

# Natural Villages Radio

Natural Villages is located on the beautiful Pacific Ocean in the County of Mendocino, California. The purpose of the project is to support young people during one of their most dynamic and at times perilous phases of life... young adulthood. We will use the radio station as a hub for the connections and educational experiences that we are offering and plan to offer to the community, and to highlight other educational opportunities that are available locally. To teach and equip young people to thrive by strengthening their connection to nature and the local community and through skill building, using classes and hands on experiences. We will also use music and the arts as a way of not only creating a more diverse radio listening experience, but also as a way to showcase local talent and positive values. The various projects support our overall mission by teaching and creating independence, initiative and a good work ethic, supporting young ones to accomplish what they set out to do in life.

Growing up in our culture at this time presents tremendous challenges to young people. Depression and suicide are a major challenge among people under 30 years of age and is the leading cause of death of children between the ages of 11 and 14. In rural Mendocino County the need is great as the local economy is in a state of major change. The number of children who are diagnosed with depression/suicidal ideation grows yearly and the percentage of young people who have actively considered suicide in their teen years is more than 60%!

Research shows an astonishing link between meaningful multi-generational activities and numerous benefits to the whole community. We plan to use the radio station for classes but also as a way to foster the links between generations through the classes that are offered as well as other educational and enrichment experiences. Woven into the variety of hands on learning experiences that will occur will be a deliberate focus on emotional literacy. Having the knowledge and ability to create good relationships, is a missing life skill.

Our programming will be a mix of classes, informative and inspiring talks from local elders and ones who have unique experiences to share, as well as youth generated content. There will also be a focus on using the station to keep the population aware of the many positive projects and events that are taking place locally. If we have a choice of call letters, we would choose KNVR (Natural Villages Radio)