



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES
ACTIVITY GUIDE



**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**



Aquatics – pg 5-7
Special Events – pg 9-12
Day Camps – pg 18-19

FUN THINGS TO DO

IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARKS

Visit scparks.com for more information about parks, programs, and activities.

FLOATING PUMPKIN PATCH

We're putting a fun spin on the tradition of pumpkin-picking by creating a patch in the pool! In addition to pumpkins, there are plenty of other fun activities planned. This is a drop-in (rain or shine). **Pre-registration is required.**

October 17th from 12-4pm.

See details on page 11.



THROW A PARTY

Want to throw a unique party? You'll find just the right venue with County Parks. Many picnic areas can be reserved for your exclusive use, while others are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

We have many locations throughout Santa Cruz County for different types of events.

Visit us at scparks.com to book your next event.



TAKE A HIKE

Many hiking opportunities can be found at Santa Cruz County Parks.

For a more rustic hiking experience, head out to the Miller Property County Park and enjoy the quiet majesty of the redwoods. Pinto Lake County Park and Anna Jean Cummings Park also boast beautiful hiking trails.

HAVE A POOL PARTY

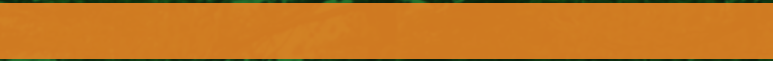
Whether you're looking to book a private pool party for a child's birthday or to celebrate with family, we have you covered. Simpkins Family Swim Center is available for your special use! You can reserve a portion, or all of the swim center pools for exclusive use! Questions? Contact us at swimcenter@scparks.com or 831-454-7960.



DIVE INTO FUN!

Make waves at the Simpkins Family Swim Center, where the sun, laughter, and refreshing days in the pool come together! Come enjoy to the fullest and turn your summer into something unforgettable!





SUMMER & DAY CAMPS

Our Summer Day Camp offers a fun, safe space where kids can make friends, stay active, and try new activities. Each week features games, arts and crafts, sports, and themed fun led by a caring, energetic recreation team. *See page 20+21*



SPECIAL EVENTS

- National Night Out
- Floating Pumpkin Path
- Holiday Breakfast & Holiday Market
- Trunk or Treat
- Kids Triathlon

See details on page 9-12.

FREE PROFILE PERFORMANCE

Join Artist of the Year Micha Scott on June 5th from 7-9pm at the Museum of Art & History.

Admission is FREE.

See details on page 29.



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JOIN OUR TEAM

We're hiring Lifeguards, Parks Services Officers and Parks, Recreation & Cultural Service workers (Recreation Leaders).

For more information and apply, visit santacruzcountyjobs.com

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 | (831) 454-7901; Fax (831) 454-7940

The Mission of the County of Santa Cruz Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well-designed and maintained parks, and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community.

County Board of Supervisors

Manu Koenig	District 1
Kimberly De Serpa	District 2
Justin Cummings	District 3
Felipe Hernandez	District 4
Monica Martinez	District 5

Meets selected Tuesdays, 9AM

Arts Commission

Sonia Leclerc, Karen Kroslowitz	District 1
Brenda Rogers, Vacant	District 2
Sean McGowan, Valeria Miranda	District 3
Vacant, Jessica Gonzalez	District 4
Lynda Phillips, Margaret Niven (chair)	District 5

Meets selected Mondays, 4:30PM

*To contact Arts Commissioners please send email to:
kathy.dewild@santacruzcountyca.gov*

Parks & Recreation Commission

Alexis Konevich	District 1
Nick de Sieyes	District 2
Jeremy Sanford	District 3
Elizabeth Hernandez	District 4
Anne Less	District 5

Meets selected Mondays, 5PM

*Contact Parks & Recreation Commissioners
via e-mail at:*

ParksCommission@parks.santacruzcountyca.gov

Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

Aquatic Registrations (831) 454-7953
swimcenter@scparks.com

Facility Reservations (831) 454-7938
reservations@scparks.com

Recreation Registrations (831) 454-7941
rec@scparks.com

Monday-Friday 6am-7:30pm & Saturday-Sunday 9am-4pm

Simpkins Family Swim Center
Front Desk & General Questions (831) 454-7960

Non-discrimination Policy

Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, medical condition (cancer related and genetic characteristics), marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender, age (over 18), veteran status, pregnancy, or any other non-merit factor. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in relationship to County Parks programs, activities, or facilities, a complaint may be filed with Equal Employment Opportunity Liaison, at (831) 454-7901 or email parksinfo@scparks.com.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that the County of Santa Cruz ensures that its programs, services and facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Santa Cruz County supports the belief that a community with integrity is one in which people with and without disabilities recreate, learn and experience together. We request that you notify Parks staff two weeks prior to enrollment in order to facilitate the reasonable accommodation request.

TDD/TTY-call 711. For information on the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunication Program, please visit <http://ddtp.cpuc.ca.gov/relay.aspx>.



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Santa Cruz County
Parks Department



Follow us on X
[@SCParksDept](https://twitter.com/SCParksDept)



We're on Instagram:
Santa Cruz County Parks

Simpkins Family Swim Center - Your County Pool

Aquatic Registrations (831) 454-7953 • Swim Center (831) 454-7960 • scparks.com

We are open 7 days a week, year round. The center has multiple pools, all of which are open seasonally. The 78-degree **17-lane Lap Pool**, which is the largest in Santa Cruz County, is used for lap swimming, swim lessons, swim teams, junior lifeguards, adult fitness and water aerobics. The **Warm Water Pool** is used for recreational swimming, swim lessons, and therapy, and is kept at 88 degrees. It features a zero-depth entry ramp for easy wheelchair access.

SWIM CENTER RULES

- Children who are non-swimmers must have an adult within arms reach at all times. Age 12 and under must have adult supervision in the locker rooms and on the pool deck.
- All persons entering the facility are required to pay an admission fee.
- For those not yet toilet trained, we adhere to a 2-layer policy. A swim diaper and plastic pants with elastic leg and waist bands must be worn before entering swimming pool.
- Glass containers are not allowed.
- Please do not bring water toys or floatation devices for your children to the pool.
- Swim program hours may vary from those listed in this pamphlet.
- All fees are subject to change.
- Programs may be cancelled for special events, unusual circumstances or severe weather.
- Please visit scparks.com to view the most current pool schedule, fees, pool closure dates, and other information.



For additional information please visit us at scparks.com, through e-mail at swimcenter@scparks.com or by phone call at (831) 454-7960 or (831) 454-7953.

Adult Fitness

Participate in an organized lap swim workout intended to increase muscular strength, aerobic endurance, stroke technique and build overall fitness level. A variety of workouts will be offered to meet your fitness goals. Qualified coaches offer in-depth analysis and feedback on your stroke and help direct you to a lane with swimmers of similar ability and experience. Workouts are scheduled to be 75-90 minutes long but may be modified based on your experience and fitness goals.

Lap Swim

Lane availability varies throughout the day. Circle-swimming is required. Please follow posted lap-swim etiquette and lifeguard direction. Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Lap Lane availability is posted on scparks.com without stopping. Kickboards, pull buoys, swim paddles and exercise equipment are available for lap swimming and warm-water pool exercise.

Water Aerobics

Water aerobics classes provide a full body workout and are an excellent way to meet your fitness goals with less impact on your joints. Classes are designed to appeal to all levels of ability including pre-natal, seniors, and rehabilitation or cross-training enthusiasts.

Swim Teams

The swim teams listed below regularly use the county pool, but are not affiliated with County Parks. Please call the numbers listed for information.

Aptos Cabrillo Swim Club - (831) 688-3613

Quicksilver Swimming - (760) 521-0126

Santa Cruz Swimming - (831) 471-7887

Accessibility Features

Santa Cruz County Parks and the Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities are partnered in their commitment to inclusivity and accessibility for all County residents wanting to enjoy the Simpkins Family Swim Center in safety and comfort. In 2021, the Commission conducted a community survey to discover how best to enhance the Swim Center's accessibility and provide a welcoming, supportive space for community members with disabilities to get the most out of it.

Low Stimulation Hours

Thursdays from 2-4pm Simpkins will offer "low stimulation" hours for swimmers with disabilities that benefit from a quieter environment with less sensory stimulation to enjoy the pools.

Warm Water Pool

Simpkins warm water pool is heated to 88 degrees. Warm water pools are often credited with offering physical and mental benefits for swimmers with developmental, mobility and chronic pain disabilities, among others.

Accessibility Equipment

Several options are provided for people using wheelchairs to access the pools, including a water wheelchair, a stationary lift, and a mobile lift. Staff are on hand to provide verbal instruction on the use of accessibility equipment, though they will not be able to physically assist you.

Zero Depth Entry

People with mobility disabilities and those using the water wheelchair can easily enter the pool with a gently sloping entry point for gradual entry and increased control of the depth at which they are most comfortable.

Free Entry for Caregivers

All entry fees are waived for caregivers accompanying peoples with disabilities for the purpose of providing them with assistance as they use the facilities.



Use of Flotation Devices Allowed

People with disabilities who require flotation devices to use the pools safely are welcome to bring and use their own flotation devices.

Private ADA-Compliant Shower, Changing Bed, Locker Room and Restroom

The swim center provides a private accessible space for people with disabilities desiring privacy to shower and change before and after swimming.

Camp Splashgiving

Camp Splashgiving is designed to have children try out different sports/activities played in the water, engage in fun fall themed games and activities, and have a blast during free play! This camp provides a safe, fun environment for kids during Thanksgiving break – especially important for parents who are working during this time.

PREREQUISITE: *To ensure participants have the endurance and skills to safely partake in the program, all participants must be at the Guppy Level of our Swim Lessons. These skills include capability of fully submerging face, blowing bubbles for five to ten seconds two times in a row, and floating and kicking on front and back in shallow water with support.*

T/Th 11/23-11/25

\$108/\$119



Registration Tips & Lesson Information

- If your child has not had the opportunity to practice their swimming skills, staff recommend that they repeat the level completed last summer.
- Children typically spend 2-4 sessions in the same group level before advancing to the next level.
- Each lesson lasts for a 1/2 hour. Children receive 27-28 minutes of swim instruction; instructors will use the last 2 minutes of the lesson to provide feedback to swimmers' parents/guardians.
- Make-up swim lessons are not available if a participant is absent. In the event that a lesson is cancelled, a credit for the cancelled class will be applied to your account.
- Classes fill quickly. Add all classes to the wish list prior to registration date to save time.
- Please view our updated cancellation policy Online.

Swim Lesson Assessments

Use the descriptions to select the class level that best matches your child's ability level. If after reading the descriptions you are still unsure which class level would best meet your child's needs, you may sign your child up for a swim lesson assessment.

Test time: 5-10 min./child. A parent or guardian must accompany all swimmers under age 18. Please call (831) 454-7960 to schedule a time.

Private Swim Lessons

County Parks offers year-round private swim lessons for ages 3 & up, taught by Swim Center staff. Participants will be given undivided attention from one of our experienced swim instructors. Lessons last 28 min. and take place during group lesson times.

Semi-Private Swim Lessons

You may add (1) additional child and it is required that both participants are the same level. Please check the website for pricing. This semi-private additional child must be enrolled in the whole session, and cannot be enrolled in individual classes.

Private Swim Lessons by Contract Instructors

Private lessons are also offered, taught by contracted instructors. All instructors have at least five years of experience teaching swimming and may hold a combination of certificates, such as Water Safety Instructor Certificate or a USA coaching certificate. Their varied teaching experience includes: working with children of all ages and abilities; all levels of swimmers including fearful adults; special needs; stroke refinement; and technical stroke instruction for triathletes.



Group & Private Lessons

Group swim lessons are designed for children ages 2.5-12 years. Private swim lessons are designed up ages 3 years and up. These lessons will assist participants to feel comfortable in the water, develop and enhance swimming abilities, and stroke refinement. We offer different levels for swimmers with all skills sets.

Summer Swim Lessons

Session 1

Viewable Online: 3/23 at 9am

Registration Opens: 3/30 at 12am

T/Th	6/9-6/18	9-12:30pm	\$52/\$57
T/Th	6/23-7/2	9-12:30pm	\$52/\$57
Sa	6/13-6/27	9-12:30pm	\$39/\$43
M/W/F	6/8-6/19	4-7:30pm	\$78/\$86
M/W/F	6/22-7/1	4-7:30pm	\$65/\$72

Session 2

Viewable Online: 6/15 at 9am

Registration Opens: 6/22 at 9am

M/W/F	7/6-7/17	4-7:30pm	\$78/\$86
M/W/F	7/20-7/31	4-7:30pm	\$78/\$86
M/W/F	8/3-8/13	4-7:30pm	\$78/\$86
Sa	7/11-7/25	9-12:30pm	\$39/\$43
T/Th	7/7-7/16	9-12:30pm	\$52/\$57
T/Th	7/21-7/30	9-12:30pm	\$52/\$57
T/Th	8/4-8/13	9-12:30pm	\$52/\$57

Fall Swim Lessons

Viewable Online: 8/10 at 9am

Registration Opens: 8/17 at 9am

Sa	9/12-9/26	9-12:30pm	\$39/\$43
Su	9/13-9/27	9-12:30pm	\$39/\$43
T/Th	9/15-9/24	4-7:30pm	\$52/\$57
Sa	10/3-10/24	9-12:30pm	\$39/\$43
Su	10/4-10/25	9-12:30pm	\$39/\$43
T/Th	10/13-10/22	4-7:30pm	\$52/\$57

Winter Swim Lessons

Viewable Online: TBD

Registration Opens: TBD

Sa	11/7-11/21	9-12:30pm	\$39/\$43
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American Red Cross Classes



Red Cross
LIFEGUARD
CERTIFICATION

Learn the skills needed to prevent and respond to emergencies and learn the certification to be employed as a lifeguard in a pool environment. For more information about American Red Cross (ARC) courses, please email swimcenter@santacruzcountyca.gov, visit us online at scparks.com or call (831) 454-7961.



Water Warriors

Winter Water Warriors is designed to help children get comfortable in the water, engage in games; both in and out of the water, and enjoy exciting free play. This camp provides a safe, fun environment for kids to learn essential swimming skills during break—especially important for parents who are working during this time.

PREREQUISITE: *To ensure participants have the endurance and skills to safely partake in the program, all participants must be at the Guppy Level of our Swim Lessons. These skills include capability of fully submerging face, blowing bubbles for five to ten seconds two times in a row, and floating and kicking on front and back in shallow water with support.*

M-Th	12/28-12/31	\$144/\$158
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Junior Guard Kick Off

Are you registered for our Junior or Little Guard program this summer? Come on down to the pool May 16th from 1-3:30pm. Meet some of the summer instructors, fill out/turn in paperwork, buy merchandise and/or red swim suit, and PRACTICE or TEST OUT the junior guard swim test. Stay until the pool closes at 4pm with your family after free of charge!

Additional SWIM TEST OUT Dates:

Session 1 Participants:	Su	6/7	10am-12pm
Session 2 Participants:	Su	6/28	10am-12pm
Session 3 Participants:	Su	7/19	10am-12pm

Junior Guards & Little Guard

The Santa Cruz County Parks Little Guard program will provide your child ages 5 & 6 with an understanding of the skills required to become aquatically proficient by emphasizing fun and physical fitness through a variety of activities. All the sessions will consist of conditioning activities on land, swimming lessons and activities either in the Warm Water Pool or Splash Down pool, lifeguard demonstrations, and special activity days.

The Santa Cruz County Parks Junior Guards program will provide your child ages 7-13 with an understanding of the skills required to become aquatically proficient, emphasizing fun and physical fitness through a variety of activities. Under the supervision of our qualified and experienced instructors, your child will practice the skills necessary to become a successful lifeguard. All the sessions will consist of conditioning, lifeguard instruction, and special activity days. Conditioning will include swimming, running, calisthenics and team-building games, in addition to other physical activities.

Session 1

M-F	6/8-6/26	8:30am-1pm	\$510/\$561
M-F	6/8-6/26	2-5pm	\$380/\$418

Session 2

M-F	6/29-7/17*	8:30am-1pm	\$476/\$523
M-F	6/29-7/17*	2-5pm	\$350/\$385

***No Class on 7/3**

Session 3

M-F	7/20-8/7	8:30am-1pm	\$510/\$561
M-F	7/20-8/7	2-5pm	\$380/\$418

Simpkins Sharks Swim Club

Simpkins Sharks Swim Club is a recreational, non-competitive swim team that practices year-round. Our swim team aims to offer both fun and fitness to youth ages 5 to 15 years of age. The focus of our club is to create a sense of love for swimming through teamwork and sportsmanship, as well as build their endurance and skills. Practices will be held on Tuesday and Thursday between 4:30-7:30pm. A successful tryout is required to register. Swimmers will be placed in a group dependent on their skill level. Attendance is not mandatory, but consistent attendance is encouraged! Limited spots available.

Tryouts

M	7/13	4:30-6:30pm
M	7/20	4:30-6:30pm
M	7/27	4:30-6:30pm

Practice

Tu/Th	8/17-12/8	4-7:30pm	\$340/\$374
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Please note there is no practice during the week of Nov 23-27.

Noodle Ball

Noodle ball is designed to introduce children ages 6-12 to the sport of water polo in a fun and engaging way with noodles. This program provides a safe and learner friendly environment where we teach the basics and, most importantly, have fun playing the game! Noodle Ball does require a certain amount of water competency. Players will need to pass a swim test on the first day of class to be in this program. Each session consists of 4 classes

Prerequisite: *Must be able to swim 25 yards freestyle without stopping; submerge and swim underwater for 10 feet and tread water for one (1) minute.*

Fall Session

Viewable Online: 8/10 at 9am

Registration Open: 8/17 at 9am

Session 1	Su	9/13-9/27	9-11:00am	\$73/\$80
Session 2	Su	10/4-10/25	9-11am	\$73/\$80

Kreative Kids

Kreative Kids offers children a year-round enrichment program where participants enjoy art, music, creative play and a balance of individual and group activities. Nature crafts, outdoor fun and monthly field trips round out this popular program. Parents assist the staff and provide snacks for the class once each month for each child.

Instructor: *Sandy O'Connell brings several years of preschool teaching expertise to the program. Call (831) 336-1504 for more information.*

Note: A \$10 materials fee is due to the instructor at the first class of each session.

Location: *Wilder Hall* | **Ages:** 3-6

M-Th	6/29-7/23	9:30-1:30pm	\$360/\$396	
M-Th	7/27-8/20	9:30-1:30pm	\$360/\$396	*No program 8/24-8/27
M-Th	8/31-9/24	9:30-1:30pm	\$360/\$396	*No program 9/7
M-Th	9/28-10/22	9:30-1:30pm	\$360/\$396	
M-Th	10/26-11/19	9:30-1:30pm	\$360/\$396	*No program 11/23-11/26
M-Th	11/30-12/17	9:30-1:30pm	\$360/\$396	*No program 12/21-12-31

**January starts on 1/4/27



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Santa Cruz County Parks Department



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We're on Instagram:
Santa Cruz County Parks



This Summer Plant a Seed, Read at the Santa Cruz Public Libraries

Summer Reading Program 2026

PRIZES! READING FUN! SPECIAL EVENTS! FREE BOOKS!

JUNE 1 THROUGH JULY 31

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Track how much you read this summer to win prizes and raffle tickets!

There are prizes for all age groups (kids, teens, and adults) including gift cards to local bike shops, free scoops of ice cream, and more!

Check out our calendar of events and programs happening in June & July.

WHO CAN SIGN UP?

Everyone! The program is for all ages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Scan the QR Code below or visit santacruzpl.org/srp



Thank you to our sponsors:



Parks
Make
Life
Better!



FREE
Events

SKILLS &
DRILLS

WACKY
SOCCER
TOURNAMENT

SAT, JUNE 13

SUN, JUNE 14

Anna Jean Cummings
County Park | Soquel 1-4 pm

Skypark
Scotts Valley | 11-3 pm

Sharpen and gain new
soccer skills

INFORMATION
&
REGISTER NOW

Fun all-ages round robin
soccer tournament



Scotts Valley
Recreation

SPECIAL EVENTS

National Night Out

Save the Date **Tuesday, August 4th!**

Every year on the first Tuesday in August, the United States and local organizations celebrate National Night Out day.

Community members, organizations, and the Santa Cruz County public safety departments join hands to enhance the relationship between neighborhoods and communities. Come and join us at this great event and be a part of this positive cause.

Location: Pinto Lake County Park



Dive Into Fun!

Make waves at the Simpkins Family Swim Center, where the sun, laughter, and refreshing days in the pool come together!

Come enjoy to the fullest and turn your summer into something unforgettable!



11TH ANNUAL
Parks & Rex
🐾 DOG POOL PARTY FUNDRAISER 🐾

AUGUST 15th
at the Simpkins Family Swim Center
scparks.com

@santacruzcountyparks @officialscanimalshelter

SPECIAL EVENTS



FLOATING PUMPKIN PATCH



Come swim, play games, grab a pumpkin, and more at the Simpkins Family Swim Center!



\$20 ADULT / \$17 YOUTH*
*PREREGISTRATION PRICE



PRICE DAY OF: \$25 ADULT/\$20 YOUTH
PRICE INCLUDES ONE PUMPKIN PER TICKET

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

12-4 PM

SWIMMING

PUMPKINS

GAMES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Santa Cruz
County Parks

Kids Triathlon

@ SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER



September 26th

Santa Cruz County Parks would like to invite the youth ages 3-12 yrs. within our community to participate in a triathlon designed for beginner athletes to start their multi-sports journey. This non-competitive event includes a swim, wheels, and run portion. Athletes are encouraged to participate at their own pace and level, build confidence and compete with only themselves in a positive, fun environment.

Trunk or Treat

Save the Date! **Friday, October 23rd** at the Live Oak Sheriff Headquarters & Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. You are invited to attend the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office annual Trunk or Treat event. There will be decorated trunks, free candy, yummy treats, popcorn, music, games, jump houses, and much more! This is a free and fun event for the entire family!



**Winter
Wonderland**

SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY
DEC 12**

**Breakfast
& HOLIDAY MARKET**

**Simpkins Family
Swim Center
979 17th Ave,
Santa Cruz 95062**

Mobile Rec

Join us for pop up Mobile Rec for a free activity and a snack in the park. Recreation activities will vary and may include: sports, art, nature and more! (Subject to weather and season) We will rotate dates and parks throughout the month.

Cost: Free

M	7/6	Chanticleer	3:30-5:30pm
M	7/20	Felton Covered Bridge	3:30-5:30pm
M	8/10	Chanticleer	3:30-5:30pm
F	8/14	Mesa Village	3:30-5:30pm
M	8/24	Felton Covered Bridge	3:30-5:30pm
F	8/28	Mesa Village	3:30-5:30pm
F	9/11	Mesa Village	3:30-5:30pm
M	9/14	Felton Covered Bridge	3:30-5:30pm
F	9/25	Mesa Village	3:30-5:30pm
M	9/28	Chanticleer	3:30-5:30pm
M	10/5	Chanticleer	3:30-5:30pm
M	10/19	Felton Covered Bridge	3:30-5:30pm
M	11/9	Felton Covered Bridge	3-5pm
M	11/16	Chanticleer	3-5pm
M	12/7	Felton Covered Bride	3-5pm
M	12/14	Chanticleer	3-5pm

Little Hands Studio

At Little Hands Studio, kids will experiment with different art styles such as splatter painting, collage, and stamping. Every class gives budding artists the chance to create two fun projects to take home.

Location: Pinto Lake House/Gazebo

M	8/3-8/24	5-6pm	Ages: 3-5	\$20/\$22
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Spanish for Young Learners

This energetic, child-friendly class introduces young children to the fundamentals of the Spanish language and cultural traditions through songs, interactive games, creative art projects, and occasional simple cooking activities. Children will sing, dance, and play while exploring Spanish language and culture inspired by Mexican culture in a fun and engaging way.

Location: Simpkins Family Swim Center

T	8/4-8/25	5-6pm	Ages: 3-5	\$25/\$27
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Location: Pinto Lake County Park House/Gazebo

Th	8/6-8/27	5-6pm	Ages: 3-5	\$25/\$27
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Introduction to Birding/Intermediate Birding

Come on a hike and learn to identify birds through sight and sound, using books, some technology and our best guesses! Bring your own binoculars and bird guides if you have them. Wear layers and closed toed shoes Participants should be able to walk/hike for up to two hours. Merlin Bird ID Smartphone app suggested but not required.

Ages: 18+

Beginning:

M	9/14	Anna Jean Cummings	9-10:30am	\$5/\$6
M	9/21	Highlands County Park	9-10:30am	\$5/\$6
M	9/28	Pinto Lake County Park	9-10:30am	\$5/\$6

Intermediate:

W	9/16	Anna Jean Cummings	9-10:30am	\$5/\$6
W	9/23	Highlands County Park	9-10:30am	\$5/\$6
W	9/20	Pinto Lake County Park	9-10:30am	\$5/\$6

Mindfulness in Nature 2.0

During this 4-week course, we will go more in depth with grounding and mindfulness practices while sitting and walking in nature. Having attended a previous Nature Appreciation and Mindfulness course is recommended but not required. Journal and pen will be provided.

Location: Seascape County Park

Ages: 18+

M	10/05-10/25	1-2pm		\$20/\$22
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Mushrooms Mondays

Learn about fascinating fungi and basics of mushroom identification; just looking not eating! Open to ages 8 and up, an adult must accompany ages 17 and under.

M	12/7	Aptos Village Park	3-4:30pm	\$5/\$6
M	12/4	Quail Hollow Ranch	3-4:30pm	\$5/\$6
M	12/21	Highlands	3-4:30pm	\$5/\$6

Mother Nature

Being a mother no matter the stage of life you're in can be a challenging time. Mother Nature is a time to spend together in nature and reflect together. Topics vary each week and light walking and nature reflection will be offered each week. Class is open to any mother or expecting mother. Journal and pen will be provided. Children 1 and under are welcome at no additional cost.

Location: Seascape County Park

M	11/2-11/30*	10-11am		\$20/\$22
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***No program 11/23**

Super Tots Sports

Children can have fun and learn the fundamentals of sports in a structured environment. Super Tots Sports includes 45-minute sessions consisting of organized practices and games. Participants will build confidence, develop teamwork and learn social skills in a positive, fun environment. Super Tots Sports will include a variety of sports, skills/drills and activities.

Ages: 3-5

Brommer County Park

T-Ball	W 5/6-5/27	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
Soccer	W 8/5-8/26	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
T-Ball	W 9/2-9/23	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
Flag Football	W 10/7-10/28	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62

Highlands County Park

T-Ball	Th 5/7-5/28	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
Track	Th 8/6-8/27	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
Soccer	Th 9/3-9/24	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
T-Ball	Th 10/1-10/22	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
Dodgeball	Th 11/5-11/19	4-4:45pm	\$42/\$48
Tumbling	Th 12/3-12/17	4-4:45pm	\$42/\$48

Simpkins Family Swim Center - Community Room A & B

Mini Golf	T 8/4-8/25	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
Tumbling	T 9/1-9/22	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
Indoor Football	T 10/6-10/27	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
Basketball	T 11/3-11/24	4-4:45pm	\$56/\$62
Mini Golf	W 11/4-11/25	4-4:45pm	\$42/\$48

***No class 11/11**

Snowball Fight	T 12/1-12/15	4-4:45pm	\$42/\$48
Yoga	W 12/2-12/16	4-4:45pm	\$42/\$48

Wilder Hall in Ben Lomond

Skills & Drills	F 8/7-8/28	9:30am-1:30pm	\$107/\$128
Skills & Drills	F 9/4-9/25	9:30am-1:30pm	\$107/\$128
Skills & Drills	F 10/2-10/30	9:30am-1:30pm	\$133/\$160
Skills & Drills	F 11/6-11/20	9:30am-1:30pm	\$80/\$96
Skills & Drills	F 12/4-12/18	9:30am-1:30pm	\$80/\$96

Mesa Village Park - Watsonville

Soccer	W 8/5-8/26	4:45-5:30pm	\$56/\$62
Basketball	W 9/2-9/26	4:45-5:30pm	\$56/\$62

***No program 9/7**

Skills and Drills	W 10/7-10/28	4:45-5:30pm	\$56/\$62
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Super Tots Sports - Gymnastics Adventures Camp

Roll, balance, and stretch into a week of playful gymnastics fun! Gymnastics Adventures Camp is designed for preschool-aged children to explore basic gymnastics skills in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment.

Campers will practice age-appropriate movements on the mat, beam, and bars while developing strength, coordination, balance, and body awareness. Through imaginative games, guided activities, and gentle skill-building, children will gain confidence as they move, explore, and try new things at their own pace.

No prior gymnastics experience is needed. Campers will leave with new movement skills, growing independence, new friendships, and a joyful love for active play—plus lots of fun memories along the way!

Location: *Highlands County Park*

6/8-6/19 9am-12pm Ages: 3-5 \$300/\$330

Super Tots Sports - Adventures Camp

Get ready for a day full of movement and physical activity with Super Tots Sports Camp! This energetic program is designed for preschool aged children to explore the fundamentals of sports in a structured, positive environment. Over the course of the week, campers will participate in organized practices, games, and activities. This camp will introduce a variety of sports such as T-ball, soccer, gymnastics, dodgeball, flag football, and more. Campers will build confidence, develop teamwork, and improve their social skills while learning the fundamentals of each sport. Whether they're practicing dribbling, kicking, or scoring, they'll have a blast enhancing their athletic abilities and making new friends! Join us for a day of high-energy fun and teamwork!

Location: *Highlands County Park*

6/22-7/2 9am-12pm Ages: 3-5 \$270/\$297

Super Tots Sports - Soccer Camp

Get ready to score big with Super Tots Soccer Camp! This action-packed program is designed to introduce preschoolers to the world of soccer in a fun, encouraging environment. Over the course of 1-week, young athletes will have the chance to learn key soccer skills like dribbling, passing, shooting, and teamwork, while enjoying a variety of fun games and activities.

Location: *Brommer Street Park*

7/13-7/17 9am-12pm Ages: 3-5 \$150/\$165



Super Tots Sports - T-Ball Camp

Step up to the plate with Super Tots T-Ball Camp, where preschoolers can hit, run, and catch their way through a fun-filled week of sports! This energetic camp is designed to introduce young children to the basics of T-Ball in a structured, supportive environment. Over the course of the week, campers will learn key skills such as hitting, throwing, catching, and running bases, all while building confidence and teamwork.

Location: Brommer Street Park
 7/6-7/10 9am-12pm Ages: 3-5 \$150/\$165

Super Tots Triathlon

Santa Cruz County Parks is introducing its first ever Super Tots Triathlon designed especially for preschool aged participants to begin their multi-sport journey. The triathlon includes three practice dates and one triathlon event date. For the wheels portion of the event participants provide their wheel based transportation and need all necessary safety gear including a helmet. Participants are encouraged to build confidence, learn skills and drills in a positive, fun environment. All dates included in registration. Parent/ Guardian must be there to help.

Ages: 3-5 **Cost:** \$98/\$117

Location: Felt St. Park

Sa 9/5 10am - 11am Wheels
 *Please bring planned wheels and safety gear.

Sa 9/12 10am - 11am Run
 *Please bring proper active footwear

Location: Simpkins Family Swim Center

Sa 9/19 9am - 11am Swim
 *Please bring swimwear and goggles

Sa 9/26 8am - 10am Triathlon Event



Have Questions?
rec@scpark.com or 831-454-7941



Beginner Gymnastics

Children can roll, balance, and jump into fun while learning the basics of gymnastics in a supportive and engaging environment. Gymnastics offers *eight sessions featuring age-appropriate activities to build strength, coordination, and confidence. Participants will practice foundational gymnastics skills, explore creative movement, and develop social skills in a positive and energetic setting.

Location: Highlands County Park

Ages: 1-2

M 6/8-7/27 3-3:45pm \$96/\$106

M 8/3-9/28 3-3:45pm \$96/\$106

***No class 9/7**

M 10/5-11/23 3-3:45pm \$96/\$106

M 11/30-1/25/2027 3-3:45pm \$96/\$106

***No class 12/21**

Ages: 3-5

M 6/8-7/27 4-4:45pm \$96/\$106

M 8/3-9/28 4-4:45pm \$96/\$106

***No class 9/7**

M 10/5-11/23 4-4:45pm \$96/\$106

M 11/30-1/25 4-4:45pm \$96/\$106

***No class 12/21**

Ages: 6-12 yrs

M 6/8-7/27 5-6pm \$125/\$137

M 8/3-9/28 5-6pm \$125/\$137

***No class 9/7**

M 10/5-11/23 5-6pm \$125/\$137

M 11/30-1/25 5-6pm \$125/\$137

***No class 12/21**

Intermediate Gymnastics

Take gymnastics to the next level! This class is designed for gymnasts who can independently perform a forward roll, cartwheel, and bridge, and are eager to build upon their existing skills. Through eight 1-hour sessions, participants will focus on improving strength, flexibility, balance, and body control using progressive drills and structured skill development. Gymnasts will work on refining techniques, linking movements together, and safely challenging themselves in a supportive and encouraging environment. Along the way, participants will continue to build confidence, perseverance, and positive peer connections.

Location: Highlands County Park

Ages: 6-12 yrs

Th 6/4-7/30 5-6pm \$125/\$137

***No class 7/2**

Th 8/6-9/24 5-6pm \$125/\$137

Th 10/1-11/19 5-6pm \$125/\$137

Th 12/3-1/28 5-6pm \$125/\$137

***No class 12/24**



Super Simpkins Triathlon

Santa Cruz County Parks would like to invite the youth within our community to participate in a triathlon designed for beginner athletes to start their multi-sports journey. This non-competitive event includes a swim, wheels, and run portion. Athletes are encouraged to participate at their own pace and level, build confidence and compete with only themselves in a positive, fun environment.

Location: Simpkins Family Swim Center

Ages: 6-12

Sa 9/26 8am - 10am \$70/\$84

Youth Fit

Beginner Sports clinics are designed to introduce the participant to a sport recreationally and non-competitively. The athlete will be encouraged to practice skills and learn rules for specific sports in a fun, positive environment.

Ages: 6-8

Brommer County Park

Baseball	W	5/6 - 5/27	5-6pm	\$62/\$68
Track	W	8/5-8/26	5-6pm	\$62/\$68
Soccer	W	9/2-9/23	5-6pm	\$62/\$68
Baseball	W	10/7-10/28	5-6pm	\$62/\$68

Simpkins Family Swim Center - Comm Rms A & B

Mini Golf	T	8/4-8/25	5-6pm	\$62/\$68
Tumbling	T	9/1-9/22	5-6pm	\$62/\$68
Indoor Football	T	10/6-10/27	5-6pm	\$62/\$68
Basketball	T	11/3-11/24	5-6pm	\$62/\$68
Mini Golf	W	11/4-11/25	5-6pm	\$46/\$50

***No class 11/11**

Snowball Fight	T	12/1-12/15	5-6pm	\$46/\$50
Yoga	W	12/2 - 12/16	5-6pm	\$46/\$50

Youth Fit - Cheer Stars & Gymnastics Camp

Jump, flip, and cheer your way through an exciting week of movement and teamwork! Cheer Stars & Gymnastics Camp invites campers to explore the fundamentals of both gymnastics and cheer in a safe, supportive, and high-energy environment. Campers will practice gymnastics skills on the mat, beam, and bars while also learning basic cheer motions, jumps, chants, and simple routines. Through engaging drills, creative games, and team-building activities, participants will build strength, coordination, flexibility, and confidence. Designed for a range of experience levels, this camp encourages self-expression, cooperation, and a love of movement. Campers will leave with new skills, new friends, and a big boost of spirit, plus unforgettable memories filled with flips, cheers, and fun!

Location: Highlands County Park

6/8-6/19 9am-3pm Ages: 6-12 \$400/\$440



Youth Fit - Sports Camp

Get ready for 2 weeks full of movement, teamwork, and high-energy fun! Youth Fit : Sports Camp is designed for youth ages 6-12, to explore a wide variety of sports and fitness activities in a structured, positive, and supportive environment. Throughout the week, campers will participate in organized practices, skill-building drills, games, and team challenges that promote physical fitness and healthy habits. Campers will be introduced to a range of sports and activities such as baseball, soccer, gymnastics, dodgeball, flag football, and more.

Participants will build strength, coordination, and endurance while developing confidence, teamwork, and social skills. With opportunities for all experience levels, campers will stay active, make new friends, and enjoy a fun-filled week of movement and sports.

Location: Highlands County Park

6/22-7/2 9am-3pm Ages: 6-12 \$360/\$396



Youth Fit - Baseball Camp

Grab your glove and get ready to play! Baseball Camp is designed for youth ages 6-12 and focuses on building fundamental baseball skills in a structured, supportive, and encouraging environment. Throughout the week, campers will practice key skills such as hitting, throwing, catching, base running, and fielding through age-appropriate drills, games, and team activities. Participants will build confidence, coordination, and sportsmanship while learning how to work together and support their teammates. Whether your child is new to the sport or looking to strengthen their skills, Baseball Camp offers a fun, inclusive space to stay active, make friends, and enjoy the game!

Location: Brommer Street Park

7/6-7/10 9am-3pm Ages: 6-12 \$225/\$247



Youth Fit - Soccer Camp

Hit the field for a week of skill-building and soccer fun! Soccer Camp is designed for youth ages 5-12 who are ready to learn, practice, and play in a structured, supportive, and energetic environment. Throughout the week, campers will develop essential soccer skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting, defense, and teamwork through age-appropriate drills, games, and group challenges. Activities are designed to build confidence, coordination, and game awareness while encouraging cooperation and good sportsmanship. Whether your child is new to soccer or looking to sharpen their skills, Soccer Camp offers a positive space to stay active, make friends, and enjoy the excitement of the game.

Location: Brommer Street Park
7/13-7/17 9am-3pm Ages: 6-12 \$225/\$247

Youth Fit – Multi Sports Camp

Get ready for a day full of movement, play, and physical activity! This energetic camp is designed to help participants explore the fundamentals of sports in a structured, positive, and supportive environment. Throughout the week, campers will take part in organized practices, games, and engaging activities that encourage active play and skill development. Participants will be introduced to a variety of sports and movement activities such as T-ball, baseball, soccer, dodgeball, flag football, and more. Campers will build confidence, develop teamwork, and strengthen social skills while learning the basics of each activity. Whether practicing coordination, balance, kicking, throwing, or scoring,

everyone will have a blast staying active, trying new skills, and making new friends. Join us for a week of high-energy fun, teamwork, and movement!

Location: Brommer Street Park
7/20-7/31 9am-3pm Ages: 6-12 \$450/\$495
7/20-7/31 9am-12pm Ages: 3-5 \$300/\$330

Youth Fit - Winter Gymnastics

Tumble, balance, and stretch into a week of winter gymnastics fun! Gymnastics Adventures Camp is designed for young athletes to explore the fundamentals of gymnastics in a safe and supportive environment. Campers will learn skills on the mat, beam, and bar while building strength, coordination, and confidence. Through engaging drills, creative games, and teamwork challenges, participants will improve their flexibility, balance, and technique. The cozy winter season is the perfect backdrop for trying new skills, making new friends, and staying active indoors. No matter what their experience level, every camper will leave with fresh abilities, lasting friendships, and a love for movement. Join us this winter for an unforgettable experience of flips, fun, and fantastic memories!

Location: Highlands County Park
12/28-12/31 9am-3pm Ages: 5-12 \$180/\$198





Shared Adventures, get people outdoors and moving beyond limitation. This awesome non-profit organization is dedicated to improving quality of life for those with disabilities, they believe that recreation, fun, challenge, and access to the outdoors are essential to health and fulfillment.



For a complete list of some of their weekly, monthly and seasonal please visit sharedadventures.org or scan the QR code.



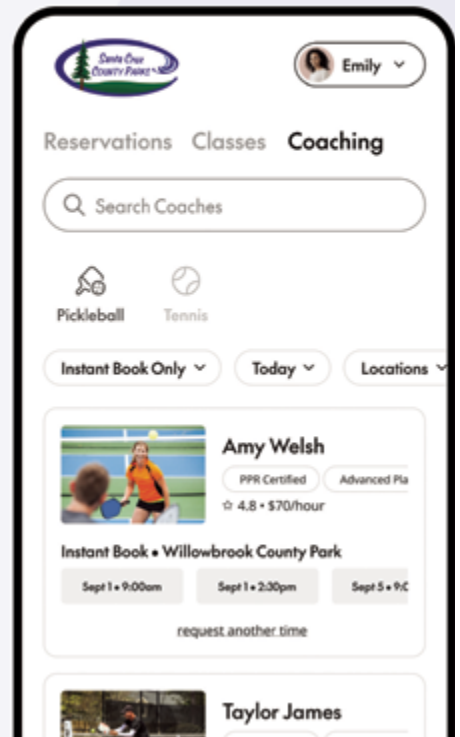
Looking to improve your pickleball or tennis game?

Sign up with Rec to discover instructors and classes, or book your next court at Brommer, Willowbrook, Twin Lakes, and Aldridge Lane County Parks!

Beginner Pickleball Skills • Advanced Beginner Skills • Intermediate Drill & Play • Intermediate Stroke of the Week • Beginner Tennis



powered by **rec**



Winter Nature Camp

Looking forward to an exciting winter break? Santa Cruz County Parks offers Winter Camp at Pinto Lake Park. This camp is packed with fun and educational activities that include sports, arts & crafts, and nature. Please send your child with a snack, lunch, water, appropriate shoes and clothing each day. Meet at Pavilion B (back parking lot).

Ages: 6-12

Location: Pinto Lake County Park

M-Th 12/28-12/31 9am-3pm \$180/\$198

Aptos Village Park & Mar Vista Camp - TOS Summer Camp

Register your 6-12-year-old child at one of our recreation sites for a fun-filled summer of games, arts and crafts, sports, cooking, and a local field trips! Please note - the site is closed on all field trip days.

A week before each session begins, parents/guardians will receive an information handbook and an emergency information card. Please be sure to review the information in the handbook and fill out the emergency card completely. The emergency card must be given to the site staff on the first day of camp. Send your child with lunch and snacks each day, wearing closed-toe shoes.

Session 1	6/8-6/12	8am-5pm	\$250/\$275
Session 2	6/15-6/19	8am-5pm	\$250/\$275
Session 3	6/22-6/26	8am-5pm	\$250/\$275
Session 4	6/29-7/3	8am-5pm	\$250/\$275
Session 5	7/6-7/10	8am-5pm	\$250/\$275
Session 6	7/13-7/17	8am-5pm	\$250/\$275
Session 7	7/20-7/24	8am-5pm	\$250/\$275
Session 8	7/27-8/31	8am-5pm	\$250/\$275
Session 9	8/3-8/7	8am-5pm	\$250/\$275



Adventures Through Time

Looking for a fun and engaging way for your child to spend summer break? Santa Cruz County Parks invites you to Summer Camp: Adventures Through Time at Pinto Lake Park.

This exciting camp offers a mix of educational and recreational activities, including sports, arts and crafts, and nature exploration. Please be sure your child comes prepared each day with a snack, lunch, water bottle, and appropriate clothing and footwear for outdoor activities. Campers will meet at Pavilion B (back parking lot).

Ages: 6-12

Location: Pinto Lake County Park

M-F	7/6-7/10	9am-3pm	\$180/\$198
M-F	7/13-7/17	9am-3pm	\$180/\$198
M-F	7/20-7/24	9am-3pm	\$180/\$198
M-F	7/28-7/31	9am-3pm	\$180/\$198

End of Summer Camping

Families of participants who have attended one of our Summer 2026 Day Camps are invited on a one night camping trip at Quail Hollow Ranch. Learn about the nature around you, play games, sing songs and sleep under the stars! Dinner and breakfast will be provided. Children must be accompanied by at least one adult per family. Space is limited and pre-registration is required for all family members attending. *Must provide own camping equipment.

Location: Quail Hollow Ranch

\$12/\$13 Child | \$20/\$22 Adult

F-Sa 7/31-8/1 F Check in: 4:40pm; Sa Check out: 10:30am

First Time Family Camping

Do you want to camp with your family, but the idea of camping is intimidating, you have never camped before, or you don't have all the gear? Join County Parks staff on this incredible opportunity! All camping equipment and meals will be provided.

Trip includes: how to set up your tent, how to cook on camping stoves, guided hikes, games, and memories to last a lifetime! Children must be accompanied by at least one adult per family. Space is limited and pre-registration is required for all family members attending.

Location: Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Date: TBD

Check in: Friday 4:30pm Check out: Sunday 10am

Fees: \$60/\$66 per adult, \$36/\$40 per child



Day Camps Quail Hollow Ranch

The best naturalists are the ones who are curious about their world. Come to Quail Hollow for hands-on, fun filled science experiments, survivor skills and engaging wildlife studies. Appreciation of the natural world is emphasized while unlocking science experiments, art projects, hiking, games and secrets that are found in Quail Hollows natural world. Send your child with lunch, snacks, water and sunscreen each day, wearing closed-toe shoes (sneakers, hiking boots).

Ages: 6-12

Time: 9am-3pm

M-F	6/8-6/19	Wilderness Explorers	\$450/\$495
M-F	6/22-7/2*	Quail Trail Science Camp	\$405/\$445
M-F	7/6-7/17	Quail Hollow Rangers	\$450/\$495
M-F	7/20-7/31	Mission Multiverse	\$450/\$495

*No program 7/3

Little Turkeys Camp

Give your little one a fun-filled holiday experience at our Preschool Thanksgiving Camp! This seasonal camp is packed with hands-on activities, festive crafts, and playful games celebrating the spirit of gratitude and autumn. Campers will explore nature, enjoy storytelling, and express their creativity, all while building friendships in a safe and supportive environment. Whether they're making turkey crafts, enjoying a harvest-themed obstacle course, or sharing what they're thankful for, your child will have a memorable and engaging time.

Ages: 3-5

Location: Wilder Hall in Ben Lomond

11/23-11/25	9:30am-1:30pm	\$120/\$144
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Lights, Theater, Action! Summer Theater Camp

Join us for an unforgettable 2 weeks as we explore acting and characters, set design, makeup, and create costumes. Together, we'll explore fun challenges and interactive games that nurture confidence, creativity, and self-expression in a supportive setting. No prior theater experience is needed—every child is encouraged to shine in their own unique way. All you need to bring is your imagination!

Location: Highlands County Park, Ben Lomond

Ages: 6-12 yrs

M-F	7/20-7/31	9am-3pm	\$450/\$495
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So You Want to Theater! Winter Theater Camp

Have you ever dreamed of stepping into the spotlight or creating costumes and sets behind the scenes? Join us for an exciting week where campers will dive into the enchanting world of theater! Through fun games and new friendships, campers explore acting, stage makeup, and everything in between. By the end of the week, campers will be ready to shine when we invite friends and family to a special 'closing night' performance! No experience necessary - Just bring your imagination!

Ages: 6-12 yrs

Location: Simpkins Family Swim Center

M-F	12/28-12/31	9am-3pm	\$180/ \$198
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OPEN HOUSES 2026

Aptos Village Park
&
Valencia Hall

4:30 - 6:30pm

- May 27th
- July 22nd
- September 23rd
- November 25th



For a special day that's
a walk in the park.

Highlands House
&
Quail Hollow Ranch

4:30 - 6:30pm

- May 20th
- June 17th
- July 15th
- August 19th
- September 16th
- October 21st
- November 18th
- December 16th



9:00 - 11:30am

- March 7th



scparks.com

reservations@scparks.com

pinterest.com/sccoparks

Our heartiest welcome goes to you! Thank you for being part of our recreation family in our unique and ever-expanding line of programs! We're honored to have you with us on this FUN journey! Please check scparks.com or email us to let us know you're ready to join us in organized activities. We want to ensure you are on our email newsletter list.

We can't wait to see you! In the meantime, feel free to explore the great opportunities we have in store for you at scparks.com. If you need assistance or additional support on our programs, contact us at 831-454-7941 email us at rec@scparks.com.

Capitola Mall Walking

Join the Mall Walkers for health, fitness, and FUN! Meet friendly and supportive participants while you walk in a safe and protected environment. Walking is a wonderful way to be physically active! It's easy, and it's relatively risk-free. Walking is the most popular aerobic activity. We have monthly events and social gatherings at local eateries (lunch is not included). Come join us and be part of the movement. Drop by the entrance to the food court. *Stretch class at 9:30am

Location: *Capitola Mall*

M/W/F Year-Round 9am 50 + Annual fee \$25

High Tea Party

Join us for a High Tea experience with assorted teas, pastries, and finger sandwiches. Wear your fancy hats, and pearls.

Location: *Simpkins Swim Center | Live Oak Community Room*

F 5/8 3-4:30pm \$25

Bridge Club

Interested in playing Bridge. Everyone is welcomed from beginners to social players. Make new friends and sharpen your mind.

Location: *Aptos Branch Library*

M 10:30am Free

DANCE CLASSES

East Coast Swing Dance Class

Get ready to swing into fun! Our Beginner East Coast Swing class is the perfect introduction to one of the most versatile and upbeat social dances. Designed for adults with little or no dance experience, this class covers the basic steps, timing, and partner connection in a relaxed, supportive setting. You'll dance to classic swing, rock 'n' roll, and contemporary tunes while learning how to move confidently on the floor. No partner? No problem! Singles and couples are welcome. Come join the fun and bring some bounce to your step! Classes meet for 4 or 6 weeks and are designed in a progressive series.

Location: *Aptos Village Park*

Instructor: *Jeremy Pilling*

T Aug/Sept 10:30-11:15am \$108/\$118

T Oct/Nov 10:30-11:15am \$108/\$118

Call (831) 454-7941 for specific dates.

Cha-Cha

Step into the rhythm with our Beginner Cha Cha class, designed especially for adults with little to no dance experience! This energetic and playful Latin dance is perfect for anyone looking to learn basic footwork, timing, and partnering skills in a fun and welcoming environment. You'll groove to lively music while mastering the fundamentals of Cha Cha, building confidence, coordination, and connection on the dance floor. Whether you're flying solo or coming with a partner, this class is the perfect place to start your dance journey. No prior experience necessary – just bring comfortable shoes and a smile! Classes meet for 4 or 6 weeks and are designed in a progressive series.

Instructor: *Jeremy Pilling*

Location: *Aptos Village County Park*

T Aug/Sept 11:30am-12:25pm \$108/\$118

T Oct/Nov 11:30am-12:25pm \$108/\$118

Call (831) 454-7941 for specific dates.



scparks.com/register

reservations@scparks.com



Meeting Rooms

Live Oak Community Rooms,
Aptos Village Park,
Valencia Hall,
Highlands House,
Quail Hollow Ranch.



Party in the Parks!

Reserve our picnic areas!

Enjoy your event at our reservable picnic areas! We take reservations for Anna Jean Cummings Park, Brommer Street Park, Chanticleer County Park, Felton Covered Bridge Park, Highlands Park, Jose Avenue Park, Michael Gray Field Park, Pinto Lake County Park, and Scott Park. Make your reservation today at scparks.com.



parks.santacruzcountyca.gov

reservations@parks.santacruzcountyca.gov



For more information or to register: Email info@countyparkfriends.org

“My Play Club” Arts & Crafts

Join County Park Friends for weekly family-friendly Arts, Crafts, and More. No experience required. Instruction and all materials provided. A parent or guardian must accompany youth under 18.

Extra fun, same time & place - Bike Live Oak Community Series! Weekly 6/9-6/30 & 9/29-10/20.

Ages: All

Location: Chanticleer County Park

Tu 2/10-12/15 3:30-5:30pm Free

Inclusive Redwood Campout

Join County Park Friends for a one-night at Henry Cowell's State Park for our Inclusive Redwood Campout experience for people with and without disabilities. No experience needed; all camping gear and food are provided. A parent, guardian, and or caregiver must accompany and be present at all times.

Ages: 6 up

Location: Henry Cowell State Park

F/Sa 6/12-6/13 12pm Fr-12pm Sa Free

FriendsCamps

Join County Park Friends for a 2-night camping experience designed for first time campers. Participants will learn to utilize nature to build community, set up and break down a camping tent, cook outdoors, and help set up and clean up. No experience required; all camping gear, food, and recreational activities included. A camping checklist will be provided in advance for your convenience.

Ages: 10-16

Location: Quail Hollow County Park or other TBD

F-Su 7/10-7/12 5pm F -12pm Su \$50
 F-Su 10/2-10/4 5pm F -12pm Su \$50

Outdoor Youth Connection Camp

This 3-day, 2-night training uses outdoor experiences to build skills in leadership, communication, self-esteem, and team building. No experience required, all camping gear and food are provided.

Ages: 13-17

Location: Henry Cowell SP

Tu-Th 7/21-7/23 12pm Tu- 2pm Th \$50

Folklore Crafts + Bike Live Oak Community Summer Series

Join County Park Friends and MODO for a series that includes arts and bikes. Each week offers Folklore Crafting and the joy of biking, including free helmet and light distribution, on-bike safety training, basic bike maintenance and a community family fun ride. No experience required. All art materials and bike equipment provided. A parent or guardian must accompany a youth under 18.

Ages: Families

Location: Leo's Haven at Chanticleer County Park

8/21, 8/28, 9/4, 9/11 5:30-7:30pm FREE

“Vamos a la Playa” Los Osos Family Walk

Join County Park Friends for a family-friendly walk co-led by Staff and Young Outdoor Leaders at beautiful Sunset State Beach. Enjoy a conversation about Marine life and Ocean ecosystems while we build community outdoors. Please bring your own water bottle and snacks. A parent or guardian must accompany a youth under 18.

Ages: 6 and up

Location: Sunset State Beach

Sa 19/19/26 10am-1pm FREE



Located at 800 Quail Hollow Rd., just 2 miles up Zayante Rd. in Felton or 2 miles from Ben Lomond via Glen Arbor Rd., Quail Hollow Ranch has miles of hiking trails which traverse a variety of habitats. These habitats provide homes for many species of rare and endangered plants and animals, including the Ben Lomond Spineflower and Mount Hermon June Beetle.

Space is limited for Quail Hollow Ranch activities. Participants may register in advance at scparks.com or call 831-454-7901. Please note: an ActiveNet account is required for advance registration. Activities that include a hike meet first at the Visitor Center, former home of the Lane family of Sunset Magazine fame. For more info. please contact the Program Coordinator at parks.classes@santacruzcountyca.gov

For more information, as well as additional QHR activities not included in this guide, please visit scparks.com.

Within These Walls: Ranch House Tour

Join Park Docent Richard James on a tour of the Ranch house. Learn about its history from the Watermelon King to Sun-Kissed Ranch, Sunset Magazine, and beyond. This informative tour will give you the opportunity to find out about four of the families who made the ranch their business, home, and haven.

Ages: 16+

Su	5/24	1-3pm	Free
Su	9/27	1-3pm	Free
Su	11/15	1-3pm	Free



Full Moon Hike

Come join us for a quiet exploration of Quail Hollow Ranch, under the moonlight. On this one-hour guided hike on the lower trails, you can search for critters and meander through the forest. Bring flashlights and/or a headlamp (though we may try to hike without them), and some drinking water. Dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes.

Ages: 8+ (15 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

Su	8/27	8:30-10pm	Free
Su	9/26	7:30-9pm	Free
Su	10/25	6:30-8:30pm	Free
Su	11/24	6-8pm	Free

Beginner Birding Walks with the Santa Cruz Bird Club

Join Paul Miller of the Santa Cruz Bird Club for a monthly birding walk. The group will meet in the main parking lot before heading out. Bring your own binoculars, water and snacks. Dress in layers and wear appropriate footwear. Rain cancels.

Ages: 18 & up

The 1st Tuesday of each month*	8:30-11:30AM	Free
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*April walk is held the 2nd Tues.



Beginning Birding

Join Park Docent Jim Maughn for a leisurely hike through Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, in search of our fine, feathered friends. Previous birding experience not required; open to anyone interested in birds and their antics. Wear warm clothing and comfortable shoes. Bring binoculars and a field guide (if you have them), and some drinking water. *Ages 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Ages: 12+

Su	6/7	8-10am	Free
Su	10/4	8-10am	Free
Su	11/8	8-10am	Free

Reptile & Amphibian Walk

Join Park Docent James Maughn for a saunter along park trails in search of herps: reptiles and amphibians, that is. Peruse the pond and muse over the meadow as we learn about the favorite hang-outs and resting places of these fascinating animals. *Open to ages 6 & up; an adult must accompany ages 12 & under.

Ages 6+

Su	12/6	10am-12pm	Free
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Habitat Restoration

French Broom is an invasive, exotic plant that takes over natural habitats. Join the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society and park volunteers for a broom bash, removing these (and other unwanted plants) from the park trails. Your help with this project will improve the natural system of the park as well as its beauty.

Wear comfortable layered clothing, bring something to drink, and lots of enthusiasm! We work rain or shine, but if things get particularly unpleasant, we'll call it a day.

Tools will be provided. Bring work gloves and water.

Chapter website: www.cruzcnps.org

Ages: 16+

Trek to the Forbidden Sandhills

Join a guided hike with a Park Docent to see and learn about the many rare species that make this special place their home: this is the only time to visit the flower-covered hills of the sandhills habitat. Wear good walking shoes, and bring a hat, and water. Due to the sensitive nature of the area, group size is limited to 10. This is a slow hike open to ages 8 and up; *ages 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Participants must be able to hike up to two hours on uneven terrain.

Ages: 8+ (15 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

Su	4/5	10am-12pm	Free
Su	4/5	1-3pm	Free
Su	4/12	10am-12pm	Free
Su	4/12	1-3pm	Free
Su	4/19	10am-12pm	Free
Su	4/19	1-3pm	Free
Su	4/26	10am-12pm	Free
Su	4/26	1-3pm	Free

For Goodness Snakes!

In this exciting and interactive presentation, you'll get a chance to see and hold (only if you want to!) a blue-tongued skink, black and white Tegu, four different kinds of ball pythons, and a 9-ft. albino Burmese python! Brian will discuss snake senses and how these animals live and interact with the wild. For over 15 years, Brian Gundy of For Goodness Snakes has been educating and entertaining children and adults with his reptile friends. He has worked with exotic animals such as birds of prey, African lions, cheetahs, and domesticated animals of all kinds.

Ages: 7+

Su	5/3	12-1pm	Free
Su	10/11	12-1pm	Free

The Unseen World of Quail Hollow Pond

Under the surface of the pond at Quail Hollow Ranch lives a world teeming with microscopic life. Join naturalist Ken Koll for a visit into this unseen world. Learn about the amazing creatures that form the foundation of life on earth. View videos of pond creatures smaller than a human hair. We'll also have microscopes and samples available so you can unleash your inner scientist and explore on your own.

Ages: 8+*

Ages 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Su	11/20	Drop in anytime 11am-3pm	Free
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VOLUNTEER WITH US



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Whether you're an individual, family, or part of a group, you can make a difference!

Join us for a one-day project or commit to an ongoing, long-term effort.

There's a place for everyone to volunteer!



Youth Programs • Beach & Park Clean-Ups • Park Docent •
Neighborhood Park Projects • Park Maintenance • Special Events
• Junior Lifeguards • Trail Building

PARKS.SANTACRUZCOUNTYCA.GOV

host your

special event

with Santa Cruz County Parks
Email reservations@scparks.com to get started!

MICHA SCOTT

ARTIST

OF THE YEAR



Devi Pride Photography

Micha Scott, dancer and choreographer, has been named 2026 Santa Cruz County Artist of the Year by the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission. The Artist of the Year award is presented to local artists for outstanding achievement in the discipline of performing, visual, or literary arts who have also made a substantial contribution to the cultural enrichment of Santa Cruz County. A **free Profile Performance will be held at the Museum of Art & History on June 5th from 7-9pm.**

Admission is FREE to the public; seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis the night of the event. To learn more about the award and previous recipients: www.scparks.com.

Micha Scott is a professional dancer, teacher and choreographer who has performed on stages around the world as a 13-year senior member with the renowned Garth Fagan Dance. While in the company, she performed leading roles in many of Mr. Fagan's choreographies including 'From Before', 'Collage For Romie', 'Transition/Translation' and the groundbreaking collaboration with trumpeter/composer Wynton Marsalis, 'Griot New York'.

Moving from New York to Santa Cruz in 2008, Micha is deeply involved in the local dance community, with particular focus on being an advocate for the Black youth dance community. As Executive Director (since 2021) and Artistic Director (since 2011) at Tannery World Dance and Cultural Center (TWDC), she highlights the artistic traditions passed on to her by Garth Fagan. This includes not only the technical and performance aspects of dance but also incorporating traditions from the Black American experience through music, discussions around race, advocacy and the arts. Locally, Micha has taught at TWDC, Dancenter, Mountain School, UCSC, SCU, Cabrillo College, Motion Pacific, as well as public schools and private studios throughout the County. She serves on the Advisory Board of Black Health Matters, and as a grants panelist at the California Arts Council.

In 2023 Micha started the annual Deep Roots Dance Fest, bringing to the Santa Cruz stage artists of the African Diaspora to perform original contemporary dances rooted in their traditional forms. In 2023, she traveled to Congo to perform a solo and train young dancers at the Tokomi Festival in Brazzaville, a professional highlight. In the winter of 2024, Micha performed in NYC as a guest soloist with Garth Fagan Dance company.

As a biracial Black woman, Micha is deeply committed to advocating for equity in the arts, including access to funding, professional development, and artistic exposure. In her work, she actively elevates black and immigrant artists. It is her honor to collaborate with many renowned choreographers, including Norwood 'PJ' Pennewell (Bessie Award winner), Sharon Skepple Mayfield (Bessie Award winner), Tandy Beal (Tandy Beal & Company), Ramon Ramos Alayo (Alayo Dance Company / CubaCaribe), N'Jelle Gage Thorne (FuturPointe), Sade Bully (CDT Jamaica), Gervais Tomadiatunga (Danseincolore, Congo's Knight of Arts and Letters) and many more. She feels incredibly blessed to be a part of the legacy of Garth Fagan Dance and pass on what she has learned and experienced to her students and professional colleagues.

Micha served on the grants panel at Arts Council Santa Cruz County from 2021-2025, volunteered with Your Future Is Our Business since 2024 as a guest career panelist in local public schools representing the arts, and recently served as a guest panelist for The Great Cabrillo Arts Design Challenge at Cabrillo College in September 2025. She has secured more than \$120,000.00 in grants over the past 4 years to bolster TWDC's youth scholarship program, ensuring that every child in Santa Cruz County who wants to dance is not barred from participation due to lack of income.

County Arts Commission - Mission Statement

The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission is to promote, expand, and plan for the cultural life of Santa Cruz County and to bring artists and arts organizations together with government for the benefit of all county residents.

Recognizing Local Emerging Artists

Through the Spotlight Award, the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission publicly recognizes individuals who have achieved a high level of excellence and creativity in their work, but who have not received widespread acknowledgment of their talent. This award recognizes younger artists as well as those who are discovering their artistic voice later in life. 2026 Awardees will be announced in May. . More information about the award, including how to nominate an artist, can be found at scparks.com.



Art Exhibitions

Paintings, prints, crafts, photographs, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, drawings, and mixed-media works by local artists and crafts people are exhibited year-round at the County Government Center, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz. Exhibits typically run for 2-3 months on the first and fifth floors. Artists interested in showing their work at a County facility (Government Center, Simpkins Swim Center, Health Services Agency, and Westridge) can visit the Arts Council website at www.artscouncilsc.org.

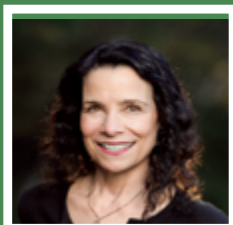
The application process will open in late October.

Poetry Scavenger Hunt in the Parks With 2025/26 Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate, Nancy Miller Gomez

This spring, there will be more than just flowers blooming in Santa Cruz County. Throughout April, in celebration of National Poetry Month, poetry will be leaving the page and popping up in the parks! In a project sponsored by Santa Cruz County Parks and Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate Nancy Miller Gomez, poems by local and national poets will be installed in select parks across the County. Everyone is invited to join us in a county wide Poetry Scavenger Hunt. In this self-guided experience, we want you to enjoy the parks through your own poetic lens.

Are you up for the challenge? With the poem as your guide, explore each participating park to find elements that connect to the poem. The hunt is open-ended, so be creative and let your imagination run wild. Use your cell phone (or a sketch pad) to document your interpretive discoveries and upload the images to Instagram (handle link at scparks.com). Your scavenged responses can be literal, metaphorical, abstract, artistic, zany, beautiful or weird. A review panel will choose a winner for each location. The winners receive a gift certificate from a sponsoring business!

Invite your friends, bring a picnic, find a poem, snap some pics, win a prize! More information, including participating parks, can be found on the Parks website at scparks.com



Nancy Miller Gomez is the author of *Inconsolable Objects*, winner of the 2025 Patterson Poetry Prize, and *Punishment*. An Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellow, her work has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Best New Poets*, *Prairie Schooner*, *TriQuarterly*, and elsewhere. She received a special mention in the 2023 *Pushcart Prize Anthology*. With Ellen Bass, Gomez co-founded the Santa Cruz Poetry Project, an organization that provides writing workshops to incarcerated women and men throughout Santa Cruz County. As the Poet Laureate of Santa Cruz, she created the Rising Voices Poetry Program with the County Office of Education to provide poetry workshops to high school students. She is also producing a variety of pop-up opportunities for people to engage with poetry across the county. Visit www.nancymillergomez.com to find out more.

Percent For Art Program: Building A More Beautiful Community

In April of 1991, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors took action to establish a Percent for Art Program applicable to County construction projects. Up to 2% of the cost of construction of buildings and parks is designated to fund the inclusion of public artwork. Projects currently in the works include the Ben Lomond Transfer Station, Juvenile Hall, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing, and Pace Trail.

Upcoming public art opportunities include the Swim Center slide replacement and Rail Trails. Visit the website for details: scparks.com/Home/AboutUs/WorkWithUs/CalltoArtists.aspx



Recently completed Green Valley Multi-use Pathway public art.

Artist-led Public Art Walks

Join artist Justin Francavilla for a creative adventure in the park

Together we'll go on a treasure hunt to find hidden animal art on bronze plaques along the Heart of Soquel Parkway. Each plaque is like a secret doorway to the wild showing off the amazing creatures that live right here in our neighborhood! Kids and adults will get to make their own rubbing prints of the plaques to take home, while learning fun facts about these lesser-known animals. It's a hands-on way to explore our park and see how art and nature connect all around us.

Saturday, April 11, 10-11am – All ages at Heart of Soquel Park – Free!



Dive into art and ocean life with artist Justin Francavilla!

We'll explore Monterey Bay's tide pool creatures through a new public art installation at Floral Park. The first part is a bronze plaque featuring their names in both English and Spanish. Kids and adults will get to make rubbing prints of the plaque, learning how to say each animal's name in two languages. The second part is new bronze tide pool sculptures where you can see and touch, turning the park into our own outdoor classroom and art studio. This hands-on activity is a fun way to discover sea life, practice new words, and see how art and nature come together!

Saturday, April 18, 10-11am – All ages at Floral Park – Free!



Catching the Light

Join local artist Lea de Wit for an art walk and talk about the public artworks that she created for Felton and Aptos Libraries, as part of the County of Santa Cruz Percent for Art Public Art Program. Lea is most noted for designing uplifting, inspiring, and hopeful sculptural compositions for several major public, commercial, and private collections worldwide. Her artwork centers around the biophilia hypothesis, the notion that humans possess an innate tendency to seek connection with nature. She has always been completely awestruck by the sheer beauty of the natural world, of color, and of light and strives to translate that beauty into her art. After a brief discussion about her artwork, kids and adults alike will be invited to participate in a "stained glass" craft project (while supplies last), inspired by their own interpretation of nature, color, and light.

Saturday, June 27, 1-3pm – All ages at Aptos Library – Free!

Saturday, July 25, 10:30am-12:30pm – All ages at Felton Library & Felton Discovery Park – Free!

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a healthy and vibrant community where everyone is able to be active, explore, learn, play and connect, and where our diverse natural and cultural resources are celebrated and protected for generations to come.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide safe well designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community.

FEES & CANCELLATIONS

Resident/Non-resident Fees

Where two registration fees are listed (e.g. \$40/\$44), the first is for Residents (R), the second for Non-residents (NR). You are a Non-resident (NR) if: you live outside Santa Cruz County; or in one of the 4 cities (Santa Cruz, Capitola, Watsonville, Scotts Valley); or in one of these Special Recreation Districts: Alba, or La Selva Beach.

Waiting Lists

If your original class choice is full, you will be placed on the waiting list for your original choice and contacted if space becomes available.

Sibling Discount

There is a discount of 15% for each additional sibling who is registered for the same session of the same youth activity, EXCEPT for swim lessons. The sibling discount only applies to online registrations when two or more siblings are registered for the same program option.

Call (831) 454-7941 when registering to receive a sibling discount if siblings are using different program options during the same session.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

Please plan your schedule carefully to keep transfers and cancellations to a minimum. A \$5 fee will be charged when withdrawing from an activity. A \$5 processing fee will also be charged for any refunds back to a credit card.

Make-up lessons are not available if your child is absent.

When requesting to withdraw, the following options are available:

3 or more calendar days prior to the start date:

- Transfer to another activity, plus an additional \$5 transfer fee
- Withdraw and receive a credit to your account minus a \$5 withdraw fee
- Withdraw and receive a refund, minus a \$10 processing fee
- Credits are valid for one year

2 or less calendar days prior to the start date:

- Transfer to another activity, plus an additional \$5 transfer fee
- Withdraw and receive a credit to your account minus a \$5 withdraw fee
- No refunds back to cards available
- Credits are valid for one year

If the class or program has already started:

- Credits and Refunds are not available once a class has started; or if a participant fails to attend a program.

SWIM LESSON CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Please plan your schedule carefully in order to keep transfers and cancellations to a minimum. A \$5.00 fee will be charged when withdrawing from an aquatics activity. **Make-up lessons are not available if your child is absent.** When withdrawing, the following options are available:

3 or more business days prior to the activity start date:

- Transfer to another aquatics activity, plus a \$5 transfer fee.
- Withdraw and receive a credit to your account, or receive a refund, less a \$5 processing fee.
- Account credits are valid for one year.

2 or fewer business days prior to the activity start date:

- Transfer to another activity, plus a \$5 transfer fee.
- If the space can be filled from a waitlist, the account with Parks may receive a credit; or one can receive a refund, less a \$5 processing fee.
- If the space cannot be filled from a waitlist, credits or refunds will be given on a pro-rated basis, charging for the first class.

If the activity has already started: If the participant has attended only one or two class meetings and concerns cannot be resolved, a pro-rated refund may be issued. Credits and refunds are not available once a class has met three times, or if a participant fails to attend. Make-up lessons are not available for missed classes.

Course Cancellations: If a program is cancelled by Parks, a full refund will be issued within 4 weeks.

Junior & Little Guards and all Aquatic Camps Cancellation & Refund Policy

Please review prerequisites before registering.

Refunds are not available when your child does not complete prerequisites.

When requesting to withdraw, the following options are available:

More than 3 weeks prior to the start of the program:

- Withdraw and receive a refund minus a \$50 cancellation fee.

Less than 3 weeks prior to the start of the program:

- Withdraw and receive a refund minus 50% cancellation fee.

If the camp has already started:

- Credits and Refunds are not available once a camp has started; or if a participant fails to attend a program.

REGISTRATION

Register with Active Network
@ scparks.com

Recreations programs registrations are now open.

Aquatics program registrations open on 3/30.

Mail registration to:

Santa Cruz County Parks
979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Walk-in registration:

979 17th Avenue: M-F, 9am-4pm.

Phone-in registration:

Aquatic Programs: (831) 454-7953. All other programs: (831) 454-7941. Please have your credit/debit card info. including CVC/CVV.

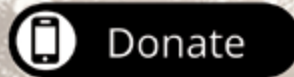
Registration and a signed release of liability are required prior to program participation. Payment is required at the time of registration; fees are not pro-rated for late registration. You may pay using cash, check, credit card, debit card or e-check.

There is a \$40 service charge for returned checks and credit card charge backs. Activities, dates, and fees are subject to change.

**Parks
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County Park Friends Scholarships



Financial Support for Program Fees

www.countyparkfriends.org

County Park Friends is the nonprofit partner to Santa Cruz County Parks