COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT OF

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES ACTIVITY GUIDE



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Active Adult Programs – pg 18-20









Parks Make Life Better!

FUN THINGS TO DO
IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARKS

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

GET INVOLVED. MAKE AN IMPACT.

Give back to your community and make a difference in Santa Cruz County! Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the North, Mid, and South County, with opportunities to support parks. Whether you have a few hours or want to get more involved, find a way to share your time, talents, and community spirit!

See details on page 25.





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.



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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Celebrate, connect, and make memories with Santa Cruz County Parks! From family-friendly festivities to exciting seasonal events, there's always something fun happening. Join us for the fun!

FREE PERFORMANCE

Join Artist of the Year Ann Elizabeth Thiermannt in the Live Oak Community Room at Simpkins Family Swim Center on June 5th from 7-9pm.

See details on page 27.



EXPLORE GREYHOUND ROCK

Bring your group or organization to beautiful Greyhound Rock for a unique outdoor experience! Choose from day field trips featuring NGSS-aligned topics or plan a group camping adventure with opportunities for team building, group cooking, OE program activities, nature exploration, and coastal discovery. Create a memorable experience while learning and connecting in one of Santa Cruz County's beautiful natural settings. ***See details on page 11.***



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JOIN OUR TEAM

We're hiring Lifeguards, Head Lifeguards, Parks Service 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, Robin Leidenthal	District 2
Shawn McGovwen, Valéria Miranda	District 3
Jessica Gonzalez Montiel, Vacant	District 4
Lynda Phillips, Margaret Niven	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.

Like us on Facebook: **Santa Cruz County Parks Department**

Follow us on X **@SCParksDept**

We're on Instagram: **Santa Cruz County Parks**


rec technologies
Cool news ahead
9:41
Sign Up
Aptos Village County Park
Aptos Village Park Venue
Capacity: 200 People
Guests
150
Santa Cruz County Parks is getting new software for reservations and program registrations.
The new system is coming February 2nd, 2027, and we're excited to share more soon. Stay tuned for updates!
Santa Cruz County Parks


HOPPING
INTO SPRING !
MARCH 20TH FROM 3PM - 6PM
SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER
JOIN US FOR AN EASTER POOL PARTY! ENJOY A FUN FILLED DAY WITH AN EASTER EGG HUNT, SWIMMING, AND SPRING ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
PRESALE/DOOR PRICES
ADULT: $15/$20
YOUTH & SENIOR: $10/$15


OPEN HOUSES
2027
Aptos Village Park
&
Valencia Hall
4:30 - 6:30pm
April 28th
May 26th
July 28th
September 22nd
October 27th
December 8th
9:00 - 11:30am
Sunday, February 7th
Highlands House
&
Quail Hollow Ranch
4:30 - 6:30pm
January 20th
March 17th
April 21st
May 19th
June 16th
July 21st
August 18th
September 15th
October 20th
November 17th
December 15th
9:00 - 11:30am
Saturday, February 27th
Santa Cruz
County Parks
scparks.com
reservations@scparks.com
pinterest.com/sccoparks
Becky Foy Photography

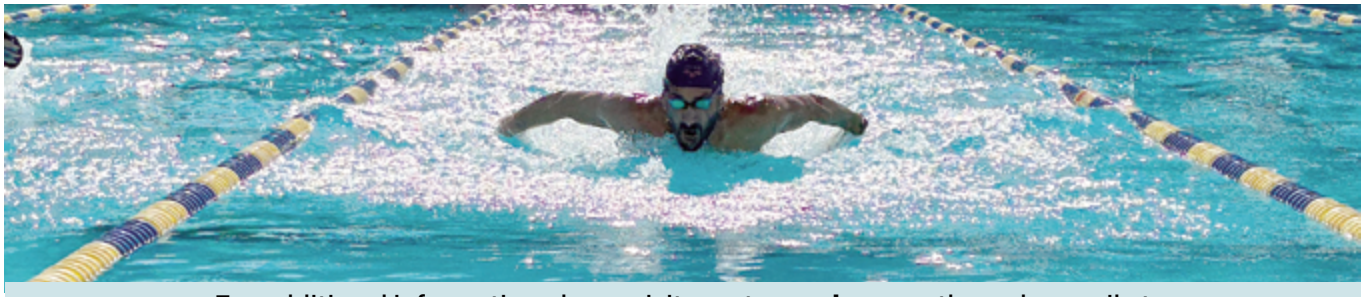
Simpkins Family Swim Center - Your County Pool

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 year-round. 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, special events 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 must be worn before entering swimming pool.
- Glass containers are not allowed.
- Water toys and flotation device are allowed..
- Swim program hours may vary from those listed in this pamphlet.
- Fees are subject to change seasonally.
- Programs may be cancelled for special events, unusual circumstances, staffing 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. Anyone under the age of 18 must passs a swim test to be in the deep lanes.

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. Description of classes available Online.

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

Simpkins Sharks

Non-competitive swim team offered in the Winter and Spring. Call our front desk (831) 454-7960 or visit us Online.

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. Hours of operations vary by season.

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.

Volunteer Program

We accept volunteers for all programming offered at Simpkins Swim Center. If you're interested in applying as a volunteer, please complete the volunteer application form and indicate which program you'd like to participate in. Applicants must be at least 14 years old to apply.

Please visit our Volunteer With County Parks page at scparks.com to submit your Volunteer Interest Form today!

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 session.
- 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 Online to select the class level that best matches your child's ability level which are available Online. 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 Swim Lessons

Group lessons are designed for children aged 6 months-12 years old. These lessons help participants feel comfortable in the water, develop and enhance swimming skills, and stroke refinement. We offer different levels for children with all different skill sets. Please review our website to get a full description of each level we offer and for pricing. Each lesson is offered in 30-min increments and will be scheduled within the time slots listed below.

Winter Session

Viewable Online: 12/7 at 9am

Registration Opens: 12/14 at 9am

Sa	1/9-1/30	9am-12:30pm	$52/$57
M/W	1/11-1/22	4-7:30pm	$52/$57
M/W	1/25-2/12	4-7:30pm	$39/$43
Sa	2/6-2/27	9am-12:30pm	$78/$86
M/W	2/22-3/5	4-7:30pm	$65/$72

Spring Session

Viewable Online: 2/15 at 9am

Registration Opens: 2/22 at 9am

Sa	3/6-3/27	9am-12:30pm	$39/$43
M/W	3/8-3/19	4-7:30pm	$39/$43
M/W	3/22-4/2	4-7:30pm	$52/$57
Sa	4/3-4/24	9am-12:30pm	$39/$43
M/W/F	4/5-4/16	4-7:30pm	$39/$43
M/W/F	4/19-4/30	4-7:30pm	$52/$57

Splashgiving Camp – Thanksgiving Break Fun!

Registrations are open.

School's out, but the fun is ON! Keep your kids moving, laughing, creating, and making new friends at Splashgiving Camp! We'll fill the day with exciting games, hands-on activities, creative adventures, and plenty of play. While you're busy working, we'll keep your campers happy, active, and entertained in a safe, supervised, and welcoming environment. No need to worry about keeping the kids entertained during the holiday break – we've got the fun covered!

You tackle the workday. We'll tackle the FUN!

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/T/W	11/23-11/25	9am-3pm	$108/$119



Water Warriors Camp

Water Warriors is designed to help children ages 5-10 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 Winter 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.*

Winter Session

Viewable Online: 12/7 at 9am

Registration Opens: 12/14 at 9am

M-Th	12/18-12/31	9am-3pm	$160/$176
M-F	1/4-1/8	9am-3pm	$225/$247

Spring Session

Viewable Online: 2/15 at 9am

Registration Opens: 2/22 at 9am

M-F	4/5-4/9	9am-3pm	$225/$247

Hopping Into Spring

Join in on a fun filled spring pool party featuring a huge easter egg hunt! Get ready to hop into spring at our Spring Pool Party at Simpkins Family Swim Center on January 5 - May 20 from 3-6pm. Bring the whole family for an afternoon filled with fun, music, and springtime activities. Kids can search high and low during our huge Easter egg hunt throughout the pool deck, while families enjoy festive music, games, and delicious food from two food vendors. Gather your friends, grab your baskets, and join us for an egg-cellent afternoon of spring fun at the pool!

Early Ticket Price

Adult: $15 / Youth (4-12)/Senior (65+): $10

Day of Ticket Price

Adult: $20 / Youth (4-12)/Senior (65+): $15

NEW: Simpkins Splash After School

Coming Spring 2027! We're excited to introduce Simpkins Splash After School, a new pilot program at Simpkins Family Swim Center designed to give kids a fun, safe, and engaging place to spend a few hours after school.

This camp-style program will offer a mix of learning, swimming, and active play. Participants will have time to work on homework, enjoy swim lessons, participate in aquatic sports, and take part in outdoor activities and games.

We're looking forward to bringing families this exciting new after-school option!

Program Start: Spring 2027 | Dates,Times & Cost: To be announced

Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

Junior Guard Clinic

This clinic is designed to help prepare children specifically for the Santa Cruz County Parks Junior Guard swim test, and to improve their swimming skills for summer. Each clinic will consist of one hour of swimming each week, on Sunday for three weeks or T/Th for two weeks; and will include working on skills such as freestyle, treading water, stroke development, comfortability in the water, and basic swim workout etiquette. PREREQUISTE: This is not a basic swim lesson-this is specifically for children to get comfortable in deep water and be prepared for our Junior Guard swim test and camp.

Cost: $53/$59

Winter Session

Viewable Online: 12/7 at 9am
Registration Opens: 12/14 at 9am

Su	2/21-3/7	10am-11am, 11am-12pm, 12-1pm

Spring Session

Viewable Online: 2/15 at 9am
Registration Opens: 2/22 at 9am

Su	3/14-3/28	10am-11am, 11am-12pm, 12-1pm
Su	4/11-4/25	10am-11am, 11am-12pm, 12-1pm

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! Call (831) 454-7953.

Cost: *$220 | $0 Tryout Fee*

Winter Tryouts

M	1/4, 1/11	4:30-7:30pm
W	1/6, 1/13	4:30-7:30pm

Winter Club Dates:

T/Th 1/19-3/11 (16 practices total + one competition day)

Spring Tryouts

M	3/1, 3/6	4:30-7:30pm
W	3/3, 3/10	4:30-7:30pm

Spring Club Dates:

T/Th 3/23-5/20 (6 practices total + one competition day)



American Red Cross Lifeguard Classes

Ages 15+ can learn the skills needed to prevent and respond to emergencies and earn 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.

Red Cross LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION

Cost: *$200 plus material fee $65*

Winter Session

Registration is open

Session 1

F	12/4	3-9pm
Sa	12/5	9am-6pm
Su	12/6	9am-6pm

Viewable Online: 1/2 at 9am
Registration Opens: 1/9 at 9am

Session 2

F	2/19	3-9pm
Sa	2/20	9am-6pm
Su	2/21	9am-6pm

Spring Session

Viewable Online: 2/2 at 9am
Registration Opens: 2/9 at 9am

Session 1

F	3/19	3-9pm
Sa	3/20	9am-6pm
Su	3/21	9am-6pm

Session 2

F	4/2	3-9pm
Sa	4/3	9am-6pm
Su	4/4	9am-6pm

Session 3

F	4/6	3-9pm
Sa	4/17	9am-6pm
Su	4/18	9am-6pm

SHARED ADVENTURES



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.



Santa Cruz County Parks

WHERE LEARNING MEETS NATURE AT GREYHOUND ROCK

Funded by SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MEASURE Q through June 30th 2027



Free Outdoor Education Field Trips

Day field trips at Greyhound Rock are being offered at no cost to participating schools as part of our pilot Outdoor Education program!





Group Camping Trips

Camping trips are being offered with a small resource fee per person, perfect for youth groups, Scouts, staff bonding, or overnight experience before Outdoor School Science Camps!



Scan here for more details and lesson descriptions

scparks.com

831-454-7941



Kreative Kids

Get ready to create, explore, play, and learn! Kreative Kids is a year-round preschool enrichment program designed for little learners preparing for TK or Kindergarten. Each class is filled with hands-on activities that make learning fun—from colorful art projects and music and movement to story time, early literacy, numbers, imaginative play, and exciting group activities. Little ones will have plenty of opportunities to make new friends, build confidence, practice independence, and discover new things in a fun and welcoming environment. We'll take learning beyond the classroom with outdoor exploration, nature-inspired crafts, creative adventures, and occasional field trips that bring learning to life! Kreative Kids is a cooperative program, which means parents join in the fun by assisting staff during program hours and helping create a positive, supportive learning experience for all our little explorers. Come ready to be creative, make friends, get a little messy, and have lots of fun learning along the way!

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*

11/30-12/17	M-Th	$360/$396	
1/4-1/28	M-Th	$360/$396	**No School 1/18*
2/1–2/25	M-Th	$360/$396	**No School 2/15*
3/1–3/25	M-Th	$360/$396	
3/29–4/29	M-Th	$360/$396	**Spring Break 4/5–4/9*
5/3–5/27	M-Th	$360/$396	



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.

Ages: *1-2 yrs*
Time: *3-3:45pm*

HIGHLANDS COUNTY PARK

11/30-1/25	M	$96/$106	**No class 12/21*
2/13-2/29	M	$96/$106	**No class 2/15*
4/5–5/25	M	$96/$106	

Ages: *3-5 years*
Time: *4-4:45pm*

11/30–1/25	M	$96/$106	**No class 12/21*
2/1–3/29	M	$96/$106	**No class 2/15*
4/5–5/25	M	$96/$106	

Ages: *6-12 years*
Time: *5-6pm*

11/30–1/25	M	$125/$137	**No class 12/21*
2/1–3/29	M	$125/$137	**No class 2/15*
4/5–5/25	M	$125/$137	

Intermediate Gymnastics

Ready to 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.

Ages: *6-12 years*
Time: *5-6pm*

HIGHLANDS COUNTY PARK

12/3 – 1/28/27	Th	$125 /$137	**No class 12/24*
2/4 – 3/25	Th	$125 /$137	
4/1 – 5/20	Th	$125 /$137	

Super Tots Sports

Children can have fun and learn the fundamentals of sports in a structured environment. Super Tots Sports includes four, 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.

BROMMER COUNTY PARK

Ages: *3-5 years*
Time: *4-4:45pm*

Track	W	5/5-5/26	$56/$62

SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER - LIVE OAK COMMUNITY ROOMS A & B

Ages: *3-5 years*
Time: *4-4:45pm*

Snowball Fight	T	12/1-12/15	$42/$48
Yoga	W	12/2 – 12/16	$42/$48
Mini Golf	W	1/6 – 1/27	$56/$62
Basketball	T	2/2 – 2/23	$56/$62
Basketball	W	2/3 – 2/17	$42/$48
Skills & Drills	W	3/3 – 3/31	$56/$62
Tumbling	T	5/5 – 5/26	$56/$62

*No session 2/24 & 3/24

HIGHLANDS COUNTY PARK

Ages: *3-5 years*
Time: *4-4:45pm*

Tumbling	Th	12/3 - 12/17	$42/$48
Yoga	Th	1/7 - 1/28	$56/$62
Skills & Drills	Th	2/4 - 2/25	$56/$62
Basketball	Th	3/4 - 3/25	$56/$62
Skills & Drills	Th	4/1 - 4/22	$56/$62
T-Ball	Th	5/6 - 5/27	$56/$62

WILDER HALL – BEN LOMOND

Ages: *3-5 years*
Time: *9:30am–1:30pm*

Skills & Drills	F	1/8 – 1/29	$107/$117
Skills & Drills	F	2/5 – 2/26	$107/$117
Skills & Drills	F	3/5 – 3/26	$107/$117
Skills & Drills	F	4/2 – 4/30	$133/$146
Skills & Drills	F	5/7 – 5/28	$107/$117
Skills & Drills	F	6/4 – 6/25*	$90/$117

No Session 6/18



NEW! Community 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament (Ages 18+)

Gather your squad and hit the courts! Join us at Willowbrook County Park for our inaugural community 3-on-3 basketball tournament. This friendly yet competitive half-court tournament features a fast-paced format with a 15-minute running clock. Space is strictly limited to just 4 teams per division (maximum 4 players per roster—3 starters and 1 mandatory substitute).

Divisions will play in staggered morning or afternoon sessions to maximize game time and eliminate long wait times. Pre-registration via ActiveNet is required for your team captain to secure your squad's slot!

Location: *Willowbrook County Park Basketball Courts (Aptos)*

Sa 5/22 9:40am- 2:30pm $40 per team
($10 per player; Team Captain registers and pays for the full 4-person team)

Tournament Divisions

Open Division (Ages 18–29)
Morning Session (9:40am Check-in)

Legends Division (Ages 45+)
Morning Session (9:40am Check-in)

Prime Rec Division (Ages 30–44)
Afternoon Session (12:30pm Check-in)

Call (831) 454-7941 for more information.

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Santa Cruz County Parks Department

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Santa Cruz County Parks



NEW! Coast & Canyon Walking Group

Ready to clear your mind, build stamina, and discover the most scenic vistas in our community? Join our new Thursday morning walking group! Designed for active adults and seniors looking for a continuous, steady-paced stride, this 6-week program features a 45-to 60- minute outbound walk (roughly 1.5 to 2.5 miles out and back) before we pivot and return together. We will alternate between three pristine, high visibility routes in Aptos and Santa Cruz, exploring beautiful coastal promenades and towering redwood forests. It is an amazing way to socialize, track your weekly fitness progress, and enjoy the spring weather in a safe, group supporting setting.

Ages: *18+ FREE*
Time: *9:30-11 am*

Th	4/15	East Cliff Drive County Parkway (Live Oak)
Th	4/22	Anna Jean Cummings County Park (Soquel)
Th	4/29	Seascape County Park to Hidden Beach (Aptos)
Th	5/6	Pinto Lake County Park (Watsonville)
Th	5/13	Polo Grounds County Park (Aptos)
Th	5/20	Quail Hollow Ranch County Park (Felton)

Registered participants will receive a detailed parking and meeting spot schedule via email prior to week 1.

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 yrs*
Location: *Wilder Hall in Ben Lomond*

11/23-11/25	9:30am-1:30pm	$120/$132

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!

Ages: *5-12 yrs*
Location: *Highlands County Park*

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

FOR NATURE DAY CAMPS, SEE PAGE 16-17



Ski Week Tumbling Clinic

Looking for fun and active plans this February break? Join us for our Ski Week Tumbling Clinic! This exciting program is perfect for kids who want to stay moving, stretch their energy, and learn new skills.

Campers will practice rolls, handstands, cartwheels, and tumbling progressions in a safe and supportive environment. Through skill-building drills, creative games, and teamwork activities, participants will gain strength, coordination, and confidence while making new friends. Whether your child is new to tumbling or already flipping with enthusiasm, our instructors will guide them at their level to ensure challenge, growth, and fun.

Ages: *5-12 yrs*
Location: *Highlands County Park*

2/16-2/19	9am-3pm	$180/$198

Spring Gymnastics Camp

Leap, roll, and balance into spring with a week of gymnastics excitement! Spring Gymnastics Camp is designed for young athletes to explore the fundamentals of gymnastics in a safe and supportive environment. Campers will practice skills on the mat, beam, and bars while building strength, flexibility, and confidence.

Through engaging drills, creative games, and teamwork challenges, participants will sharpen their technique and coordination while celebrating the energy and freshness of the season. Whether they're brand new to gymnastics or looking to grow their skills, every camper will leave with new abilities, new friends, and a spring in their step!

Ages: *5–12 yrs*
Location: *Highlands County Park*

4/5-4/9	9am–3pm	$225/$247

Little Ninjas Spring Camp

Get ready for a week full of jumping, climbing, and ninja adventures with Super Tots Little Ninjas Camp! This high-energy program is designed for preschool-aged children to explore the fundamentals of movement in a fun and supportive environment.

Campers will practice balance, coordination, and strength through obstacle courses, games, and skill-based activities, building confidence while staying active. Each day offers new challenges that encourage focus, teamwork, and a love for movement. Join us for an action-packed week where every Little Ninja can run, roll, and rise to the challenge!

Ages: *3-5 yrs*
Location: *Highlands County Park*

4/5-4/9	9 am–12pm	$150/$165



Winter Camp

Need some exciting activities for your 6-12 year-old child during winter break? Look no further! Santa Cruz County Parks offers winter day camps. Each day will offer a structured program, starting with an assembly to review the daily schedule of activities which may include fine arts, science, organized games and sports, drama and music, crafts, and cooking. One field trip each week is included in the registration fee.

12/21-12/23	Aptos Village Park	8am-5pm	$150/$165
12/28-12/31	Aptos Village Park	8am-5pm	$200/$220
1/4-1/8	Aptos Village Park	8am-5pm	$250/$275
12/28-12/31	Mar Vista Elementary	8am-5pm	$200/$220
1/4-1/8	Mar Vista Elementary	8am-5pm	$250/$275

Spring Camp

Need some exciting activities for your 6-12 year-old child during Spring break? Look no further! Santa Cruz County Parks offers Spring camps. Each day will offer a structured program, starting with an assembly to review the daily schedule of activities which may include fine arts, science, organized games and sports, drama and music, crafts, and cooking. One field trip each week is included in the registration fee.

4/5-4/9	Aptos Village Park	8am-5pm	$250/$275
4/5-4/9	Mar Vista Elementary	8am-5pm	$250/$275



Hollow Holiday Winter Camp

Our Hollow Holiday Winter Camp at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park invites children to explore, discover, and connect with nature through hands-on adventures and playful learning. Campers will spend their days exploring trails, observing plants and wildlife, creating nature-inspired art, playing outdoor games, and more! Please send your child with a backpack, a snack, lunch, water bottle(s), closed-toed shoes and weather appropriate clothing each day.

Location: *Quail Hollow Ranch – Outdoor Education Ctr.*
Ages: *6-12 yrs*

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

No Camp Fri 1/1

King Tides – Guided Tidepooling at Greyhound Rock

Come on a guided exploration of the creatures that live in the Greyhound Rock tidepools! We will meet at the beach access trail in the Greyhound Rock parking lot, then walk down to the beach. Animal ID guides provided. Wear a layer and and closed-toed shoes you don't mind getting wet.

Th	1/21	2:30-4 pm	
Fr	1/22	3:30-5 pm	Free (pre-reg. required)





Nature Science Camp

Let your child step into the wild and uncover the secrets of nature at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park. From towering trees to tiny critters, they'll be explorers and budding scientists as they dive into hands-on, nature-based science adventures. Each day is filled with discovery, curiosity and outdoor fun – where learning and nature go hand in hand. Make sure your young adventurer comes prepared with a backpack, snack, lunch, water bottle(s), closed-toed shoes and clothing appropriate for the day's weather.

Location: *Quail Hollow Ranch – Outdoor Education Ctr.*
Ages: *6-12 yrs*

Tu-F	2/16-2/19	9am-3pm	$180/$198

No Camp Monday 2/15



Wilderness Explorers Spring Break Camp

Let your child explore the wilderness of Quail Hollow Ranch County Park in this nature-based day camp packed with outdoor fun and educational activities. We will also dive into environmental science on a field trip, included in the registration fee. Please send your child with a backpack, snack, lunch, water bottle(s), closed-toed shoes and weather appropriate clothing each day.

Location: *Quail Hollow Ranch – Outdoor Education Ctr.*
Ages: *6-12*

M-F	4/5-4/9	9am-3pm	$225/$248



Muddy Boots

Nature Starts Here

Muddy Boots is a nature club for children ages 1–4 that invites little ones to play, explore, and discover a love of the outdoors. Each session includes a craft, a story time with a nature-themed book, and a guided walk with activities and fun facts. The program is also a chance for families with young children to connect and have fun outside together. Children must be accompanied by an adult or caregiver, and accompanying adults attend free. And of course - don't forget to wear boots or shoes that can get muddy!

*Activities will be indoors during inclement weather

Age: *1-4 yrs*
Cost: *$10/$12*
Location: *North County – Quail Hollow Ranch, Outdoor Education Ctr.*
Every Monday from 10-11am, starting 1/11 – 5/17
No Program: 1/18, 2/15, and 4/5
Location: *Mid County – Simpkins Family Swim Center, - Live Oak Community Room B*
Every Thursday from 4-5 pm, starting 1/14 – 5/20
No Program: 2/18, 4/8

Location: *South County – Pinto Lake County Park, Pavillion B*
Every Tuesday from 4-5 pm, starting 1/12 – 5/18
No Program: 2/16, 4/6

Muddy Trailblazers

An After School Nature Adventure

Muddy Trailblazers is a Nature-based after school program for children and youth ages 5-12 (Kindergarten-6th grade). This program invites young people of varying ages to explore, play, discover and build outdoor skills through hands-on adventures at Quail Hollow Ranch. Each month features a different theme designed to build confidence, encourage curiosity, develop friendships, strengthen outdoor skills, and deepen participants' connections with nature. Activities will be adapted to different ages and skill levels so that everyone can participate, explore, and take on challenges that are right for them. Participants should come dressed for the weather and ready to get muddy! Wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes and clothing appropriate for outdoor activities. Please bring a snack to eat at the start of the program and have a reusable water bottle with you.

*Activities will be indoors during inclement weather

Ages *5-12 yrs*
Cost: *$90/$100 per month*
Location: *Quail Hollow Ranch, Outdoor Education Ctr.*
Every Wednesday from 2-5pm, starting 1/6 through 5/26
No Program: 2/17 and 4/7

Weekend Family Camping at Greyhound Rock

Families are invited to join us for a two-night camping trip at Greyhound Rock! Spend the weekend exploring dramatic coastal bluffs, discovering marine life, and taking in sweeping ocean views together. Participants will help prepare, cook and clean group meals, learn camping tips and enjoy time in the great outdoors. All food, camping equipment, and guided activities will be provided. We will send out a packing list before the date.

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: *Greyhound Rock*
Fees: *$30 per adult, $20 per child*
Dates: *4/16-18 and 5/14-16*
Check in: Friday 1pm
Check out: Sunday 1pm

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We're on Instagram:
Santa Cruz County Parks



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 as part of the movement. Drop by the entrance to the food court. *Stretch class at 9 am.

Location: *Capitola Mall*

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





Bridge Club

Discover the Joy of Bridge! Whether you are an absolute beginner looking to learn or a social player wanting a fun game, everyone is welcome. Come make new friends, enjoy great company, and sharpen your mind.

Location: *Aptos Branch Library*

M	10:30am-12pm	Free

High Tea Party

Put on your fanciest hat and join us for a fun-filled Mother's Day tea party! Enjoy tasty finger sandwiches, sweet treats, and a variety of teas while celebrating the special moms and loved ones in your life. Come dressed in your favorite tea-party attire, bring your family and friends, and get ready for an afternoon of sipping, snacking, laughing, and making memories together!

Location: *Simpkins Swim Center*

Th	May 13	3-4:30pm	$25

East Coast Swing Dance Class

Get ready to swing into fun! Our Beginner East Coast Swing 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 weeks and are designed in a progressive series.

Instructor: *Jeremy Pilling*
Location: *Aptos Village Park*

T	1/12-2/21	10:30-11:25am	$72/$79
T	2/9-3/2	10:30-11:25am	$72/$79
T	3/9-3/30	10:30-11:25am	$72/$79
T	4/3-5/4	10:30-11:25am	$72/$79

Waltz Dance Class

Ready to glide across the dance floor? Discover the timeless elegance of the Waltz! This progressive series is the perfect introduction to one of the world's most beautiful and classic ballroom dances. You will learn the signature smooth, flowing movement, foundational posture, and the classic "rise and fall" technique in a warm and welcoming environment. No partner or prior dance experience is necessary—just bring smooth-soled shoes and a readiness to learn. By the end of this course, you'll be moving with grace, poise, and confidence!

Instructor: *Jeremy Pilling*
Location: *Aptos Village Park*

T	3/9-3/30	11:30-12:25pm	$72/$79
T	4/13-5/4	11:30-12:25pm	$72/$79

Call 831-454-7941 for specific dates.



Salsa Dance Class

New to Salsa? This class is the perfect way to jumpstart your dancing journey! Join our energetic 4-week progressive series designed specifically for beginners. You will learn the core rhythms, essential footwork, and foundational partner-dancing skills in a fun, supportive atmosphere. No partner or dance experience is required, just bring your comfortable shoes and a desire to move. By the end of the series, you'll have the confidence to step out onto any dance floor!

Instructor: *Jeremy Pilling*
Location: *Aptos Village Park*

T	11/13-2/2	11:30am-12:25pm	$72/$79
T	2/9-3/2	11:30am-12:25pm	$72/$79

Foundations in Traditional Tai Chi



This class will offer foundations in traditional Tai Chi with emphasis in building strength, flexibility, balance, mindfulness and presence. Each class will begin with a Qigong set, followed by Tai Chi practice. Qigong is an ancient Chinese practice that combines gentle movement, meditation, and controlled breathing to cultivate and balance the body's vital energy, known as "qi" or "chi". The Yang Style Tai Chi 10 Form will be taught, a short, beginner friendly sequence based on the traditional long from, focusing on weight shifting, balance, relaxation, and mindfulness. "Tai Chi is often described as' meditation in motion,' but it might well be called medication in motion.' There is growing evidence that mind-body practice... has value on treating or preventing health problems" -Harvard Health Publishing.

Instructor: *Linda Gerson*
Location: *Simpkins Swim Center, Live Oak Community Room*

T/Th	2/2-3/11	1-2pm	$120/$130
T/Th	4/6-5/13	1-2pm	$120/$130

EXTENDED TOURS

For more information on our extended trips program please visit us online at scparks.com or call us at 831-454-7941.

Shades of Ireland

October 1-10, 2027,

10 Days • 13 Meals

Single: $6,299 Double: $5,399 Triple: $5,349

HIGHLIGHTS: Dublin, Irish Dinner & Entertainment, Blarney Castle, Powerscourt Estate, Jaunting Car Ride, Ring of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher, Sheepdog Demonstration, Castle Stay.





Discover Spotlight on New York Holiday

December 1-5, 2027

5 Days * 5 Meals

Single: $4,699 Double: $3,799 Triple: $3,749

HIGHLIGHTS: Experience the "Big Apple" at its festive best. There's nothing like the beauty of the glittering lights of New York during the holidays – Greenwich Village, Wall Street, Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Hall, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, 9/11 Memorial and Museum and a Broadway Show.

Tropical Costa Rica

November 11-19, 2027

9 Days • 15 Meals

Single: $4,699 Double: $3,799 Triple: $3,749

HIGHLIGHTS: Lush forests and stunning waterfalls... rumbling volcanoes and endless coastlines.

Costa Rica is a paradise teeming with exotic plants and incredible animals. Savor breathtaking beauty and fine sandy beaches.



San Francisco Giants Midweek Matinee Trip

Take me out to the ball game! Join Santa Cruz County Parks for our popular day trip to Oracle Park to cheer on the San Francisco Giants vs Seattle Mariners. Enjoy the excitement of Major League Baseball with great company, spectacular bay views, and comfortable, easily accessible seating with plenty of shade.

We handle all the highway driving and parking logistics, so you can just sit back, relax, and root for the home team. Trips are scheduled for select Wednesday and Thursday day games in April, May, and June. Perfect for older adults, friends, and family members of all ages looking for a hassle-free day at the ballpark.

Space is limited to 30 participants. Be sure to secure your spot early!

W April 28 Fee: $150

Depart: 8am / Game Begins 12:45pm

scparks.com/register reservations@scparks.com



Meeting Rooms

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

BOOK A PICNIC AREA!



**Reserve one of our eleven scenic picnic areas!
We take reservations for Anna Jean Cummings County Park, Brommer Street County Park, Chanticleer County Park, Felton Covered Bridge Park, Highlands County Park, Jose Avenue County Park, Michael Gray Field County Park, Pinto Lake County Park, and Scott County Park.**

scparks.com/register reservations@scparks.com



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	11/15	1-3pm	Free
Su	1/24	1-3pm	Free
Su	3/7	1-3pm	Free
Su	5/23	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 & up*

Su	5/2	12-1 pm	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 & up**

Su	12/6	10 am-12 pm	Free
Su	1/31	10 pm -12 pm	Free
Su	3/14	10 pm -12 pm	Free

Full Moon Hike

Come join us for a quiet exploration of Quail Hollow Ranch, under the moonlight. On this docent-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 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Ages: *8 & up**

Tu	11/24	6-8 pm	Free
M	3/22	8:30-10 pm	Free

Trek to the Forbidden Sandhills

Join a guided hike with Park Docents 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 for two hours on uneven terrain.

Ages: *8 & up**

Su	4/4	10am-12 pm	Free
Su	4/4	1-3 pm	Free
Su	4/11	10am-12 pm	Free
Su	4/11	1-3 pm	Free
Su	4/18	10am-12 pm	Free
Su	4/18	1-3 pm	Free
Su	4/25	10am-12 pm	Free
Su	4/25	1-3 pm	Free

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. For ages 16 & up. Chapter web site: *http://www.cruzcnps.org*

Plant a Great Garden from Seed - It's not too late!

No matter where you live in Santa Cruz County, there's plenty of time to grow and enjoy a big and bountiful garden! Learn which easy-care and versatile vegetables, culinary herbs and colorful flowers can be planted from seed now to both feed the pollinators and sustain your family throughout summer and fall. Instructor Renee Shepherd is the founder of local seed company Renee's Garden, which searches for great seed varieties from around the world . All are tested thoroughly in the company's Felton trial garden and the best varieties are offered nationwide in the company's colorful seed packet line. Renee's gardening values, enthusiasm and discerning taste have made her a household name in the gardening world.

Ages: *12 & up*

Su	5/16	11am-1 pm	Free



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 & up**

Sun	3/21	8-10 am	Free
Sun	6/6	8-10 am	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

SUPPORT YOUR PARKS!

Your donation will help continue to fund the parks and programs you love!

Santa Cruz County Parks

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

ACE PROGRAM

AFTERSCHOOL CHILD ENRICHMENT

EXPANDED LEARNING PVUSD

SOMETHING FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Our after school enrichment program combines hands-on learning, creativity, physical activity, problem-solving, and new experiences to give students a well-rounded experience beyond the classroom.

Creative Arts
Create, design, and express yourself through hands-on art, imagination and innovation.

Fitness
Move, play and build confidence, through sports, fitness, teamwork and active recreation.

Academic Support
Challenge your mind through problem solving, strategy, and collaborative thinking. Homework assistance provided.

STEM & Discovery
Discover new interests, skills, and experiences that encourage independence and lifelong learning.

TAKE AFTER-SCHOOL BEYOND THE CLASSROOM ENROLL TODAY!

Children TK-8th Grade

LEARN • CREATE • MOVE
MAKE FRIENDS • GROW

A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE AND ENRICHING ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERY CHILD!

CONNECT WITH US
Phone 831-454-7941
Email rec@scparks.com

Winter Wonderland

SATURDAY DEC 12TH



Breakfast
$20 Adult $10 Ages 7 or Under
Session 1 9-9:45am
Session 2 10:15-11am

Included with your ticket
Story time with cookies and cocoa
Activities and crafts
Photos with Santa

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

VISIT SCPARKS.COM FOR DETAILS

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

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Visit our website to view our one-day opportunity calendar or fill out the Volunteer Interest Form at parks.santacruzcountyca.gov
Feel free to email volunteer@santacruzcountyca.gov with any questions, or call (831)454-7927.

parks.santacruzcountyca.gov
volunteer@santacruzcountyca.gov
(831) 454-7927

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.

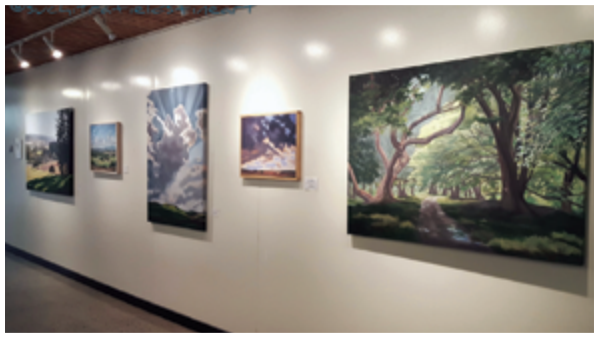
Spotlight Award Recognizing Local Emerging Artists



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. 2027 awardees will be announced in May. More information about the award, including how to nominate an artist, can be found at ***https://parks.santacruzcountyca.gov/Home/FindaProgram/ArtsCulturalPrograms/SpotlightAward.aspx***

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 3 months on the first and fifth floors. Artists interested in showing their work at a County facility (Government Center, Simpkins Swim Center/Live Oak Library Annex, 500 Westridge, Health Services Agency, and others) can visit the Arts Council website at www.artscouncilsc.org for more information. The application process will be open through mid December. ***Visit https://artscouncilsc.org/explore-the-arts/exhibits/*** for more information





Mary Tataro's "Humungous Fungus," which will be installed at the Ben Lomond Transfer Station in spring 2027.

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 can be designated to fund the inclusion of public artwork. Projects currently in the works include the Ben Lomond Transfer Station, Juvenile Hall, and Behavioral Health Bridge Housing. **Upcoming public art opportunities** include Swim Center slide replacement and Rail Trail. Visit the Parks website for details: ***www.scparks.com/Home/AboutUs/WorkWithUs/CalltoArtists.aspx***

ANN ELIZABETH THIERMANN

ARTIST
OF THE YEAR



Ann Elizabeth Thiermann has been named 2027 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 in the Simpkins Swim Center Community Room on June 5, 2027, 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.

An exhibition of Ann's work will on display at the Swim Center/Live Oak Library Annex from June-September 2027. Learn more about the award and previous recipients, and the nomination process: ***visit https://parks.santacruzcountyca.gov/Home/FindaProgram/ArtsCulturalPrograms/ArtistoftheYear.asp***x

Nationally known for her Native American murals, Ms. Thiermann has created five major murals for libraries, museums, and California State Parks plus over 70 natural history murals throughout Northern California in both private and public venues. Known for her carefully researched murals, her works give voice to Native American tribal traditions. They capture the character of specific marine or land environments, with authentic figurative and botanical detail.

Ann's contribution to the arts in Santa Cruz has remained multi-dimensional since her arrival in 1990. She contributes as a college educator, art curator, muralist and painter of landscapes and portraits, and working pianist/organist. A retired Cabrillo Studio Art instructor, she continues to share her expertise privately with Cabrillo Extension students

Her playful, historical murals grace outdoor spaces in Santa Cruz, including *People Make Our Town* on Locust Street, *Tugged In* on Broadway in Seacliff, and A *Peaceful Paws* on Pearl Alley. Ann also created murals on four utility boxes for the County's "Outside the Box" program, bringing smiles to pedestrians and drivers alike. Her commissioned portraits hang at Santa Cruz City Hall and in private homes.

Three of her six Native American murals are in Santa Cruz. Since 1997, school children explore Ohlone tools in front of her Ohlone Village in the Santa Cruz Natural History museum, providing hands-on learning about local Native Americans. In 2008, Ann completed Dancing at Quiroste, UCSC American Indian Resource Center, giving the local Amah Mutsun Tribes identifying visuals for the north coast ceremonial site of Quiroste. Large sections of this UCSC mural are now reproduced in the Santa Cruz Mission State Park teaching viewers about local Native Americans dances, villages, use of native plants and ceremonial use of the Quiroste site.

In 2022, The Capitola Museum commissioned First Peoples Fishing and Foraging at the Capitola Lagoon. Carefully designed with aid from local anthropologists, Native Americans, plus fish & Game experts, each mural adds dignity, identity and understanding about local First Peoples. These three Santa Cruz murals have been used nationwide for children's books, banners, natural history exhibits, and online programs.

REGISTRATION

Register with Active Network @ scparks.com

Aquatics program registration opens on 3/29 @ 9am
Recreation program registration is now open.

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) 454-7901.

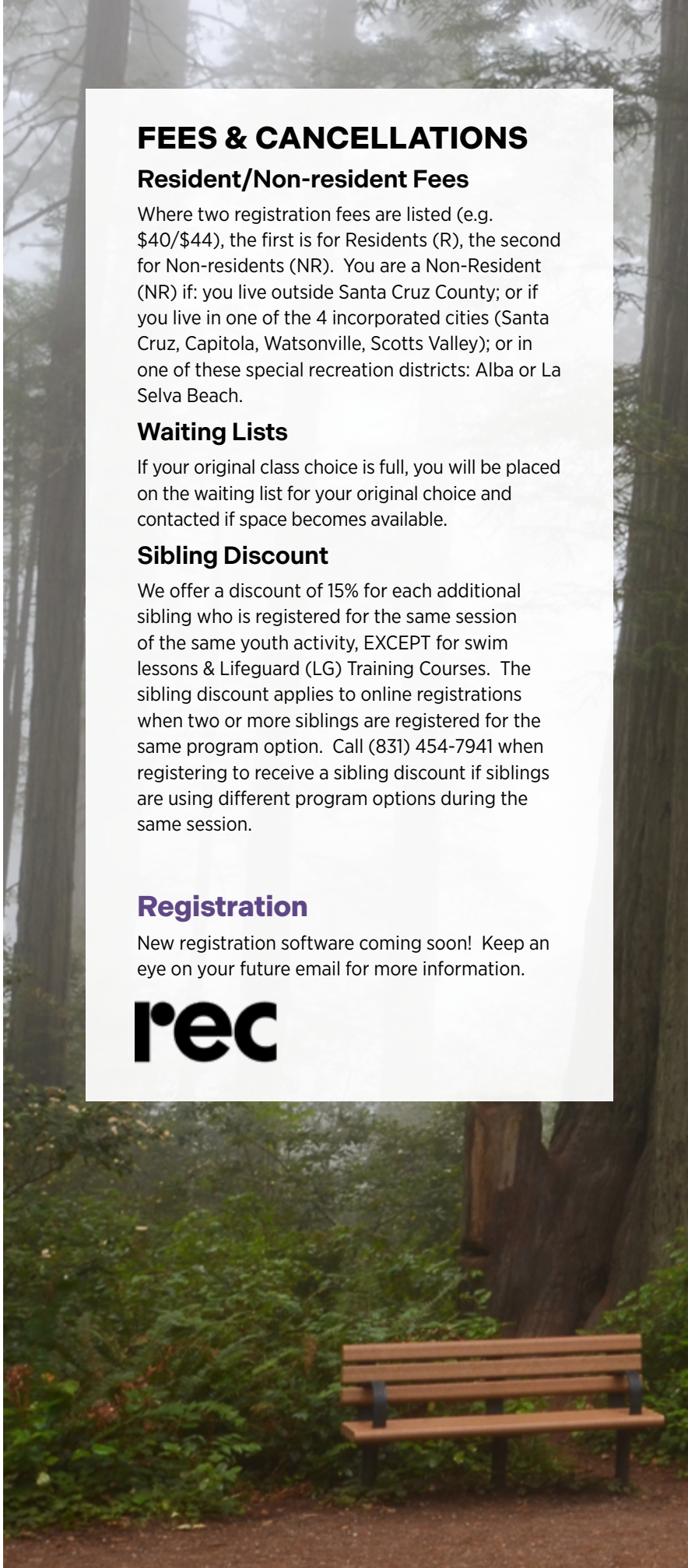
Please have your credit/debit card information including CVC/CVV ready.

Registration and a signed liability waiver are required before participating in any program. Payment is due at the time of registration. Program fees are not prorated for late registration or missed classes. Make-up classes or days are not offered. We accept cash, checks, credit cards, debit cards, and e-checks.

A $40 service fee applies to returned checks and credit card chargebacks.

Activities, program dates, and fees are subject to change

Parks Make Life Better!℠



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 if you live in one of the 4 incorporated 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

We offer a discount of 15% for each additional sibling who is registered for the same session of the same youth activity, EXCEPT for swim lessons & Lifeguard (LG) Training Courses. The sibling discount 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.

Registration

New registration software coming soon! Keep an eye on your future email for more information.

rec

Refund Policy for Summer Aquatics & Recreation – Activities, Classes and Special Events

Please plan your schedule carefully to keep transfers and cancellations to a minimum. A $5.00 withdraw fee will be applied. A $5.00 processing fee will also be applied for any refunds back to a credit card. Classes and activities (ex: swim lessons, dance class, adult trips, events, clinics, super tots, etc.)

Program fees are not refundable for missed classes. No make-up days available

Requests for transfers, credits or refunds for activities, classes & camps must be submitted in writing and are subject to the following guidelines:

ALL CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO:

Aquatics Classes – *swimcenter@santacruzcountyca.us*

Recreation Classes – *rec@scparks.com*

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

- Transfer to another activity minus a $5.00 processing fee
- Withdraw and receive full credit to your SC County Parks account minus a $5.00 processing fee
  - Account credits are valid for one year.
- Withdraw and receive a full refund to your credit card, minus a $10.00 processing fee

3 business days prior to the activity start date:

- Withdraw and receive a credit to your account, minus a $5.00 processing fee
  - Account credits are good for one year

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

- No refunds, transfers or credits available.

Refund Policy for Aquatics & Recreation – Camps & Lifeguard (LG) Training Courses

3 weeks or more prior to start of camp start date:

- Credit to your SC County Parks account or refund back to your credit card available minus a $50.00 processing fee

3 weeks or less prior to start of camp start date:

- Credit, refund or transfer, minus a 50% (percent) processing fee

If the camp has already started; or if a participant fails to attend program: No refunds, transfers or credits available.

Aquatics Day Camps - Please review all camp prerequisites before registering for Camp. Refunds will not be issued for participants who do not pass the required swim test.

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.

Love our Parks, Beaches, and Trails?
Want to Sponsor Scholarships?

100% of your donation is invested here in Santa Cruz County

Donate

County Park Friends Scholarships



Financial Support for Program Fees

www.countyparkfriends.org

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