Fun Things to Do in Santa Cruz

e-mail: communityrentals@ucsc.edu  phone: (831) 459-4435  web: communityrentals.ucsc.edu
The 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...”

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!
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Updated 9/2016
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 wealth of local artists that Santa Cruz and the surrounding communities have to offer.
www.artisanssantacruz.com

Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery
11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. 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

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.
www.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

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

Places of Historical Interest

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

UCSC Theater Arts Center and Music Center Recital Hall
1156 High St, Santa Cruz
831-459-2787
Featuring national and international artists and student performers.
arts.ucsc.edu/news_events/

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

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

Performing Arts

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 Pacific Ave. #C, 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

People’s Coffee
1200 17th Ave. #126, Santa Cruz
831-464-2739

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Caffé Pergolesi
418 Cedar St, Santa Cruz
831-426-1775

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

Coffeeetopia
1723 Mission St., Santa Cruz
831-425-6583

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

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

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

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

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Creative Activities

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

Santa Cruz Knitting Meet-up

Movie Theaters

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

Nickelodeon Theatre
210 Lincoln St., Santa Cruz
831-426-7500

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

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
California'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.mysteriespot.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
831-420-6025
Take a fishing trip, rent a boat, eat fresh seafood, or do a little shopping. cityofsantacruz.com/departments/wharf

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 11 p.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

Martial Arts

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

Aptos Martial Arts Academy
7000 and 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, newsstands, cards, and Santa Cruz t-shirts. Free weekly author events in the heart of downtown. www.bookshopsantacruz.com

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

**Bargain Barn**  
292 Pioneer St., Santa Cruz  
Located in the Harvey West area.  
Warehouse run by Goodwill, with donated items that do not end up in their stores. Sold by the pound.

**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

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**Bicycling (Sales & Rentals)**

**Another Bike Shop**  
2361 Mission St., Santa Cruz  
831-427-2232

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

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

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

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

**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

**Family Cycling Center**  
914 41st Ave., Capitola  
831-475-3883

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**Surfboard Sales and Rentals**

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

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

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

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

**Rip Curl**  
1604 Mission (Outlet), Santa Cruz  
831-454-0360  
1395 Pacific Ave  
831-713-5394  
753 41st Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-464-3233

**Stretch Boards**  
983 Tower Pl., Santa Cruz  
831-479-7309

**Noe Surfboards**  
2111 Delaware Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-421-1862
**Outdoor Water Activities**

**Water Sports & Lessons**

**Adventure Sports Unlimited**  
303 Potroto 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

**Lighthall 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 Mediterranean village.  
Take Bay and Porter exit off Highway 1.  
www.cityofcapitola.org/community

**Cowell/Main Beach**  
Beach St., Santa Cruz  
831-429-5270  
Main beach is to the left 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.

**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  
831-464-6329  
www.parks.ca.gov/newbrighton

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

**Rio Del Mar / Seacliff Beach**  
201 State Park Dr., Aptos  
831-685-6500  
Fire pits, barbecues, picnic areas, and one-mile promenade.

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

**Panther Beach**  
10 miles north of Santa Cruz, on Hwy 1  
Has a private, secluded feel.

**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**  
1718 Brommer St., Santa Cruz  
831-427-0230  
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

**Surf Instruction**

**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.**  
236 San Jose Ave., Santa Cruz  
831-423-0928  
Reasonably-priced group rates.  
www.richardschmidt.com
### Parks (Hiking, Mountain Biking, Skateboarding, etc.)

**Jim Keefe Skate Park and Santa Cruz County Highland Park**
- 8500 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond
- Santa Cruz County Highland Park
- 831-454-7956

**Harvey West Park**
- 326 Evergreen St., Santa Cruz
- 831-420-5270
- Pool, picnic areas and baseball fields.
  - website: [www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation)

**Henry Cowell State Park**
- 101 North Big Trees Park Rd., Felton
- 831-335-4598
- Loved for its extensive hiking trails.
  - website: [www.parks.ca.gov/HenryCowell](http://www.parks.ca.gov/HenryCowell)

**Ken Wourmhoudt Skate Park**
- 225 San Lorenzo Blvd., Santa Cruz
- Full pipe, two bowls with pool coping and tile, practice bowl, and street course with steps. Open 9-Sunset daily
  - website: [skateparks.com/completed_parks](http://skateparks.com/completed_parks)

**Neary Lagoon Park**
- 110 California St., Santa Cruz
- 831-420-5270
- Abundant wildlife, trails, tennis courts, floating walkways and interpretive signage.
  - website: [santacruzca.org/](http://santacruzca.org/)

**Quail Hollow Ranch County Park**
- 800 Quail Hollow Rd., Felton
- 4.5 miles of hiking and equestrian trails.

**Santa Cruz Bike Park**
- Corner of Beach and Front Streets in town.
  - ramps and asphalt areas for bicycles only.
  - website: [santacruzca.org/regions/santa-cruz](http://santacruzca.org/regions/santa-cruz)

**Santa Cruz City Parks**
- Santa Cruz is rich with parks with trails for outdoor enthusiasts seeking hiking, picnicking, sports, wildlife, and more.
  - website: [www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation)

**Skypark**
- 361 Kings Village Rd., Scotts Valley
- 831-438-3251
- Skateboarding, mountain biking, and hiking at Skypark

**Wilder Ranch State Park**
- 1401 Coast Rd., Santa Cruz
- 831-423-9703
- The park has 34 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails winding through coastal terraces and valleys.
  - website: [www.thatsmypark.org](http://www.thatsmypark.org)

**Bike Map**
- Local website for mountain biking as well as street cycling.
  - website: [scrc.tc.org/services/bike/#bikemap](http://scrc.tc.org/services/bike/#bikemap)

**Derby Park**
- 508 Woodland Way, Santa Cruz
- 831-420-5270
- Skating, sand volleyball, tennis courts.
  - website: [skateparks.com/](http://skateparks.com/)

**Fall Creek State Park**
- 1400 Felton Empire Rd., Felton
- 831-335-4598
- Hikes in Fall Creek.
  - website: [www.thatsmypark.org](http://www.thatsmypark.org)

**Running**

**Pacific Coast Trail Runs**
- Organizers of Skyline to Sea marathon.
  - Trail runs all over Monterey and San Francisco Bay areas.
  - website: [www.pctrailruns.com/](http://www.pctrailruns.com/)

**Santa Cruz Track Club**
- Year-round club meet at Soquel High School and participates in competitive events of cross-country and track.
  - website: [www.santacruztrackclub.com/](http://www.santacruztrackclub.com/)

**Santa Cruz Triathlon Association**
- Provides a supportive, social, and positive environment for athletes of all abilities.
  - website: [scatriathlon.com/](http://scatriathlon.com/)

**Horseback Riding**

**Monterey Bay Horsemanship and Therapeutic Center**
- 475 Eucalyptus Way, La Selva Beach
- 831-761-1142
- Classes offered by qualified instructors, Monday through Saturday.
  - website: [www.mbhorsecenter.com](http://www.mbhorsecenter.com)

**Willow Pond Ranch**
- 505 Alfadel Ln., Soquel
- 831-464-2276
- English riding school, horse boarding, horse leasing, sponsorship, equine-assisted growth and learning, horse rescue. Open Tuesday through Sunday.

**Tennis**

**Capitola Parks and Recreation**
- 4400 Jade St., Capitola
- 831-475-5935
- Reasonably-priced tennis classes for all levels of ability.
  - website: [cityofcapitola.org/recreation](http://cityofcapitola.org/recreation)

**Community Tennis Leagues**
- Tennis matches available for all levels of players at some Santa Cruz public courts.
**Golf & Disc Golf**

- **Boulder Creek Golf and Country Club**
  16901 Big Basin Hwy, Boulder Creek
  831-338-2121

- **Casserly Par 3 Golf Course**
  626 Casserly Rd, Watsonville
  831-724-1654

- **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.delaveagagolf.com

- **Pajaro Valley Golf Course**
  967 Salinas Rd, Watsonville
  831-724-3851

- **Pasatiempo Golf Club**
  20 Clubhouse Rd., Santa Cruz
  831-459-9169
  Ranked among the top 100 courses in the U.S.
  www.pasatiempo.com

- **Seascape Golf Club**
  610 Clubhouse Dr, Aptos
  831-688-5242
  18-hole regulation public golf course.
  www.seascapegc.com

- **Spring Hills Golf Course**
  31 Smith Rd, 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
  831-427-2998
  World famous garden at the base of campus.
  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

- **Seacliff’s Ancient Fossil Beds**
  831-685-6500
  Explore fossil evidence of an ancient inland sea.
  http://santacruz.hilltromper.com/article/seaciff-

**Public State Campgrounds**

- **Big Basin Redwoods State Park**
  21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek
  831-338-8860
  Has 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**
  101N. Big Trees Park Rd, Felton
  831-335-4598
  parks.ca.gov/

- **Manresa Uplands State Beach**
  205 Manresa Beach Rd, La Selva Beach
  831-761-1795
  www.parks.ca.gov/Manresa

- **New Brighton State Beach Park**
  1500 Park Ave, Capitola
  831-464-6330
  www.parks.ca.gov

- **Seacliff State Beach**
  State Park Dr, Aptos - (RV only)
  831-685-6442 www.parks.ca.gov

- **Sunset State Beach**
  201 Sunset Beach Rd, Watsonville
  831-763-7063 www.parks.ca.gov

**U-Pick Farms**

- **Organic Strawberries and Kiwis**
  Swanton Berry Farms
  25 Swanton Rd, Davenport
  831-469-8804
  swantonberryfarm.com/

- **Olallieberries, Boysenberries, and Apples**
  Gizdich Ranch
  5S Peckham Rd, Watsonville
  831-722-1056
  www.gizdich-ranch.com

- **Organic Apples**
  Swanton Pacific Ranch
  25 Swanton Rd, Davenport
  831-458-5410
  www.spranch.org/events.ldml

- **Pumpkin Farms**
  Fambriini’s Fresh Farm Produce
  44 Coast Rd., Santa Cruz
  831-423-5891

- **Rodoni Farms**
  4 miles north of Santa Cruz on Hwy 1
  831-426-6438
  www.rodonifarms.com

- **Seaside Pumpkins**
  ½ mile north of Davenport on Hwy 1, open in October.
  831-426-6438

**Food Trucks**

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

- **Raymonds Catering**
  Found at Science Hill weekdays at lunch
  831-459-3542

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

- **Zameen Mediterranean Cuisine**
  Found at UCSC Theater Arts parking lot at lunch during the academic year.
  831-688-4465
  www.zameencuisine.com/food-truck
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

Aptos Chamber of Commerce
www.aptoschamber.com

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/markets

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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/ biking Redwood forest trails in the village of Aptos, on the east side of the freeway. Seacliff, Rio Del Mar and Seascape beaches to the west afford miles of wide, sandy, sunny beaches; Seacliff 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.hwy9.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.santacruzca.org/regions/capitola-soquel-village.php
Classes/Organized Activities

UCSC Office of Physical Education, Recreation & Sports
Promoting physical education and wellness through a myriad of activities.
831-459-2806
www.uwcscrecreation.com

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

General special interest classes include:
(Offerings vary by session)
- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
- Community Sing
- Dance
- Guitar
- Golf
- Japanese, Portuguese
- Jazz
- Jewelry
- Martial Arts
- Trial running for women
- Sailing
- Watercolor painting
- Yoga
- Zumba

www.capitolarecreation.com
831-475-5935

Volunteer Opportunities

- Louden Nelson Center, and other locales
  Example of classes:
  - Acting and Movement
  - Baking with Chocolate
  - Basic Japanese Calligraphy
  - Chinese
  - Cooks Workshop Basics
  - Intermediate Hand Drumming
  - Persian Dance
  - Polynesian Dance
  - Salsa Crash Course Cuban Style
  - Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk tours
  - Women's Self Defence

www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation/
831-420-6177

Volunteer Matching Networks

- 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

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

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 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

Friends Outside
1740 17th Ave., Santa Cruz
831-427-5078
Friends Outside provides programs and services to incarcerated individuals in state prisons all over California. https://scvolunteercenter.org/programs/friends-outside/

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 Women’s Center
831-426-3062
AWWC seeks to improve the economic, physical, and emotional well being of all families. wawc.org
On-Going Events

Sundays

Dance Church
9:00a.m.-11:30a.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
3:30p.m.-7:30p.m. Four free hours of fun and spontaneous jazz played by musicians who have never rehearsed together. www.santacruzjazz.org

Live Oak Farmers Market
9:00a.m.-1:00p.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

Movie Screenings at The Crepe Place
Starting at 8:00 p.m. every Monday. Watch a free older film over dinner or dessert on their back patio area. Reservations recommended. 831-429-6994

Open Mic at The Ugly Mug
6:00p.m. Open Mic at The Ugly Mug Café in Soquel. www.cafeugly.com

Tuesdays

Contact Improv Jam
7:00p.m.-8:25p.m. 418 Front St., Santa Cruz, across from the Metro Bus Station. Drop-in is okay. First three weeks are free. Requested donation. 831-458-1500, the418project.com/contact-jam

Felton Farmers Market
2:30p.m.-6:30p.m. May through last Tuesday in October at St. John’s Catholic Church parking lot. Community marketplace offering fresh seasonal produce. www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org/

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

Live Music at Boardwalk Bowl
Live music at Boardwalk Bowl while bowling. 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
1:30p.m.-6:30p.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 8:00p.m. Contact the Santa Cruz Yacht Club for more information. 831-425-0690, www.scyc.org

Acoustic Music Night at The Ugly Mug
7:30 p.m. every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. The Ugly Mug Café in Soquel hosts acoustic music nights. www.cafeugly.com

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
6:30p.m. & 8:30p.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**
3:00p.m.-7:00p.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

**The Legendary Santa Cruz Slam**
6:30p.m.-11:00p.m. Talented poets perform rousing, stimulating, and thought-provoking spoken word on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at the Poet and Patriot. www.legendarycollective.com

**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/

**Santa Cruz Saturday Market**
10:00a.m.-6:00p.m., May through November. San Lorenzo Park, 137 Dakota Ave., Santa Cruz An artisan’s bazaar, with emphasis on ecological living.

**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**
Tuesday-Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 p.m. to closing. Boardwalk Bowl five nights a week. 831-426-3324 , boardwalkbowl.com

**Live Jazz Seven Nights a Week**
6:30p.m.-8:30p.m. Hoffmann’s Bakery, Downtown Santa Cruz. www.hoffmanssantacruz.com
Yearly Events in Santa Cruz

January

Annual Arboretum Volunteer Training Classes – University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum; Every Tuesday in January. There is 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, (mid-September to mid-October) 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, https://www.parks.ca.gov/?pageMonarch

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. 831-420-6115, ffsc.us/fair

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, www.ucscrecreation.com

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. 831-423-4609, www.thatsmypark.org/

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

Santa Cruz Dayz - Mid February; The Annual Santa Cruz Dayz musical entertainment showcases a lineup of reggae favorites. 831-420-5260, www.santacruztickets.com

St. Valentine’s Day Massacre Surf Shoot Out – Pleasure Point; Mid-February. This is an annual surf competition of the Eastside vs. Westside vs. All Sides. The First Peak is at Pleasure Point. 831-462-3880

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/

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-scap

**Ducky Derby & Carnival** – Harvey West Park, Friendship Gardens; Late April. This event features a carnival, entertainment, rubber duck races, prizes, food, and more. Fundraise 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.org/hanamatsuri.html

**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/departments/parks-recreation/community-facilities/santa-cruz-wharf/

**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, www.ucsc.edu

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

**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 8:00p.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/

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

**Santa Cruz Rejuvenation Festival** – San Lorenzo Park, Mid-May. This festival has an eco-fair, organic food, sustainable living workshop, and free yoga classes. Free admission. www.loveeternal.org/le_productionstudios/

**Strawberry and Justice Festival** – The Farm, UCSC; Late May. 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; Fourth Sunday in May. This event celebrates brings the Oaxacan community coming together from near and far to celebrate with music, traditional costumes, food, and dance. www.viveoaxaca.com

**Music in the Gardens Tour** – Near Pleasure Point; Last Sunday in May; This tour is an afternoon of musical groups performing different styles of folk & nostalgic music throughout area gardens. 831-457-9693, www.scbaroque.org
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, www.santacruztickets.com

Scottish Renaissance Festival – Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds; Mid June. The Scottish Renaissance Festival of Santa Cruz is an annual celebration of culture through music, theatre, crafts and art. 831-252-4878, www.scottishrenaissancefestival.org

Walnut Avenue Women's Center Strawberry Festival – 303 Walnut Avenue; First Saturday in June. This fundraiser consists of carnival games, food, bounce houses, a dunk tank, raffle prizes, and, of course, strawberries prepared many different ways. www.wawc.org

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

**Santa Cruz Shakespeare** – UCSC; 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

**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. 831-420-5260, www.cabrillomusic.org

**“Cops ’n Rodders” Classic Car Show & Cruise** – Scotts Valley; Third Saturday in July. The show includes hot rods, police and fire safety exhibits. 831-440-5670, www.scottsvaleypd.com

**Family 4th of July Fest** – Roaring Camp Railroads; July 4th. Roaring Camp Railroads hosts its annual ‘50s 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

**Festival del Nopal** - Downtown Santa Cruz; Late July. A culinary festival of all things cactus. www.festivaldelnopal.com/

**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 60's, 70's and 80's. 831-423-5590, www.beachboardwalk.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

**Moonlight Dinner Train** – Roaring Camp Railroads; Second Saturday of 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

**Santa Cruz Fringe Festival** – Various venues; Mid-July. A 10-day performing arts event that rotates around storytelling. santacruzfringefestival.com/

**The Museum of Art & History’s Plein Air Affair** – Abbott Square, behind the Museum of Art and History; Mid-July. Participating artists contribute 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

**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.wharf2wharf.com

**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/
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, cityofsantacruz.com

Roughwater Swim – Santa Cruz Wharf; First Week of August. This one-mile swim around the Santa Cruz Wharf attracts ocean swimmers from all over Northern California. 831-420-6015, cruzswim.org/competitions.html

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/

Surf Shop Challenge – Pleasure Point or Steamer’s Lane; Late August. Oakley presents a surfing competition for local surf shops. 949-325-6192, surfshopchallenge.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
September

**Capitola Begonia Festival** – Capitola Village; Labor Day weekend. It features fun activities that all the family can enjoy: a Sand Sculpture contest, a Fishing Derby, Row Boat races, and culminates with a Nautical Parade of begonia-laden floats traveling down Soquel Creek. 831-475-6522, www.begoniafestival.com

**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/

**The Big Kahuna Triathlon** – California Coast to Beach Boardwalk; Mid-September. This triathlon 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. 877-366-7223, www.firstwave-events.com/events/big-kahuna-triathlon/

**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/

**Monterey Bay Birding Festival** – Various locations; Mid-September. See 200 species of birds in this picturesque area of California on the Monterey Bay. 831-724-3900, www.montereybaybirding.org/ Click on Events

**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. 831-335-3174, www.mountainparks.org

**Santa Cruz County Fair** – 2601 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

**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/

**Watsonville Film Festival** - Henry B. Mello Center for the Performing Arts; Mid-October. Three days of films ad events celebrating Latino culture. www.watsonvillefilmfestival.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, 60, or 100 mile routes. www.surfcityaidsride.org

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

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.ccscc.org  Click on Open Studios

Pacific Rim Film Festival – Various locations; Mid October. This film festival is a rare one in that it offers screenings of international feature films, shorts and documentaries to the Santa Cruz community for no admission charge. www.pacrimfilmfestival.org

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, www.practicalactivism.org

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 – San Lorenzo Park; 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 – Monarch Grove Butterfly Sanctuary; Mid-October - January. Join a docent naturalist and see thousands of monarch butterflies wintering in Santa Cruz. 831-423-4609, www.santacruzstateparks.org  Click on Parks and Beaches, then Natural Bridges State Beach.

O’Neill Coldwater Classic - Steamer Lane; Mid October. CANCELLED for 2016. 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; Mid October. 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 Big Sur Half Marathon – Various locations; Mid-November. This 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.bigsurhalfmarathon.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

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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

**Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Train** – Roaring Camp Railroad; weekends before Christmas. 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

**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/

**The Ranch Holiday Festival** – 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.thatismypark.org

**The Holiday Gift Faire** – Henry Cowell Redwood state park; Mid-December. This event provides an opportunity to select holiday gifts from a large variety of nature-oriented items. Includes crafts fair and other activities. 831-335-0782, www.mountainparks.org

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Events Listed by Type

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

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. Fundraise for scholarships and local charities. 831-479-4070, duckyderbysantacruz.org/

Festival del Nopal – Downtown Santa Cruz; Late July. A culinary festival of all things cactus. www.festivaldelnopal.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

Japanese Cultural Fair – Mission Plaza; Mid June. The Japanese Cultural Fair at the Mission Plaza celebrates Japanese music, traditional dance, food and crafts. Taiko drumming, storytelling, martial arts demonstrations and healing arts vendors entertain and educate. 831-462-4589, JCFSantaCruz.org

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

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

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

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/

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, cityofsantacruz.com

Santa Cruz County Fair – Hecker Pass Road; Mid-September. The annual Santa Cruz County Fair has many festivities to enjoy, including a carnival. 831-724-5671, www.santacruzcountyfair.com

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.propheteliassc.org/

Capitola Begonia Festival – Capitola Village; Labor Day w w www.scbt.org weekend. This annual event includes a nautical parade, sand sculpture competition, movies, concerts and many more free family events. 831-475-6522, www.begoniafestival.com

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Monterey Bay Birding Festival – Various locations; Late September. See 200 species of birds in this picturesque area of California on the Monterey Bay. montereybaybirding.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. 831-335-3174, www.mountainparks.org

Big Trees Scottish Gathering & Highland Games – San Lorenzo Park; Early October. This annual festival features live music, games, shopping, food, and a living history exhibit to explore Scottish traditions. bigtrees Scots.com/1

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

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, www.ucsc recreation.com/banff.htm

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

Santa Cruz Rejuvenation Festival – San Lorenzo Park, Mid-May. This festival has an eco-fair, organic food, sustainable living workshop, and free yoga classes. Free admission. www.loveeternal.org/le Productionsstudios/

Watsonville Film Festival - Henry B. Mellow Center; End of September. Three-day festival of films and events celebrating Latino culture. www.watsonville filmfestival.org

Pacific Rim Film Festival – Various locations; Mid October. This film festival is a rare one in that it offers screenings of international feature films, shorts and documentaries to the Santa Cruz community for no admission charge. www.pacrimfilmfestival.org

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 Holiday Gift Faire – Henry Cowell Redwood state park; Mid-December. This event provides an opportunity to select holiday gifts from a variety of nature-oriented items. 831-335-7077, www.mountainparks.org

The Ranch Holiday Festival – 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, and treats. 831-426-0505, www.that smypark.org


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, www.santacruztickets.com

Theater

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

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


Santa Cruz Fringe Festival – Various venues; Mid-July. A 10-day performing arts event that rotates around storytelling. santacruzfringefestival.com/

Santa Cruz Shakespeare – UCSC; 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

**Annual Santa Cruz Dayz Entertainment** – Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium; Late February. Santa Cruz Dayz entertainment presented by Good Vibz includes a lineup of reggae favorites.
831-420-5260, www.santacruztickets.com

**Jazz on the Wharf** – Santa Cruz Wharf; Mid-April. Jazz on the Wharf features live jazz amidst the beautiful setting of Santa Cruz wharf.

**Music in the Gardens Tour** – Near Pleasure Point; Last Sunday in May. The annual Music in the Gardens Tour is an afternoon of musical groups performing different styles of folk & nostalgic music throughout area gardens.

**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.
831-420-5260, 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

**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/

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

**Monarch Butterfly Tours** – Monarch Grove; Every weekend of January, and again throughout the month of October. 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.
831-423-4609, www.santacruzstateparks.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/

**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

**Migration Festival** – Various locations; Mid-February. Migration Festival at Natural Bridges, Seaciff, New Brighton, and Henry Cowell State Parks celebrate animals that migrate with crafts, games and more.
831-423-4609, www.santacruzstateparks.org

**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/acc/

Races, Walks, and Sporting Events

**O’Neil 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 2016. us.oneill.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, 60, or 100 mile routes. www.surfcityaidsride.org
St. Valentine’s Day Massacre Surf Shoot Out – Pleasure Point; Mid-February. The annual surf competition. Eastside vs. Westside vs. All Sides. First Peak is at Pleasure Point. 831-462-3880

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

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. 831-458-3648, santacruzpaddlefest.com/kayak

Santa Cruz Classic Criterium Bike Race – Beach Hill; Early April. Team Santa Cruz hosts this annual bike race. www.santacruzcycling.org

Wednesday Night Sailboat Races – March (with Daylight Savings) 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

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. 831-475-5234, www.santacruzcycling.org

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

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

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

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/

The Big Kahuna Triathlon – 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. 877-366-RACE, www.firstwave-events.com/events/big-kahuna-triathlon/

The Big Sur Half Marathon – Various locations; Late 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, www.bigsurhalfmarathon.org


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, encompasscs.org/

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

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 is selected to ride in the cab of the locomotive. 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

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

Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Train – Roaring Camp Railroad; 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

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 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

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 Railroad; Second Saturday of July, August, September, 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

Other Special Events

Santa Cruz Chocolate Festival – Cocoanut Grove; Mid-January. Celebration of all things chocolate, features tastings from area vendors, a silent auction and live jazz. 831-423-2053, www.santacruzchocolatefestival.org

Annual 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. 831-420-5273, www.beachboardwalk.com/clamchowder

Strawberry and Justice Festival – The Farm, UCSC; Late 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

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

“Cops ‘n Rodders” Classic Car Show & Cruise – Scotts Valley; Third Saturday in July. The show includes hot rods, police and fire safety exhibits. 831-440-5670, www.scottsvaleypd.com

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

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

Hot Rods at the Beach – Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk; Mid October. 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. 831-259-8038, www.hotrodsatthebeach.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
Strike Out Hunger and Bowl for Free! – Bring 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

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

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

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

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

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

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. 831-420-6115, ffsc.us/fair

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. scmgs.org/shows/

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

Special Sales

California Native Plant Society Fall Plant Sale – Eucalyptus Grove, High Street and Western Drive; Early October. The California Native Plant Society hosts this spring plant sale. 831-427-2998, www.arboretum.ucsc.edu