodlands overlooking views of a very calm Pacific Ocean, nearly to the top of Mt. Tamalpais.



What a memorable hike we had! It was chilly to start and remained chilly to the finish. But I know all our hikers will agree, it was worth it. From the East Peak parking lot, a .3 mile trail took us to the top. On the way to the top, we made a very important discovery... Huckleberries!!! We found them at the perfect time too. Once the news spread though our troop, it was the only word I could hear them saying. I think we should rename Tamalpais, Huckleberry Mountain. Even at the summit, despite near perfect conditions, with stunning views of; the entire bay, Mt. Diablo, Mt. St. Helen, Tomales Bay, and even the Farallons, the kids were captivated by the huckleberries. With lecture necessary, we reached a compromise. They could stand next a huckleberry bush if they promised to lend me their ears. I'm so grateful they did.



I told them about the Bay's history of native Spanish and American history and how the gold rush turned a little town of 1000 into 300000 in less than a decade. I told them about the diversity of peoples and cultures that came from the gold rush and World War II.

I must admit I had to cut my lecture short because I was obviously losing their attention to the power of the huckleberry. So it was time for our group exercise. "Now that you know about the bay, what would you do to make it a better place?" Out with paper, out with crayons and brilliant minds went to work. After a short while, and a few more huckleberries, the kids were ready to present.- I must note that all of the participants were very comfortable and fantastic presenters, which is a rarity. I can't help but think that being outside, on top of a mountain with the entire San Francisco Bay as an audience, must have eased the discomfort of this exercise. At any rate, the ideas were fantastic; flying cars, rocket propelled, multitiered, floating houses and buildings; and of course, a huckleberry farm were all fantastic plans for the future of the Bay.



That was our adventure in a nutshell. I know that your children had blast and I can't wait to take them on another outdoor class with Chaia.

Thank you all,

Nate