Fun Things to Do in Santa Cruz
Community Rentals Office serves as a resource center for UCSC students, faculty, and staff. Our rental listings are easily accessible to all eligible individuals.

**Services Include:**
- Online Renters Workshop
- Online listing program for local rentals
  - House/apartment/condo listings
  - Rooms in shared housing listings
  - Available housemates search
- Rental application, agreements, disclosures and other forms
- Rental cost statistics
- Extensive online rental resource information
- Rental laws and tenant/landlord advising referrals

**Renters Workshop:**

*Why should you take the Renters Workshop?*

“I wish I had Read my story online…

- Learn your legal rights and responsibilities
- Get tips for conducting an effective rental search

The workshop covers:
- Preparing: What to consider—your needs, budget, picking housemates, which rental agreement to use, situations to avoid, rental ad scams, making an impressive Rental Application Packet
- Searching: CROs’ rental listings program tips, when to look, what to say, how to inspect the rental
- Moving In: Condition of Rental Property Checklist, making a rental folder, meeting neighbors
- Living In: Shared household, being a good neighbor, being a good host, fun things to do in Santa Cruz, landlord obligations, tenants’ rights and responsibilities
- Moving Out: Giving legal notice to vacate, move-out steps, security deposit returns laws, what to do when there are problems
- Applicable tenant-landlord rental laws and resources

**Take our Online Renters Workshop and increase your rental knowledge today!**

Phone: (831) 459-4435 Fax: (831) 459-3665 Email: communityrentals@ucsc.edu Web: communityrentals.ucsc.edu
Visit: 104 Hahn Student Services Bldg Monday-Friday 8a.m.-5p.m., including the lunch hour
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Updated 1/2018
Indoor Activities

Art Galleries

Artisans Gallery
1368 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, 831-423-8183
Artisans Gallery features American-made crafts with an emphasis on the work of local artists that Santa Cruz and the surrounding communities have to offer.
www.artisanssantacruz.com

Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery
Art gallery located at Cowell College, UC Santa Cruz. Open through the academic year.
cowell.ucsc.edu/smith-gallery

First Fridays Art
Tour of the Arts of Santa Cruz in which business owners offer space for local art to be displayed.
www.firstfridaysantacruz.com

Frans Lanting Gallery
108 High Road, Santa Cruz, 831-429-1331
Fine prints, books, videos, and posters of nature and wildlife by National Geographic photographer, Frans Lanting.
www.lanting.com

Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery
12:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. Tues-Sat. 12-8p.m. Wed.
Art gallery located in Porter College, UC Santa Cruz. Open through the academic year.
arts.ucsc.edu/sesnon/

Santa Cruz Art League
526 Broadway, Santa Cruz, 831-426-5787
Gallery with free monthly fine art exhibits. Gift shop features local artisans.
www.scal.org

Museums

Bigfoot Museum
5497 Highway 9, Felton, 831-335-4478
Learn about and track the whereabouts of Bigfoot!
www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com

Capitola Historical Museum
410 Capitola Ave., Capitola, 831-464-0322
History and art exhibits include historical photographs and artifacts of Capitola.
www.capitolamuseum.org

Davenport Jail Museum
2 Davenport Ave., Davenport, 831-429-1964
View the old Davenport jail. Check first for rare days of operation.
santacruzmah.org/historic-sites

The Museum of Art and History
705 Front St., Santa Cruz, 831-429-1964
Changing exhibitions of contemporary art and Santa Cruz history. Docent-led tours, lectures, family activities. Free admission monthly on the first Friday.
santacruzmah.org

Santa Cruz Surfing Museum
Mark Abbott Lighthouse, 701 West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz
831-420-6289
Unique little museum chronicling over 100 years of local surfing history.
www.santacruzsurfingmuseum.org

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
1305 East Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz, 831-420-6115
Exhibits on native peoples, geology, and local wildlife. Tide pool touch tank, live beehive, and life-size whale.
santacruzmuseum.org

Seymour Marine Discovery Center
100 Shaffer Rd., Santa Cruz, 831-459-3800
Exhibit halls, aquarium, tours, and discovery shop.
seymourcenter.ucsc.edu
Bakeries, Coffee Houses & Ice Cream Shops

**The Abbey**  
350 Mission St., Santa Cruz  
831-429-1058

**The Bagelry**  
320 Cedar St., Santa Cruz  
831-429-8049  
1636 Seabright Ave.  
831-425-8550

**The Buttery**  
702 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-458-3020

**Cafe Bene**  
1101 Cedar St., Santa Cruz  
831-425-0441

**Café Delmarette**  
1126 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-420-1025

**Coffeetopia**  
1723 Mission St., Santa Cruz  
831-425-6583

**Companion Bakeshop**  
2341 Mission St., Santa Cruz  
831-252-2253

**Emily’s Bakery**  
1129 Mission St., Santa Cruz  
831-429-9866

**Firefly Coffee House**  
131 Front St., Santa Cruz  
831-713-5799

**Gayle’s Bakery**  
504 Bay Ave., Capitola  
831-462-1200

**Hidden Peak Teahouse**  
1541-C Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-423-4200

**Hoffman’s Bistro**  
1102 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-420-0135

**Java Junction**  
580 River St. #A, Santa Cruz  
831-426-2128

**Jamba Juice**  
1550 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-426-5262  
1820 Mission St., Santa Cruz  
831-421-0572

**Kelly’s French Bakery**  
402 Ingalls St., Santa Cruz  
831-423-9059

**LuLu Carpenters**  
1545 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-439-9200

**LuLu’s at the Octagon**  
118 Cooper St., Santa Cruz  
831-429-5858

**Marini’s Candies**  
1308 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-423-3299  
400 Beach St., Santa Cruz  
831-423-7258

**Mission Hill Creamery**  
1101 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-216-6421

**Pacific Cookie Company**  
1203 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-429-6905

**Peet’s Coffee**  
1409 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-457-8170

**Penny Ice Creamery**  
913 Cedar St., Santa Cruz  
831-204-2523

**Peoples’ Coffee**  
1200 17th Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-464-2739

**The Picnic Basket**  
125 Beach St., Santa Cruz  
831-427-9946

**SC Coffee Roasting Company**  
1330 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-459-0100

**Starbucks**  
1335 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-429-7681  
745 Ocean St, Santa Cruz  
(831) 247-2360  
2203 Mission St, Santa Cruz  
(831) 429-9811

**Verve**  
1540 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-600-7784  
1010 Fair Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-431-6547  
816 41st Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-475-7776  
104 Bronson St., Santa Cruz, CA  
831-471-8469

**Westside Coffee Company**  
849 Almar Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-427-1300

**Whale City Bakery Bar & Grill**  
490 Coast Rd., Davenport  
831-423-9009

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**Bonny Doon Kilns Upper Laguna Creek**  
This 2.4-mile path wanders through old-growth forests and past meandering creeks to century-old limestone kilns.  
www.limekilnlegacies.com

**Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park**  
144 School St., Santa Cruz, 831-425-5849  
The historic park is downtown on Mission Plaza. The adobe is located off of the plaza on School Street.  
https://www.parks.ca.gov/

**San Lorenzo Valley Museum**  
12547 Highway 9, Boulder Creek  
831-338-8382  
Features a yearly series of historical talks with expert speakers.

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**Performing Arts**

**Art League Broadway Playhouse**  
526 Broadway, Santa Cruz  
831-425-9378  
Art playhouse hosting plays and more.  
westperformingarts.com

**Kuumbwa Jazz Center**  
320 Cedar St. #2, Santa Cruz  
831-427-2227  
World-renowned jazz artists weekly.  
www.kuumbwajazz.org

**Jewel Theatre**  
1010 River St., Santa Cruz  
831-425-7506  
New written works and local actors.  
www.jeweltheatre.net

**Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium**  
307 Church St., Santa Cruz  
831-420-5260  
Author readings, concerts, and Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music.  
www.cityofsantacruz.com/

**Santa Cruz Symphony**  
307 Church St, Santa Cruz  
831-462-0553  
Live music every concert season  
santacruzsymphony.org/

**UCSC Theater Arts Center and Music Center Recital Hall**  
1156 High St., Santa Cruz  
831-459-2787  
arts.ucsc.edu
Creative Activities

Petroglyph Ceramic Lounge
125 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz
831-458-4278
Paint your own ceramics.

Santa Cruz Knitting Meet-up
Check website for week's location
Mingle and trade knitting tips. Saturdays 3:00-6:00 p.m., year-round. Drop-ins welcome.
www.meetup.com/knitting-115

Movie Theaters

The Del Mar
1124 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-469-3220
Also shows midnight movie classics Friday and Saturday nights.
www.landmarktheatres.com

Nickelodeon Theatre
210 Lincoln St., Santa Cruz
831-426-7500
Independent and foreign films.
www.landmarktheatres.com/

Regal Cinemas Santa Cruz 9
1405 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
844-462-7342
www.fandango.com

Riverfront Twin
155 S River St., Santa Cruz
831-429-7252

Sports

Boardwalk Bowl
115 Cliff St., Santa Cruz
831-426-3324
www.boardwalkbowl.com

Neptune's Kingdom:
Indoor Mini Golf
400 Beach St., Santa Cruz
Open until 11p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
831-423-5590, beachboardwalk.com/neptuneskingdom/

Pacific Edge Indoor Climbing Gym
104 Bronson St. #12, Santa Cruz
831-454-9254
pacificedgeclimbinggym.com

Santa Cruz County Cycling Club
Meeting spots vary. Club for the serious cyclist who likes to have fun.
www.santacruzcyclists.org

Santa Cruz Roller Palladium
1606 Seabright Ave., Santa Cruz
831-423-0844

Spas

Tea House Spa
112 Elm St., Santa Cruz
831-426-9700
www.teahousespa.com

Well Within Spa
417 Cedar St., Santa Cruz
831-458-9355
www.wellwithinspa.com

Other Attractions

Beach Boardwalk
400 Beach St., Santa Cruz
831-423-5590
CA's oldest amusement park on the beach.
www.beachboardwalk.com

Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary
35 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-421-9993
Explore our remarkable bay. Free admission.
montereybay.noaa.gov

The Mystery Spot
465 Mystery Spot Rd., Santa Cruz
831-423-8897
Perceptions of the laws of physics and gravity are questioned here.
www.mysteryspot.com

Roaring Camp Railroads
5401 Graham Hill Rd., Felton
831-335-4484
Scenic beach and forest steam train rides, BBQ’s, and music.
www.roaringcamp.com

Santa Cruz Wharf
21 Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz
831-420-5725
Take a fishing trip, rent a boat, eat fresh seafood, or do a little shopping.
cityofsantacruz.com/departments/wharf

Martial Arts

Aikido of Santa Cruz
306 Mission St., Santa Cruz
831-423-8326, aikidosantacruz.org

Aptos Martial Arts Academy
9032 Soquel Dr., Aptos
831-688-1118, www.aptosmartialartsacademy.com

Shopping

Capitola Village
Mediterranean-style village located 5 miles south of Santa Cruz.
www.capitolavillage.com

Downtown Pacific Avenue
Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
Offers shops, restaurants, and street performers.
www.downtownsantacruz.com

Bookshop Santa Cruz
1520 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-423-0900
Find new & used books, newstands, cards, and Santa Cruz t-shirts. Free weekly author events in the heart of downtown.
www.bookshopsantacruz.com

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www.bookshopsantacruz.com
**Thrift Stores**

- **Cognito**
  821 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
  831-426-5414
  Vintage clothing, Hawaiian shirts, halloween costumes, and wigs.

- **Crossroads Trading Company**
  811 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
  831-458-2555
  Buy, sell, and trade gently used clothing.

- **Goodwill**
  204 Union St., Santa Cruz
  831-423-1078
  Clothing, shoes, belts, ties, purses, books, furniture, lamps, small appliances, curtains, dishes, and more.

- **Moon Zoom**
  813 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
  831-423-8500
  Vintage and eclectic clothing-shop full of materials such as feathers, satin, and velvet.

- **Retro Paradise**
  1010 Pacific Ave. #C+D, Santa Cruz
  831-460-9960
  Small store of vintage clothing, hats, shoes, accessories, and jewelry.

- **The Salvation Army**
  812 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
  831-429-8118
  Used clothing, furniture, and accessories.

- **Thrift Center**
  1305 Water St., Santa Cruz
  831-429-6975

**Bicycling (Sales & Rentals)**

- **Another Bike Shop**
  61 Mission St., Santa Cruz
  831-427-2232

- **The Bicycle Trip**
  1001 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz
  831-427-2580

- **The Bike Church**
  703 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
  831-425-2453

- **Bike Santa Cruz County**
  703 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz
  831-425-0665

- **Bike Station**
  3555 Clares Street. Ste T. Capitola
  831-226-5050

- **Bill’s Bike Repair**
  2630 Soquel Dr., Santa Cruz
  831-477-0511

- **Cycle Works**
  1420 Mission St., Santa Cruz
  831-316-7671

- **Dave’s Custom Bikes**
  910 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz
  831-423-8923

- **Epicenter Cycling**
  8035 Soquel Dr., Aptos
  831-662-8100
  1730 Mission St., Santa Cruz
  831-423-9000

**Surfboard Sales and Rentals**

- **Cowell’s Beach Surf Shop**
  30 Front St., Santa Cruz
  831-427-2355

- **Club Ed**
  101 Beach St., Santa Cruz
  831-459-6664

- **Freeline Design Surf Shop**
  821 41st Ave., Santa Cruz
  831-476-2950

- **Haut Surf & Sailboards**
  345 Swift St., Santa Cruz
  831-426-7874

- **O’Neil Surf Shop**
  1115 41st Ave, Capitola
  831-475-4151

- **Pacific Wave**
  1502 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
  831-458-9283

- **Rip Curl**
  1604 Mission (Outlet), Santa Cruz
  831-454-0360
  1395 Pacific Ave
  831-713-3914
  753 41st Ave., Santa Cruz
  831-464-3233

Print out your own copy of Fun Things To Do in Santa Cruz at communityrentals.ucsc.edu
Outdoor Water Activities

Water Sports & Lessons

Adventure Sports Unlimited
303 Potrero St. #15, Santa Cruz
831-458-3648
Training in diving, kayaking, swimming, and other water activities offered.
www.asudoit.com

Aqua Safaris Scuba Center
6896 Soquel Ave. #A, Santa Cruz
831-479-4386
Programs to learn scuba diving.
aquasafaris.com

Capitola Boat and Bait
1400 Wharf Rd., Capitola
831-462-2208
Full bait and tackle store with daily skiff rentals, pole rentals, and gift shop.
www.capitolaboatandbait.com

Kayak Connection
413 Lake Ave. #3, Santa Cruz
831-479-1121
Offers sea kayaking rental, instruction, and tours.
www.kayakconnection.com

Lighthouse Yacht Charters
790 Mariner Park Way, Santa Cruz
831-429-1970
Sailing lessons offered that prepare you to take out a boat without a captain on board.
www.lighthallcharters.com

Pacific Yachting & Sailing
790 Mariner Park Way, Santa Cruz
831-423-7245
Full-service sailing school
www.pacificsail.com

Santa Cruz Boat Rentals
#15 Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz
831-423-1739
Daily skiff and pole rentals.
www.capitolaboatandbait.com

Venture Quest Kayaking
#2 Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz
831-425-8445
Explore the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary from a kayak.
www.kayaksantacruz.com

Beaches

Capitola Beach
Reminiscent of a Meditarranean village. Take Bay and Porter exit off Highway 1.
www.cityofcapitola.org/community

Cowell/Main Beach
Beach St., Santa Cruz
Main beach is in front of the Boardwalk, Cowell beach is to the right.

Lighthouse Field State Beach
740 West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz
831-429-2850
State beach overlooking the internationally renowned surfing hotspot Steamer Lane.

The Hook
East Cliff Dr. at 41st Ave
Popular surf spot.

Natural Bridges State Beach
2531 West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz
831-423-4609
Tide pools and seasonal Monarch Butterfly sanctuary.
www.parks.ca.gov/naturalbridges

New Brighton Beach
Located in Capitola off Highway 1 at New Brighton/Park Ave. exit
www.parks.ca.gov/newbrighton

Pleasure Point Beach
East Cliff Dr. & Pleasure Point Dr., Santa Cruz
One of the area's most popular surf spots.

Rio Del Mar Beach
Rio Del Mar Blvd. and Beach Dr., Aptos
831-685-6500
Fire pits.

Seacliff Beach
721 State Park Dr., Aptos
831-685-6500
Barbecues, picnic areas, and 1-mile promenade

Seabright Beach
1305 East Cliff Dr. at Seabright Ave.,
831-427-4868
A mile of sandy shoreline, popular for surfing, swimming, and campfires.

Twin Lakes State Beach
Located at the end of 7th Ave., Santa Cruz
thatsmypark.org/

Wilder Beach
North of Santa Cruz, between Natural Bridges and Wilder Ranch along Highway 1

Whale Watching & Boating

Chardonnay Sailing Charters
790 Mariner Park Way, Dock FF, Santa Cruz
831-423-1213
70-foot luxury sailing yacht to charter.
www.chardonnay.com

Stagnaro Charter Boats
789 Mariner Park Way, Santa Cruz
831-427-2334
Fishing trips, scenic bay cruises, whale and dolphin watching, and private parties.
www.stagnaros.com

O’Neill Sea Odyssey
2222 East Cliff Dr. #222, Santa Cruz
831-462-9188
Charter the 65-foot Team O'Neill catamaran for up to 49 passengers.
www.oneillseaodyssey.org

Club Ed Surf School & Rentals, Inc
101 Beach St., Santa Cruz
831-464-0177
Located on the beach between the Wharf and the Dream Inn. club-ed.com/

Richard Schmidt Surf School, Inc.
831-423-0928
Reasonably-priced group rates.
www.richardschmidt.com

Surf Instruction
### Outdoor Land Activities

#### Parks (Hiking, Mountain Biking, Skateboarding, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jim Keefe Skate Park and Santa Cruz County Highland Park</td>
<td>8500 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond, Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz</td>
<td>831-454-7938</td>
<td>Jim Keefe Skate Park and Santa Cruz County Highland Park 8500 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Basin State Park</td>
<td>21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek, CA 95005</td>
<td>831-338-8860</td>
<td>Big Basin State Park is home to the largest continuous stand of ancient coastal redwoods south of San Francisco. <a href="http://www.redwoodhikes.com/BigBasin/BigBasin.html">www.redwoodhikes.com/BigBasin/BigBasin.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey West Park</td>
<td>326 Evergreen St., Santa Cruz, CA 95062</td>
<td>831-420-5270</td>
<td>Harvey West Park 326 Evergreen St., Santa Cruz. Pool, picnic areas and baseball fields. <a href="http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/services/parks-and-recreation">www.cityofsantacruz.com/services/parks-and-recreation</a> Harvey West Park 326 Evergreen St., Santa Cruz. Pool, picnic areas and baseball fields. <a href="http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/services/parks-and-recreation">www.cityofsantacruz.com/services/parks-and-recreation</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz City Parks</td>
<td>Santa Cruz is rich with parks with trails for outdoor enthusiasts seeking hiking, picnicking, sports, wildlife, and more. <a href="http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/services/parks-and-recreation">www.cityofsantacruz.com/services/parks-and-recreation</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Santa Cruz City Parks Santa Cruz is rich with parks with trails for outdoor enthusiasts seeking hiking, picnicking, sports, wildlife, and more. <a href="http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/services/parks-and-recreation">www.cityofsantacruz.com/services/parks-and-recreation</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Map</td>
<td>Local website for mountain biking as well as street cycling. <a href="http://www.sccrtc.org/services/bike/#bikemap">www.sccrtc.org/services/bike/#bikemap</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bike Map Local website for mountain biking as well as street cycling. <a href="http://www.sccrtc.org/services/bike/#bikemap">www.sccrtc.org/services/bike/#bikemap</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Creek State Park</td>
<td>1400 Felton Empire Rd., Felton, CA 95016</td>
<td>831-335-4598</td>
<td>Fall Creek State Park 1400 Felton Empire Rd., Felton. Hikes in Fall Creek. <a href="http://www.thatsmymap.org">www.thatsmymap.org</a> Fall Creek State Park 1400 Felton Empire Rd., Felton. Hikes in Fall Creek. <a href="http://www.thatsmymap.org">www.thatsmymap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quail Hollow Ranch County Park</td>
<td>800 Quail Hollow Rd., Felton, CA 95016</td>
<td>831-335-4598</td>
<td>Quail Hollow Ranch County Park 800 Quail Hollow Rd., Felton. 4.5 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. <a href="http://www.scparks.com/home/">www.scparks.com/home/</a> Quail Hollow Ranch County Park 800 Quail Hollow Rd., Felton. 4.5 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. <a href="http://www.scparks.com/home/">www.scparks.com/home/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Coast Trail Runs</td>
<td>Organizers of Skyline to Sea marathon. Trail runs all over Monterey and San Francisco Bay areas. <a href="http://www.pctrailruns.com/">www.pctrailruns.com/</a></td>
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<td>Pacific Coast Trail Runs Organizers of Skyline to Sea marathon. Trail runs all over Monterey and San Francisco Bay areas. <a href="http://www.pctrailruns.com/">www.pctrailruns.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monterey Bay Horsemanship and Therapeutic Center</td>
<td>475 Eucalyptus Way, La Selva Beach, CA 95068</td>
<td>831-761-1142</td>
<td>Monterey Bay Horsemanship and Therapeutic Center 475 Eucalyptus Way, La Selva Beach. Classes offered by qualified instructors, Monday through Saturday. <a href="http://www.gombhtc.org">www.gombhtc.org</a> Monterey Bay Horsemanship and Therapeutic Center 475 Eucalyptus Way, La Selva Beach. Classes offered by qualified instructors, Monday through Saturday. <a href="http://www.gombhtc.org">www.gombhtc.org</a></td>
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<td>831-475-5935</td>
<td>Capitola Parks and Recreation 4400 Jade St., Capitola. Reasonably-priced tennis classes for all levels of ability. <a href="http://www.capitola-parks-and-recreation.com">www.capitola-parks-and-recreation.com</a> Capitola Parks and Recreation 4400 Jade St., Capitola. Reasonably-priced tennis classes for all levels of ability. <a href="http://www.capitola-parks-and-recreation.com">www.capitola-parks-and-recreation.com</a></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Golf & Disc Golf
Boulder Creek Golf and Country Club
16901 Big Basin Hwy, Boulder Creek
831-338-2121
Cassery Par 3 Golf Course
626 Casserly Rd., Watsonville
casserlygolf.com
DeLaveaga Disc Golf Club
DeLaveaga Park, Branciforte Dr., Santa Cruz
One of the world’s most highly-rated disc golf courses. Known for its inspiring setting and uncompromising challenge.
www.delaveagadiscgolf.com
DeLaveaga Golf Course & Driving Range
401 Upper Park Rd., Santa Cruz
831-423-7214
18-hole championship public golf course. Golfing, restaurant, and night-lighted driving range.
www.delaveagolf.com
Pajaro Valley Golf Course
967 Salinas Rd., Watsonville
831-724-3851
Pasatiempo Golf Club
20 Clubhouse Rd., Santa Cruz
831-459-9155
Ranked among the top 100 courses in the U.S.
www.pasatiempo.com
Seascape Golf Club
610 Clubhouse Dr., Aptos
831-688-3213
18-hole regulation public golf course.
www.seascapegc.com
Spring Hills Golf Course
501 Spring Hills Dr., Watsonville
831-724-1404
Valley Gardens Golf Course
263 Mt. Hermon Rd., Scotts Valley
831-438-3058

Nature Spots
Arboretum at UCSC
1156 High St., Santa Cruz
831-502-2998
World famous garden at the base of campus.
www.arboretum.ucsc.edu
Bamboo Giant
5601 Freedom Blvd., Aptos
831-687-0100
20 acres of over 60 varieties of bamboo, 3 self-guided walking tours.
www.bamboogiant.com
Monarch Grove
Natural Bridges State Beach
831-423-4609
Tour of a state-designated insect preserve and monarch butterfly grove.
www.parks.ca.gov

Public State Campgrounds
Big Basin Redwoods State Park
21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek
831-338-8860
One of the last areas of virgin redwood forest in the Santa Cruz mountains. One of the last areas of virgin redwood forest in the Santa Cruz mountains.
www.parks.ca.gov
Henry Cowell Redwoods & Fall Creek State Park
2591 Graham Hill Rd, Scotts Valley
831-335-4598
Manresa Uplands Campground
205 Manresa Uplands Rd., Watsonville
831-761-1795
New Brighton State Beach Park
1500 Park Ave., Capitola
831-464-6330
Seacliff State Beach
State Park Dr., Aptos - (RV only)
831-685-6442
Sunset State Beach
201 Sunset Beach Rd., Watsonville
831-763-7063

U-Pick Farms
Organic Strawberries and Kiwis
Swanton Berry Farms
25 Swanton Rd., Davenport
831-469-8804
www.swantonberryfarm.com/
Olallieberries, Boysenberries, & Apples
Gizdich Ranch
55 Peckham Rd., Watsonville
831-722-1056
www.gizdich-ranch.com
Organic Apples
Swanton Pacific Ranch
125 Swanton Rd., Davenport
831-458-5410
www.spranch.org/events.html
Pumpkin Farms
Fambrini’s Fresh Farm Produce
44 Coast Rd., Santa Cruz
831-423-5891
Rodoni Farms Pumpkin Patch
4444 Coast Rd
831-426-0666
www.rodonifarms.com
Seaside Pumpkins
½ mile north of Davenport on Hwy 1, open in October. 831-426-6438

Outdoors Vendors
Antique Fair
8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Second Sunday of every month. Located on Lincoln St. (between Pacific Ave. & Cedar St.), in downtown Santa Cruz. Vendors offer an eclectic blend of antiques, vintage, and unique items in an outdoor street fair. 831-476-6940
Santa Cruz Flea-Market
2260 Soquel Dr., Santa Cruz
831-462-4442
An array of goods sold by individual vendors, laid out through a parking lot. Entry fees per person: $1.00 on Friday, $1.50 on Saturday, and $2.50 on Sunday.
Farmers Markets

Aptos Farmers Market
8:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Saturdays at Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos
Offers organic and non-organic produce, flowers, pasta, coffee, and music. Largest market in the county.
www.montereybayfarmers.org/markets

Downtown Santa Cruz Farmers’Market
1:30p.m.-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Lincoln St. and Cedar St., Santa Cruz
Fruits and veggies grown by local farmers.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

Felton Farmers Market
2:30p.m.-6:30p.m. Tuesdays, May through October at 120 Russell Ave., Felton.
Marketplace selling seasonal produce.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

Live Oak Farmers Market
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m. Sundays year-round at 15th and East Cliff Dr. Provides sustainable sources of fresh produce and other unique foods.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

Scotts Valley Farmers Market
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m. Saturdays at 360 Kings Village Dr., Scotts Valley.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org/markets/scotts-valley

Watsonville Farmers Market
3:00p.m.-7:00p.m. Every Friday. 1:00-6:00p.m. Every Sunday.
Located on Main and Peck Street (at the plaza). Live music on first Fridays of the month.
831-234-9511

Westside Farmers Market
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m. Saturdays at Western Dr. and Mission St., Santa Cruz
Food for sale from local farmers.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

The UCSC Market Cart
12:00p.m. to 6:00p.m., Tuesday & Friday. Early June through October on the corner of Bay and High Street.

Food Trucks

Cruz N Gourmet
Found at UCSC Baskin Circle School of Engineering weekdays at lunch
831-251-2223
www.cruzngourmet.com/

Raymonds Food Truck
Found behind UCSC Phyiscal Sciences Building weekdays at lunch

The Truck Stop
Found at W. Cliff Dr. and Sundays at Live Oak Farmers Market.
831-621-7361

Other Destinations near Santa Cruz

Aptos
10 miles south of Santa Cruz, Aptos consists of a number of small communities. You’ll find boutiques, restaurants, a landmark 1870’s Bayview Hotel and access to 30 miles of hiking/ riding Redwood forest trails in the village of Aptos, on the east side of the freeway. Seaciff, Rio Del Mar and Seascape beaches to the west afford miles of wide, sandy, sunny beaches; Seaciff Beach has barbeques, picnic tables, and a fishing pier. Aptos Chamber of Commerce
www.aptoschamber.com

Monterey
About 50 minutes from Santa Cruz, Monterey boasts a dazzling waterfront along one of only 13 federally protected national marine sanctuaries in the country. This coastal community offers historic and cultural resources, museums, gardens, and recreational activities. Watch sea lions and migrating whales from the coastline or kayak in the waters shared with dolphins and sea otters. Home to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and next to carmel-by-the-sea.
www.monterey.org

Capitola
This region with a mediterranean ambience, just a few minutes south of Santa Cruz, is full of tradition and an interesting history. Founded in 1869, Capitola is California’s oldest seaside resort town and still exudes its quintessential beach charm with craft galleries, salt water taffy, sandcastles and colorful beach bungalows. Capitola Chamber of Commerce.
www.capitolachamber.com/
www.ci.capitola.ca.us

San Lorenzo Valley
The Santa Cruz Mountain communities are about 15 minutes from the bustling coast. The 25-mile long San Lorenzo River threads through the towns of Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Ben Lomond, and Felton. San Lorenzo Valley offers cafes, antique stores, shops, galleries, railroads, and hiking trails. The valley is also home to the oldest State Park in California, Big Basin. If you want to visit California Redwoods, this is the place to start.
www.hwyy9.com

Davenport
A 25-minute drive up the coast from Santa Cruz, Davenport rests along the Pacific Ocean and is home to art galleries, restaurants, and charming cafes. In the winter months, migrating whales can be seen just off shore.
www.santacruzca.org/regions/davenport.php

Soquel
This cozy region just minutes south of Santa Cruz is reminiscent of another time in history. The 150-year-old town lies inland from Capitola. You’ll find antique dealers, scenic two-lane roads, and the Ugly Mug, a music and art venue.
www.santacruz.org/destinations/capitola-soquel

Print out your own copy of Fun Things To Do in Santa Cruz at communityrentals.ucsc.edu
Classes/Organized Activities

UCSC Office of Physical Education, Recreation & Sports
Promoting physical education and wellness through a myriad of activities.
831-459-2806
opers.ucsc.edu

The Palomar Ballroom
1344 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-426-1221
Dance studio. Visit web for class schedule.
www.palomarballroom.com

Capitola/Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation

Capitola:
Examples of classes:
- Arts and Crafts
- Community Sing
- Dance
- Drumming
- Guitar
- Japanese, Portuguese
- Jazz
- Jewelry
- Kayaking
- Martial Arts
- Sailing
- Tennis
- Watercolor painting
- Yoga

www.capitolarecreation.com
831-475-5935

Santa Cruz:
Examples of classes:
- Adult Sports Leagues
- Acting and Movement
- Baking with Chocolate
- Beach Volleyball
- Climbing
- Cooks Workshop Basics
- Dance
- Golf
- Hand Drumming
- Sailing
- Salsa Crash Course Cuban Style
- Sewing
- Women’s Self Defence

www.cityofsantacruz.com/services/parks-and-recreation
831-420-5270

Personal Enrichment Program
Dominican Hospital offers classes and support groups concerning health. They offer several short sessions, each one is about a month long.

Special interest classes may include:
- Aquatic Exercises
- Body Centered Awareness
- CPR
- Mindfulness Stress Reduction
- Nutrition Counseling
- Pilates
- Tai Chi/Qi Gong
- Yoga

www.dominicanhospital.org
831-457-7099

Volunteer Opportunities

Become a Monterey Bay Master Gardener
1430 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville
In becoming a Master Gardener, you will have the opportunity to give back to your community through different forms of volunteering.
mbmg.org

UCSC Student Volunteer Center
Provides information about both long-term and one-time volunteer opportunities with a variety of organizations. Also offers grant opportunities.
www2.ucsc.edu/svc

Volunteer Centers of Santa Cruz County
Great resource for county-wide volunteer opportunities.
www.scvolunteercenter.org

Volunteer Match
Search online listings of hundreds of opportunities in the Santa Cruz area.
www.volunteermatch.org

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| **Above the Line**  
Above the Line is an organization that aims to reduce teen homelessness in Santa Cruz County.  
www.abovetheline.org |
| **Ag Against Hunger**  
831-755-1480  
Help provide hungry people with surplus produce from local fields.  
www.agagainsthunger.org |
| **Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Programs**  
831-454-5003  
Participate in educational workshops, college programming, and peer education. |
| **Big Brothers and Sisters**  
1500 41st Ave., Suite 250, Capitola  
831-464-8691  
Be a mentor to local youth.  
www.santacruzmentor.org |
| **Familia Center**  
711 East Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz  
831-423-5747  
Latino-based community resource that offers recreational and educational programs for youth.  
communitybridges.org/nvcr |
| **Friends Outside**  
740 17th Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-427-5078  
Friends Outside provides programs and services to incarcerated individuals in state prisons all over California.  
scvolunteercenter.org//friends-outside/ |
| **Friends of Santa Cruz**  
831-429-1840  
Work with school groups, lead nature and history walks, host visitor centers or booths at special events. Apply through State Park's Docent Program.  
www.thatsmypark.org |
| **HIV Prevention Program**  
831-459-3772  
Provides the UC Santa Cruz community with information, resources, and support to lower the risk of contracting HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). Programs include Condom Co-op, free and anonymous HIV testing, presentations, outreach, and special events.  
healthcenter.ucsc.edu/shop |
| **Homeless Garden Project**  
831-426-3609  
People throughout the community are brought together in the beauty and security of this certified organic garden.  
www.homelessgardenproject.org |
| **Land Trust of Santa Cruz County**  
831-429-6116  
Help with a variety of jobs: staff booths, take tickets, direct traffic, clean-up, etc.  
www.landtrustsantacruz.org |
| **Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County**  
831-464-2950  
Help protect, conserve, and restore natural resources through participation in information, education, and technical assistance programs.  
www.rcdsantacruz.org |
| **Surfrider Foundation: Santa Cruz Chapter**  
831-476-7667  
Help prevent pollution by participating in classroom presentations, beach clean-ups, taking water samples, and many other opportunities.  
santacruz.surfrider.org/ |
| **Santa Cruz Area Radical Fairies**  
feysc@diversitycenter.org  
This group facilitates a variety of social activities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning persons. |
| **Santa Cruz State Parks**  
Volunteer to be a docent, campground host, trail worker, student intern, resource management volunteer, or to be on the horse bike patrol.  
www.thatsmypark.org |
| **Walnut Avenue Family and Women's Center**  
831-426-3062  
WAWC seeks to improve the economic, physical, and emotional well being of all families.  
wafwc.org |
**On-Going Events**

**Sundays**

**Dance Church**
9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. 418 Front St., Santa Cruz.
Freestyle DJ'd dance. Not affiliated with religion; dance represents a spiritual reverence. Donations suggested. the418project.com/dance-church

**Jazz Jam Sessions**
3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Four free hours of fun and spontaneous jazz played by musicians who have never rehearsed together.
www.santacruzjazz.org

**Live Oak Farmers Market**
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Provides sustainable sources of fresh produce and other unique foods every Sunday year round.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

**Mondays**

**Half Price Bowling at Boardwalk Bowl**
Mondays and Tuesday after 9:00 p.m. and weekdays 2:00-5:00 p.m.
www.boardwalkbowl.com

**International Jazz Series**
World-class jazz artists perform in concert at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center most Mondays.
www.kuumbwajazz.org

**Open Mic at The Ugly Mug**
5:30 p.m. Open Mic at The Ugly Mug Café in Soquel.
www.cafeugly.com

**Tuesdays**

**Half-Price Bowling at Boardwalk Bowl**
After 9:00 p.m.
www.boardwalkbowl.com

**Movie Night at The Ugly Mug**
7:30 p.m. Movie nights at The Ugly Mug Café in Soquel.
www.cafeugly.com

**Wednesdays**

**Downtown Farmers Market**
1:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Lincoln and Cedar St. in Downtown Santa Cruz. www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org/markets/

**Sailboat Races**
During the months of March through October. These Wednesday night races begin at 6:30 pm and last until 8:00 p.m. Contact the Santa Cruz Yacht Club for more information. 831-425-0690, www.scyc.org

**Fridays**

**Free Fridays at the Museum of Art and History**
1st Fridays of the month are free at the MAH. Changing exhibitions of contemporary art and Santa Cruz history. Docent-led tours, lectures, family activities.
www.santacruzmah.org

**Friday Night Bands at the Beach**
6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Classic rock bands of the 70s and 80s perform two free shows Friday nights on the beach during summer www.beachboardwalk.com

**Live Music at the Boardwalk Bowl**
Live music at Boardwalk Bowl while bowling. Check the web site to know when there will be live music.
www.boardwalkbowl.com

**Midnights at the Del Mar**
The Del Mar Theater features a variety of movies and prizes.
1124 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
https://www.landmarktheatres.com/santa-cruz

**Watsonville Farmers Market**
3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. every Friday. The Watsonville Farmers Market, located on Main and Peak Street, provides fresh and locally grown foods. Live music on first Fridays of the month.
831-234-9511
**Saturdays**

**Aptos Farmers Market**
8:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Open year-round. Located at Cabrillo College. It is the premier farmers market in the county.
6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos
www.montereybayfarmers.org

**Arboretum Garden Tour**
11:00a.m. of the first Saturday of each month. The tour is free with admission to the Arboretum.
arboretum.ucsc.edu

**Midnights at the Del Mar**
The Del Mar Theater features a variety of movies and prizes.
1124 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
landmarktheatres.com

**Santa Cruz Knitting Meet-up**
3:00-6:00 p.m. Mingle and trade knitting tips year-round. Drop-ins welcome. Check web site for week’s location
knitting.meetup.com/115/

**Scotts Valley Farmers Market**
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.
Located at 360 Kings Village Dr., Scotts Valley Community Center.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

**Westside Farmers Market**
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m., 2801 Mission St., Santa Cruz Food from local farmers.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

**Other**

**Karaoke at the Boardwalk**
Boardwalk Bowl six nights a week. 831-426-3324
boardwalkbowl.com

**Kuumbwa Jazz**
Concert hall dedicated to bringing jazz to the community through performances and education.
www.kuumbwajazz.org/calendar
Yearly Events in Santa Cruz

January

**Annual Arboretum Volunteer Training Classes** – University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum. There are a variety of opportunities open to volunteers which will help to expand knowledge about plants and gardens. arboretum.ucsc.edu

**Elephant Seal Walks** – Año Nuevo State Reserve; All month. To view the seals during this season, you must be on a guided walk. These popular three-mile walks over rolling sand dunes last about two and a half hours. 650-879-2025, www.parks.ca.gov/

**Eight Tens at Eight, Ten Minute Play Festival** – Santa Cruz Actors’ Theater; Mid- to Late January. The Actors’ Theater on Center Street hosts Eight Tens at Eight. Both local and national playwrights compact works into eight never before produced ten-minute plays. www.sccat.org, 831-335-4409

**Monarch Butterfly Tours** – Monarch Grove near Natural Bridges; Every weekend of January. Guided tours of the monarch grove take place during the winter months, when migrating monarchs come to Santa Cruz. Monarch migration is variable, so before you visit, call the park to find out population particulars. 831-423-4609, www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=541

**Santa Cruz Fungus Fair** – Louden Nelson Center; Early January. The Fungus Fair displays extraordinary mushrooms, delicacies and enticing cooking demonstrations. Visitors may bring mushrooms for identification. www.ffsc.us

**Santa Cruz Chocolate Festival** – Cocoanut Grove; On a Sunday, mid-January. This festival is a celebration of all things chocolate. Chocolate tastings from area vendors, a silent auction, and live jazz are featured. www.santacruzchocolatefestival.org

**The Volcom Great White Surf** – Steamer’s Lane; Late January. This surf contest annually graces Santa Cruz with its presence. www.volcom.com/events/

**Volunteer Docent Training** – Seymour Center; Mid-January. Join the Seymour Center team for a ten week docent training course and learn about current topics in marine science and conservation from the researchers and trainers at Long Marine Lab. No experience necessary. 831-459-3800, seymourcenter.ucsc.edu/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-job-descriptions

February

**Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour** – Rio Theater; Late February. This film festival facilitates journeying to exotic locations, presenting amazing big-screen stories. 831-459-2806, recreation.ucsc.edu/custom-programs/banffpage

**Clam Chowder Cook-Off** – Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk; Mid February. Teams from all over the West Coast compete for the “Best Clam Chowder” award. The purchase of a tasting kit allows one to vote for which chowder is the best. 831-423-5590, www.beachboardwalk.com/clamchowder

**Migration Festival** – Various locations; Mid-February. Migration Festival at Natural Bridges, Seacliff, New Brighton and Henry Cowell State Parks will celebrate animals that migrate with crafts, games and more. 831-425-5849, www.thatsmypark.org/
February continued

**Quilted Memories Quilt Show** – Santa Cruz County Fair Grounds; On a weekend in late February; pvqa.org

**Volunteers’ Annual Training** – Wilder Ranch; Early February; sign-ups through January. This event allows volunteers to come forth to give heart and soul to the “Life on the Ranch” and other activities at Wilder Ranch State Park. 831-426-0505

March

**Best of the Rest** – Santa Cruz Actors’ Theater; Late March. The “Best of the Rest,” stages readings of the runner-ups of the Eight Tens contest. 831-335-4409, sccat.org

**Santa Cruz Kayak Surf Festival** – Lighthouse Point; Late March. This festival features world class champions in kayaking, wave skiing, stand-up paddle surfing, gala parties and free demonstrations. 831-458-3648, https://santacruzpaddlefest.com/

**Santa Cruz Half Marathon** – The Santa Cruz Half Marathon consists of a 13.1-mile run/walk past breathtaking vistas of the Pacific coastline. www.firstwave-events.com/

April

**AIDS Walk** – Various locations; Mid-April. An AIDS walk organized by the UCSC Student Health Organization begins at the Santa Cruz Wharf. 831-427-3900, www.encompasscs.org/community-support-services/santa-cruz-aids-project-scaps

**Ducky Derby & Carnival** – Harvey West Park, Friendship Gardens; Late April. This event features a carnival, entertainment, rubber duck races, prizes, food, and more. Fundraiser for scholarships and local charities. 831-479-4070, duckyderbysantacruz.org/

**Hanamatsuri Festival** – Watsonville; Mid-April. The Watsonville Buddhist Temple hosts the Hanamatsuri Festival of Flowers with displays and demonstrations. Free admission. 831-724-7860, wbtemple.orgl

**Jazz on the Wharf** – Santa Cruz Wharf; Mid-April. Jazz on the Wharf features live jazz amidst the beautiful setting of Santa Cruz Wharf. 831-420-5273, www.cityofsantacruz.com/
**April continued**

**HOPE Concert** – University of Santa Cruz; Early April. The HOPE event takes place outside of the Multi-Purpose Room of UCSC’s College Nine and Ten. This yearly concert combines live entertainment with activism opportunities. 831-459-1253, ucsc.edu

**The Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society Show** – Late April. Feature a variety of jewels, jade and ancient fossils. scrockngem.org

**Wednesday Night Sailboat Races** – At the beginning of Daylight Savings Time, through October. These Wednesday night races begin at 6:30 pm and last until 8:00 p.m. Contact the Santa Cruz Yacht Club for more information. 831-425-0690, www.scyc.org

**May**

**Civil War Battle Encampment** – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late May. The annual Civil War Battle and Encampment at Roaring Camp Railroad stages encampments of Union and Confederate soldiers and battles at one of the West’s longest running Civil War reenactments. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

**Santa Cruz Blue Grass Fair** – San Lorenzo Park, early May. There is free admission to live performances, and a raffle. scbs.org/events/

**Strawberry and Justice Festival** – The Farm, UCSC; Join UCSC for strawberry shortcake and Bluegrass tunes at this fundraiser. $5 donation requested. 831-459-3240, casfs.ucsc.edu

**La Guelaguetza** – Harbor High School. This event celebrates brings the Oaxacan community coming together from near and far to celebrate with music, traditional costumes, food, and dance. losmejicas.ucsc.edu

**Surf Shop Challenge** – Pleasure Point or Steamer’s Lane; May. Oakley presents a surfing competition for local surf shops. 949-325-6192, surfshopchallenge.com/
June

Father's Day – Hats Off to Dad – Roaring Camp Railroads; Father's Day. This steam train ride and chuck wagon BBQ is accompanied by live country entertainment. Each dad receives an engineer's cap, and one lucky Dad is selected per train to ride down the mountain in the cab of the locomotive. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com


Juneteenth Celebration – Laurel Park; Second Saturday of June. The signing of the Emancipation Proclamation is celebrated in Laurel Park. The event is free and offers soul food for the mind and body. 831-420-6177

Los Mejicas Annual Spring Concert – UCSC Theater Arts Mainstage; Early June. This annual performance, featuring traditional dances from various regions of Mexico, is performed by UCSC students. 831-459-2159, events.ucsc.edu

Woodies on the Wharf – Santa Cruz Wharf; Late June. Surf City Classic: Woodies on the Wharf is a car show that also celebrates the surf spirit. 831-420-5273, www.santacruzwoodies.com/woodies-on-the-wharf

July

10K Firecracker Race – Harvey West Park; July 4th. Santa Cruz 10K Firecracker Race and Kids 1K is a scenic and challenging course. www.santacruzfirecracker10k.org

Family 4th of July Fest – Roaring Camp Railroads; July 4th. Roaring Camp Railroads hosts its annual 1950s Family July 4th Fest with a 1950s style sock hop, dance and hula hoop contest, sack races, balloon toss, BBQ and live entertainment. www.roaringcamp.com

Santa Cruz Shakespeare – The Grove at DeLaveaga Park; July through early August. Independent non-profit theatre company dedicated to the plays of William Shakespeare and other dynamic playwrights whose work celebrates language. santacruzshakespeare.org/

Annual Day at the Beach – Cowell’s Beach; Mid-July. Plywood placed over the sand allows those with mobility issues to enjoy the beach and engage in sports like kayaking, scuba diving, and water flotation. 831-459-7210, sharedadventures.org/

Boomeria Extravaganza – Boony Doon; Mid-July. This annual unique organ concert is a fundraiser for the SC Baroque Festival. 831-457-9693, www.scbaroque.org

Monterey Bay Birding Festival – Various locations. See 200 species of birds in this picturesque area of California on the Monterey Bay. 888-909-7829, www.montereybaybirding.org/

Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music – Cabrillo College; July through August. Preeminent and emerging compositions are performed, partly by renowned guest artists from across the globe, to give voice to works which are rarely more than a year or two old, and sometimes still wet on the page. 831-426-6966, www.cabrillomusic.org

Free Friday Night Bands on the Beach – Beach Boardwalk; Mid-July to Early September. The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk features two free live concerts every Friday night with bands from the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's. 831-423-5590, www.beachboardwalk.com
July continued

**Great Train Robberies** – Roaring Camp Railroads; Early July. Hold onto your valuables, as each train is sure to be robbed at Bear Mountain. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

**Moonlight Dinner Train** – Roaring Camp Railroads; one Saturday in July, August, September, and October. A moonlight dinner, dancing, and train ride through the redwood forest are scheduled once a month during the summer and fall. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

**Obon Festival** – Watsonville Buddhist Temple; Mid July. The Watsonville Buddhist Temple hosts Watsonville's Obon Festival with food, music, dance performances and demonstrations. 831-724-7860, www.wbtemple.org/

**Wharf to Wharf Race** – Various locations; Fourth Saturday of June. This race is a 6-mile run from Santa Cruz to Capitola-by-the-Sea. Runners are limited to 15,000 and tickets to participate sell out early. www.wharftowharf.com

**Roughwater Swim** – Santa Cruz Wharf; Late July. This one-mile swim around the Santa Cruz Wharf attracts ocean swimmers from all over Northern California. 831-420-6015, santacruzmasters.org

**Santa Cruz Mountains Challenge Bicycle Ride** – Various locations; Late July. This is a one day event on the West Coast with both a 100 mile and 100k events. www.santacruzcycling.org/

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**August**

**Redwood Dulcimer Festival** – Bonny Doon; Early August. This is a musical showcase from the talented Redwood Dulcimer Day staff and special guests that is eclectic and delights every year. During three 90-minute workshop sessions, there are diverse workshop options to choose from, catering to players from novice to advanced ability. www.redwooddulcimer.com/events.html

**The Watsonville Strawberry Festival** – Downtown Watsonville; Early August. The Strawberry Festival serves up a menu of various strawberry dishes, with entertainment and contests. www.mbsf.com

**Aloha Celebrity Races and Polynesian Festival** – Santa Cruz Wharf; Mid-August. Designed especially for new and novice paddlers, these races are a chance to discover the excitement of outrigger canoe racing. The Polynesian Festival follows with a taste of the tropics- fresh flower leis, Hawaiian shaved ice, Maori face painting, print making and dance performances. 831-420-5273, santacruz.org/upcoming-events

**Musical Saw Festival** – Roaring Camp Railroads; Early August. Roaring Camp Railroads invites you to listen to musical saws and folk instruments from around the world. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

**Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music** – Santa Cruz Auditorium; Starts early August. The Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium is the backdrop for this symphonic music festival. 831-426-6966, www.cabrillomusic.org

**Santa Cruz City Amateur Golf Championship** – De Laveaga Golf Course; Mid-August. This annual event invites amateur players to play with some of the best golfers in Northern California. 831-423-7214, www.delaveagagolf.com/

**Day on the Monterey Bay Regatta** – Monterey Bay; Late August. Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County host this regatta on the Monterey Bay, with BBQ, live music and raffles. 831-464-8691, www.santacruzmentor.org

**“Cops ‘n Rodders” Classic Car Show & Cruise** – Scotts Valley. The show includes hot rods, police and fire safety exhibits. 831-440-5670, www.scottsvalleypd.com
September

**Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day** – Various locations; Mid-September. Coastal Cleanup Day is a premier volunteer event to help clean the local beaches. 831-462-5660, saveourshores.org/acc/

**Ironman 70.3 Santa Cruz** – California Coast to Beach Boardwalk; Mid-September. This triathlon consists of a 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike ride, and 13.1 mile run along the beautiful coastline with finish line and luau at the Boardwalk, www.ironman.com/santacruz70.3

**Greek Culture and Food Festival** – Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church, Church Street; Early to mid-September. This is a Santa Cruz tradition with folk dancing and superb food such as dolmas, kabobs, and baklava. 831-425-1234, www.propheteliassc.org/

**Ohlone Day Celebration** – Henry Cowell State Park; Mid-September. Celebrate Ohlone day by learning about the culture, traditions, food and dance of the Ohlone Indians. 831-335-7077, www.parks.ca.gov

**Santa Cruz County Fair** – 2601 East Lake Ave., Watsonville. The Annual Santa Cruz County Fair has many festivities to enjoy, including a carnival. 831-724-5671, www.santacruzcountyfair.com

**Mole and Mariachi Festival** – Mission Adobe State Historic Park; Late September. There is free admission to music and crafts and you can vote for the best mole. www.thatsmypark.org/

**Santa Cruz Triathlon** – Various locations; Late September. Run, swim, and bike in the Santa Cruz Triathlon while raising money for local school athletics programs. www.santacruztriathlon.org/triathlon/

**Thunderbirds on the Wharf** – Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf; Late September. This show displays a collection of vintage. Thunderbirds. www.montereytbirds.com

October

**The Annual Sculpture Garden** – Watsonville; All month. This is major exhibition of sculptures throughout the beautiful demonstration gardens and is on display throughout the month. 831-728-2532, www.sierraazul.com

**Surf City AIDS Ride** – San Lorenzo Park; First Sunday of October. A bicycle ride to benefit the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. Choose from 12, 30, 65, or 100 mile routes. www.surfcityaidsride.org
October continued

**California Native Plant Society Fall Plant Sale** – Eucalyptus Grove, High Street and Western Drive; Early October. The California Native Plant Society hosts this plant sale. The plant list may be viewed on the website. 831-427-2998, arboretum.ucsc.edu

**Santa Cruz Film Festival** – Local theaters. The Santa Cruz Film Festival is an annual 9-day festival hosting eclectic film screenings, music events, educational panels and parties. 831-459-7676 santacruzfilmfestival.org

**Watsonville Film Festival** - Henry B. Mello Center for the Performing Arts. Three days of films and events celebrating Latino culture. www.watsonvillefilmfestival.org

**The Halloween Train** – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late October. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow is narrated during a ride on the Ghost Train. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com Click on Events.

**Lobster Feed** – Cowell Redwoods State Park; Mid October. The annual fundraising event provides a gourmet lobster dinner and bluegrass music in the redwoods. 831-335-3174, www.mountainparks.org

**Halloween Mask Making and Haunted Theater** – Louden Nelson Community Center; Late October. 831-420-6177, www.nelsoncenter.com Click on Events and Activities.

**Monte Foundation Fireworks Extravaganza** – Capitola Village; Mid-October. This is a fundraising event featuring a display of fireworks over the Capitola wharf hosted by the Monte Foundation. www.monte-foundation.com

**Open Studios Art Tours** – Various locations; First three weekends of October. Take a self-guided tour of area art studios during the Annual Cultural Council Open Studios Art Tour. www.artscouncilsc.org/open-studios/

**Practical Activism Conference** – University of California Santa Cruz; Late October. This is a student-led conference with speakers and hands-on activism workshops. 831-459-1253, practicalactivism.ucsc.edu

**Santa Cruz Youth Band Review** – Downtown Santa Cruz to Beach Boardwalk; Mid-October. California high school bands march from downtown Santa Cruz to the Boardwalk. beachboardwalk.com/bandreview

**Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Chili Cook-Off** – Beach Boardwalk; Late October. Both professional and amateur chefs work their culinary magic and compete for the title of best Chili! www.beachboardwalk.com/chili/

**Big Trees Scottish Gathering & Highland Games** – Roaring Camp; Early October. This festival features live music, games, shopping, food and a living history exhibit to explore Scottish traditions. bigtreescots.com

**Tours of the Monarch Butterfly Grove Sanctuary** – Natural Bridges State Beach; Mid-October - January. Join a docent naturalist and see thousands of monarch butterflies wintering in Santa Cruz. 831-423-4609, thatsmypark.org

**O’Neill Coldwater Classic** - Steamer Lane; Mid October. CANCELLED for 2017. The longest running surf event in North America featuring unsponsored professional surfers vying for the Coldwater title and a year-long sponsorship by O’Neill Wetsuits. us.oneill.com/
November

**Strike Out Hunger and Bowl for Free!** – Bring in a can of food in November and December to the Boardwalk Bowl and bowl a game for free. All donations are given to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County. 831-426-3324, www.boardwalkbowl.com

**Hot Rods at the Beach** – Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. This car show is a non-profit event featuring over 500 vehicles, local foods and vendors, music and a raffle. 831-295-8038, www.hotrodsatthebeach.com

**Santa Cruz Sea Glass and Ocean Art Festival** – Cocoanut Grove on the Boardwalk; Early November. Admission here enters you into a raffle and there is also a competition with 10 different categories and prizes. santacruzseaglass.com/festival

**The Volcom Great White Surf** – Steamer’s Lane; Mid-November. This contest is the second of two hosted annually by Volcom. volcom.com/events

**Mi Casa Es Tu Casa** – PVAC Art Gallery; November to Mid-December. Pajaro Valley Arts Council presents their exhibit with themes that vary each year, featuring Mexican tradition and art. 831-722-3062, www.pajarovalleyartscouncil.org/about

**The Monterey Bay Half Marathon** – Various locations. This half marathon offers a gently rolling fast course that winds through historic downtown Monterey, along Cannery Row, and proceeds along Pacific Grove's coastline with incredible views of the Monterey Bay. A walker-friendly course welcomes Half Marathon walkers. 831-625-6226, www.montereybayhalfmarathon.org

**Roaring Camps’ Holiday Tree Walk** – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late November and December. The Holiday Tree Walk is an event where guests sip hot cider and view beautifully adorned trees decorated by area businesses and organizations as funds are raised for their respective organizations. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Print out your own copy of Fun Things To Do in Santa Cruz at communityrentals.ucsc.edu
December

The Nutcracker – Santa Cruz Ballet Theater; 3 days. The Santa Cruz Ballet Theater presents “The Nutcracker” in December, featuring the Houston Ballet’s principal dancer. 831-477-1606, www.scbt.org


Downtown Santa Cruz Holiday Parade – Downtown Santa Cruz; First Saturday of December. An annual downtown parade celebrates the holidays with floats, marching bands, horses, classic cars, the Grand Marshall, and Santa Claus. 831-429-8433, www.downtownsantacruz.com

Lighted Boat Parade – Santa Cruz Harbor; First Saturday night in December. The Santa Cruz Lighted Boat Parade features over fifty decorated boats parading through Santa Cruz Harbor, rain or shine. 831-475-6161, www.santacruzharbor.org

Roaring Camp’s Holiday Tree Walk – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late November and December. The Holiday Tree Walk is an event where guests sip hot cider and view beautifully adorned trees decorated by area businesses and organizations as funds are raised for their respective organizations. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

The Jingle Shells Art & Craft Festival – Seymour Center; Early December. This art and craft festival features ocean-inspired gifts and presentations with live music and a whale lighting ceremony at dusk. 831-459-3800, seymourcenter.ucsc.edu

The Scotts Valley Christmas Tree Lighting – Scotts Valley Community Center; Early December. The Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce invites the community to light the Christmas tree and listen to live music. www.scottsvalleychamber.com

The Aptos Village Holiday Tree Lighting – Aptos Village; Early December. This holiday tree lighting celebrates the holiday spirit with food, music, caroling and lights. You are asked to bring a charitable gift or donation. 831-688-1467, www.aptoschamber.com

Elephant Seals at Año Nuevo – Año Nuevo State Park; mid-December-March. Año Nuevo State Reserve hosts naturalist-led walking tours of elephant seals in their natural habitat in December. 650-879-2025, www.parks.ca.gov/

Holiday on the Ranch – Wilder Ranch; Mid-December. The Wilder Ranch allows you to experience the winter holidays as folks did in Victorian and early 20th century times with crafts, games, treats. 831-426-0505, www.parks.ca.gov
Art Exhibits and Lectures

The Museum of Art & History’s Plein Air Affair – Abbott Square, behind the Museum of Art and History; Mid-July. Participating artists have contributed over 150 pieces of artwork on display during the public sale. Many artists are onsite and some show live demonstrations. 831-429-1964, www.santacruzmah.org

The Annual Sculpture Garden – Watsonville; October. A major exhibition of sculptures throughout the beautiful demonstration gardens is on display through the month. 831-728-2532, www.sierraazul.com

Open Studios Art Tours – Various locations; First three weekends of October. Take a self-guided tour of area art studios during the Annual Cultural Council Open Studios Art Tour. www.artscouncilsc.org

Mi Casa Es Tu Casa – PVAC Art Gallery; November to Mid-December. Pajaro Valley Arts Council presents their annual Day of the Dead/Dia de los Muertos exhibit with the theme of “mi casa es tu casa” featuring Mexican tradition and art. 831-722-3062, www.pvarts.org

Festivals

Aloha Celebrity Races and Polynesian Festival – Santa Cruz Wharf; Mid-August. Designed especially for new and novice paddlers, these races are a chance to discover the excitement of outrigger canoe racing. The Polynesian Festival follows with a taste of the tropics- fresh flower leis, Hawaiian shaved ice, Maori face painting, print making, and dance performances. 831-420-5273, santacruz.org/upcoming-events

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour – Rio Theater; Late February. This film festival facilitates journeying to exotic locations, presenting amazing big-screen stories. 831-459-2806, recreation.ucsc.edu/custom-programs/banffpage

Big Trees Scottish Gathering & Highland Games – Roaring Camp; Early October. This annual festival features live music, games, shopping, food, and a living history exhibit to explore Scottish traditions. bigtreescots.com

Boomeria Extravaganza – Boony Doon; Mid-July. This annual organ concert is a fundraiser for the SC Baroque Festival. Preston Boomer presents a unique musical experience. 831-457-9693, www.scbaroque.org

Ducky Derby & Carnival – Harvey West Park; Late April. This event is held at the Friendship Gardens, featuring a carnival, entertainment, rubber duck races, prizes, food, and more. Fundraiser for scholarships and local charities. 831-479-4070, www.duckyderbysantacruz.org/

Greek Culture and Food Festival – Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church, Church Street; Early to mid-September. This is a Santa Cruz tradition with Greek folk dancing and superb homemade food such as dolmas, kabobs, and baklava. 831-425-1234, www.prophetetliassc.org/

Halloween Mask Making and Haunted Theater Louden Nelson Community Center; Late October. 831-420-6177, www.nelsoncenter.com


Holiday on the Ranch – Wilder Ranch; December. The Wilder Ranch allows you to experience the winter holidays as folks did in Victorian and early 20th century times with crafts, games, and treats. 831-426-0505, www.parks.ca.gov


The Jingle Shells Art & Craft Festival – Seymour Center; Early December. This art and craft festival features ocean-inspired gifts and presentations with live music and a whale lighting ceremony at dusk. 831-459-3800, seymourcenter.ucsc.edu

Juneteenth Celebration – Laurel Park; Second Saturday of June. The signing of the Emancipation Proclamation is celebrated in Laurel Park. The event is free and offers soul food for the mind and body. 831-420-6177
Monterey Bay Birding Festival – Various locations; July. See 200 species of birds in this picturesque area of California on the Monterey Bay. montereybaybirding.org

Obon Festival – Watsonville Buddhist Temple; Mid July. The Watsonville Buddhist Temple hosts Watsonville’s Obon Festival with food, music, dance performances and demonstrations. www.wbtemple.org/

Ohlone Day Celebration – Henry Cowell State Park; Mid-September. Celebrate Ohlone day by learning about the culture, traditions, food and dance of the Ohlone Indians. www.parks.ca.gov

Redwood Dulcimer Festival – Bonny Doon; Early August. A showcase made up of the Dulcimer Day staff and special guests. During three 90-minute workshop sessions, there are diverse workshop options to choose from, catering to players from novice to advanced ability. www.redwooddulcimer.com/events.html

Santa Cruz County Fair – East Lake Ave, Watsonville; Mid-September. The annual Santa Cruz County Fair has many festivities to enjoy, including a carnival. 831-724-5671, www.santacruzcountyfair.com

Santa Cruz Film Festival – Local theaters; Mid October. Santa Cruz Film Festival is an annual 9-day festival hosting eclectic film screenings, music events, educational panels and parties. 831-459-7676, santacruzfilmfestival.org

Watsonville Film Festival - Henry B. Mellow Center; October. Three-day festival of films and events celebrating Latino culture. www.watsonvillefilmfestival.org

The Watsonville Strawberry Festival – Downtown Watsonville; Early August. The Strawberry Festival serves up a menu of various strawberry dishes, with entertainment and contests. 831-768-3266, www.mbsf.com

Performing Arts (Dance & Theatre)

Dance

Los Mejicas Annual Spring Concert – University of California Santa Cruz Mainstage; Early June. This annual performance, featuring traditional dances from various regions of Mexico, is performed by UCSC students. 831-459-2159, losmejicas.ucsc.edu

Theater

Best of the Rest – Santa Cruz Actors’ Theater; Late March. The “Best of the Rest,” stages readings of the runner-ups of the Eight Ten’s contest. 831-335-4409, www.sccat.org

Eight Tens at Eight, Ten Minute Play Festival – Santa Cruz Actors’ Theater; Mid- to Late January. The Actors’ Theater on Center Street hosts Eight Tens at Eight. Both local and national playwrights compact works into eight never before produced ten minute plays. 831-335-4409, www.sccat.org/eight-tens


Santa Cruz Shakespeare – The Grove at DeLaveaga Park; July through early August. Independent non-profit theatre company dedicated to the plays of William Shakespeare and other dynamic playwrights whose work celebrates language. santacruzshakespeare.org/

Music

Jazz on the Wharf – Santa Cruz Wharf; Mid-April. Jazz on the Wharf features live jazz amidst the beautiful setting of Santa Cruz wharf. 831-420-5273, www.cityofsantacruz.com

Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music – Cabrillo College; Begins late July. Preeminent and emerging compositions are performed by renowned guest artists from across the globe to give voice to works which are rarely more than a year or two old, and sometimes still wet on the page. 831-426-6966, www.cabrillomusic.org

Free Friday Night Bands on the Beach – Beach Boardwalk; Mid July to Early September. The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk features two free live concerts every Friday night in the summer. 831-423-5590, www.beachboardwalk.com

Santa Cruz Blue Grass Fair – San Lorenzo Park, early May. There is free admission to live performances, and a raffle. scbs.org/events/
Santa Cruz Youth Band Review – Downtown Santa Cruz to Beach Boardwalk; Mid-October. The annual Santa Cruz Youth Band Review showcases California high school bands marching from downtown Santa Cruz to the Boardwalk. beachboardwalk.com/bandreview

Nature Lectures and Events

Annual Arboretum Volunteer Training Classes – University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum. There is a variety of opportunities open to volunteers expanding knowledge about plants and gardens. arboretum.ucsc.edu

Annual Call for Volunteers – Wilder Ranch; Early February. This event allows volunteers to give heart and soul to the “Life on the Ranch” and other activities at Wilder Ranch State Park. Sign-ups take place through January; training begins in February. 831-426-0505

Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day – Various locations; Mid-September. Coastal Cleanup Day is a premier volunteer event on behalf of the marine environment of the world that helps clean the local beaches. 831-462-5660, saveourshores.org/

Elephant Seals at Año Nuevo – Año Nuevo State Park; December. Año Nuevo State Reserve hosts naturalist-led walking tours of elephant seals in their natural habitat. 650-879-2025, www.parks.ca.gov/

Migration Festival – Various locations; Mid-February. Migration Festival at Natural Bridges, Seacliff, New Brighton, and Henry Cowell State Parks celebrate animals that migrate with crafts, games and more. 831-425-5849, thatsmypark.org

Monarch Butterfly Grove Tours – Natural Bridges State Beach. Guided tours of the monarch grove take place during winter months, when migrating monarchs come to Santa Cruz. Migration is variable. Before you visit, call the park to find out population particulars. October-January 831-423-4609, thatsmypark.org

Volunteer Docent Training begins – Seymour center; Mid-January. Join the Seymour Center team for a ten-week Docent Training course and learn about current topics in marine science and conservation from the researchers and trainers at Long Marine Lab. 831-459-3800, seymourcenter.ucsc.edu/get-involved/

Volunteer Docent Training begins – Seymour center; Mid-January. Join the Seymour Center team for a ten-week Docent Training course and learn about current topics in marine science and conservation from the researchers and trainers at Long Marine Lab. 831-459-3800, seymourcenter.ucsc.edu/get-involved/

Races, Walks, and Sporting Events

Santa Cruz Classic Criterium Bike Race – March, Beach Hill. Team Santa Cruz hosts this annual bike race. www.velopromo.com/2017

Santa Cruz Mountains Challenge Bicycle Ride Various locations; Late July. This is a one day event on the West Coast with a 40 mile to 135 mile events. 831-475-5234, santacruzmountainschallenge.com

Surf City AIDS Ride – San Lorenzo Park; First Sunday of October. A bicycle ride to benefit the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. Choose from 12, 30, 65, or 100 mile routes. www.surfcityaidsride.org

IRONMAN 70.3 Santa Cruz – California Coast to Beach Boardwalk; Mid-September. Consists of a 1.2-mile swim, 5.6-mile bike ride, and 13.1-mile run along the beautiful coastline with finish line and luau at the Boardwalk. 813-868-5940 , www.ironman.com/santacruz70.3

Santa Cruz Triathlon – Various locations; Late September. Run, swim and bike in the Santa Cruz Triathlon while raising money for local school athletics programs. www.santacruztriathlon.org/triathlon/

10K Firecracker Race – Harvey West Park; July 4th. Santa Cruz 10K Firecracker Race and Kids 1K is a scenic and challenging course. www.santacruzfirecracker10k.org

Monterey Bay Half Marathon – Various locations; November. This walker-friendly marathon offers a gently rolling course that winds through historic downtown Monterey, along Cannery Row, and proceeds along Pacific Grove’s coastline with views of the Monterey Bay. 831-625-6226, montereybayhalfmarathon.org

Santa Cruz Half Marathon – March. The Santa Cruz Half Marathon consists of a 13.1-mile run/walk past breathtaking vistas of the Pacific coastline. santacruzhalfmarathon.com

Wharf to Wharf Race – Various locations; Late July. This race is a 6-mile run from Santa Cruz to Capitola-by-the-Sea. Runners are limited to 15,000 and tickets to participate sell out early. www.wharftowharf.com
O’Neill Coldwater Classic - Steamer Lane; October. The longest running surf event in North America featuring unsponsored professional surfers vying for the Coldwater title and a year-long sponsorship by O’Neill Wetsuits. Cancelled for 2017. us.oneill.com/

Santa Cruz Kayak Surf Festival / Paddlefest – Lighthouse Point; Late March. This festival features world class champions in kayaking, wave skiing, stand-up paddle surfing, gala parties, and demos. 831-724-5692, santacruzpaddlefest.com

Wednesday Night Sailboat Races – March (with Daylight Savings) through October. These Wednesday night races begin at 6:30 pm and last until 8:00 pm. Contact the Santa Cruz Yacht Club for more information. 831-425-0690, www.scyc.org

Santa Cruz City Amateur Golf Championship – Del Laveaga Golf Course; Mid-August. This annual event allows players to join the best golfers in Northern California. 831-423-7214, www.delaveagagolf.com/

Railroad Activities

Civil War Battle Encampment – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late May. The annual Civil War Battle and Encampment at Roaring Camp Railroad stages encampments of Union and Confederate soldiers and battles at one of the West’s longest running Civil War reenactments. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Family 4th of July Fest – Roaring Camp Railroads; July 4th. Roaring Camp Railroads hosts its annual ’50s Family July 4th Fest with a 1950’s style sock hop, dance and hula hoop contest, sack races, balloon toss, BBQ and live entertainment. www.roaringcamp.com

Great Train Robberies – Roaring Camp Railroads; Early July. Hold onto your valuables, as each train is sure to be robbed at Bear Mountain. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

The Halloween Train – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late October. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow is narrated during a ride on the Ghost Train. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Harvest Faire & Steam Festival – Roaring Camp Railroad; Fall; Heritage children’s activities like scarecrow making, pumpkin patch picking, candle making and gold panning 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Moonlight Dinner Train – Roaring Camp Railroad; Second Saturday of July, August, September. A moonlight dinner, dancing, and train ride through the redwood forest are scheduled once a month during the summer and fall. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Musical Saw Festival – Roaring Camp Railroads; Early August. Roaring Camp Railroads invites you to listen to musical saws and folk instruments from around the world at the Musical Saw Festival. www.roaringcamp.com

Roaring Camp’s Holiday Tree Walk – Roaring Camp Railroad; late-November and December. The Holiday Tree Walk is an event where guests sip hot cider and view beautifully adorned trees decorated by area businesses and organizations as funds are raised for their respective organizations. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com
Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Train – Roaring Camp Railroad; End of November throughout December. Ride Roaring Camp's Holiday Lights Train through the streets of Santa Cruz with hot cider, Christmas carols and Santa Claus. Reservations required. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Other Special Events

Annual Day at the Beach – Cowell's Beach; Early-July. Plywood placed over the sand allows those with mobility issues to enjoy the beach and engage in sports like kayaking, scuba diving, and water flotation. 831-459-7210, sharedadventures.org

Aptos Village Holiday Tree Lighting – Aptos Village; Early December. The holiday tree lighting celebrates the holiday spirit with food, music, caroling and lights and asks that you bring a charitable gift or donation if attending. 831-688-1467, www.aptoschamber.com

Clam Chowder Cook-Off – Boardwalk; Mid-February. Teams from all over the West coast compete to be awarded the "Best Clam Chowder.” The purchase of a tasting kit allows one to vote for which chowder is the best 831-423-5590, www.beachboardwalk.com/clamchowder

“Cops ‘n Rodders” Classic Car Show & Cruise – Scotts Valley; Mid-August. The show includes hot rods, police and fire safety exhibits. 831-440-5670, www.scottsvalleypd.com/cops-n-rodders

Downtown Santa Cruz Holiday Parade – Downtown Santa Cruz; First Saturday of December. An annual parade celebrates the holidays with floats, marching bands, horses, classic cars, the Grand Marshall, and Santa Claus. 831-429-8433, www.downtownsantacruz.com

Fungus Fair – Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History; Early January. The Fungus Fair is a display of extraordinary mushrooms, delicacies and enticing cooking demonstrations. Bring your mushrooms for identification. ffsc.us/

HOPE Concert – University of Santa Cruz; Early April. The HOPE event takes place outside of the Multi-Purpose Room of UCSC's College Nine and Ten. This concert combines live entertainment with activism opportunities. 831-459-1253, www.ucsc.edu

Hot Rods at the Beach – Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk; Early November. The Annual Hot Rods at the Beach car show is a non-profit event featuring over 500 vehicles, local foods and vendors, music, and a raffle. 831-234-0007, www.hotrodsatthebeach.com

Lighted Boat Parade – Santa Cruz Harbor; First Saturday night in December. The Santa Cruz Lighted Boat Parade features over fifty decorated boats parading through Santa Cruz Harbor. Rain or shine. 831-475-6161, www.santacruzharbor.org

Lobster Feed – Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park; Mid October. The annual fundraising event provides a gourmet lobster dinner and bluegrass music in the redwoods. 831-335-3174, www.mountainparks.org

Mole and Mariachi Festival – Mission Adobe State Historic Park; Early September. There is free admission to music and crafts and you can vote for the best mole. thatsmypark.org

Monte Foundation Fireworks Extravaganza – Capitola Village; Mid-October. This fundraising event features a display of fireworks over the Capitola wharf. www.monte-foundation.com

Practical Activism Conference – UCSC; Late October. The Annual Practical Activism Conference is a student-led conference with speakers and hands-on activism workshops. 831-459-1253, www.practicalactivism.org

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Chili Cook-Off – Beach Boardwalk; Late October. Professional and amateur chefs work their culinary magic and compete for the title of best Chili! www.beachboardwalk.com/chili/

The Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society Show – Late April. The show features a variety of jewels, jade, and ancient fossils. scrockngem.org

Scotts Valley Christmas Tree Lighting – Scotts Valley Community Center; Early December. The Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce invites the community to light the Christmas tree and listen to live music. www.scottsvalleychamber.com
Strawberry and Justice Festival – The Farm, UCSC; Early May. Join UCSC for strawberry shortcake and Bluegrass tunes at this fundraiser for low-income shares in the CASFS Farm and Garden’s Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project. $5 donation requested. 831-459-3240, casfs.ucsc.edu

Strike Out Hunger and Bowl for Free! – Bring in a can of food in November and December to the Boardwalk Bowl and bowl a game for free. All donations are given to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County. Limit one free game per person per day. Shoe rental not included. 831-426-3324, www.boardwalkbowl.com

Thunderbirds on the Wharf – Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf; Early September. Visit a collection of vintage Thunderbirds on the Wharf at this annual show. www.montereytbirds.com

Woodies on the Wharf – Santa Cruz Wharf; Late June. Surf City Classic: Woodies on the Wharf is a car show that also highlights the surf spirit. 831-420-5273, www.santacruzwoodies.com/woodies-on-the-wharf

Special Sales

Arboretum Fall Plant Sale – UCSC Arboretum, October. arboretum.ucsc.edu

Arboretum Spring Plant Sale – UCSC Arboretum, April. arboretum.ucsc.edu