



Photo by F. Raditsch

Fun Things to Do in Santa Cruz

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Indoor Activities

Art Galleries

Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery

11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Art gallery located at Cowell College, UC Santa Cruz. Open through the academic year.
cowell.ucsc.edu/smith_gallery/main.php

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

207 McPherson St, Santa Cruz
831-429-1331

Fine prints, books, videos, and posters of nature and wildlife by National Geographic photographer, Frans Lanting.
www.lanting.com

L. H. Selman Ltd. Glass Gallery

123 Locust St, Santa Cruz
831-427-1177

Finest glassware, sculptures, and jewelry around. There is also a paperweight museum.
www.theglassgallery.com

Mary Porter Sesson Art Gallery

12:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. Art gallery located in Porter College, UC Santa Cruz. Open through the academic year.
arts.ucsc.edu/sesson/

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, 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.
www.santacruz museums.org

Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park

Mission Plaza, Santa Cruz
831-425-5849

Built in 1791, Santa Cruz's Misión la Exaltación de la Santa Cruz was the twelfth mission established in California.
www.parks.ca.gov

Seymour Marine Discovery Center

100 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz
831-459-3800

Exhibit halls, aquarium, tours, and discovery shop.
seymourcenter.ucsc.edu

Places of Historical Interest

Bonny Doon Kilns Upper Laguna Creek

This 2.4-mile out-and-back wanders through old-growth forests and past meandering creeks to century-old limestone kilns.
www.limekilnlegacies.com

Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park

831-425-5849
The historic park is in downtown Santa Cruz; take Mission Street to Mission Plaza. The adobe is located one block off the plaza on School Street.
www.findrecreation.parks.ca.gov

San Lorenzo Valley Museum

12547 Highway 9, Boulder Creek
831-338-8382
Yearly events include a series of historical talks with expert speakers, the annual SLV Community Picnic, and a Victorian Christmas event.
www.slvmuseum.com

Performing Arts

Kuumbwa Jazz Center

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

The Palomar Ballroom

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

UCSC Arts and Lectures

1156 High Street, Santa Cruz
459-5003
The mission of A&L is to transform lives through excellence, innovation, and diversity in the performing arts.
artslectures.ucsc.edu

Art League Broadway Playhouse

526 Broadway, Santa Cruz
831-429-2339
This playhouse boasts an impressive art gallery as well as a small theater.
scal.org

Jewel Theatre

1001 Center Street, Santa Cruz
831-425-1003
New written works and local actors.
www.sccat.org

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium

307 Church Street, Santa Cruz
831-420-5260
A popular venue for author readings, concerts, and the beloved Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music
www.cityofsantacruz.com

Bakeries, Coffee Houses & Ice Cream Shops

The Abbey

350 Mission St, Santa Cruz
www.vintagechurch.org/news/theabbey

The Bagelry

320 Cedar St, Santa Cruz
831-429-8049

The Buttery

702 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz
831-458-3020

The Buzz

415 River St, Santa Cruz
831-421-9500

Cafe Bene

1101 Cedar St, Santa Cruz
831-425-0441

Café Pergolesi

418 Cedar St, Santa Cruz
831-426-1775

Coffetopia

1723 Mission St, Santa Cruz
831-425-6583

Cold Stone Creamery

1129 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-423-7015

Companion Bakery

2341 Mission St, Santa Cruz
831-252-2253

Emily's Bakery

1129 Mission St, Santa Cruz
831-429-9866

Gayle's Bakery

504 Bay Ave, Capitola
831-462-1200

Gigi's Bakery & Café

550 River St, Santa Cruz
831-425-4800

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
1820 Mission St, Santa Cruz
831-426-5262

Jumpin Juice & Java

1010 C Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-460-9759

Kelly's French Bakery

402 Ingalls St, Santa Cruz
831-423-9059

LuLu Carpenters

1545 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-429-9804

LuLu's at the Octagon

118 Cooper St, Santa Cruz
831-429-5858

Marini's Downtown

1308 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-423-3299

Mission Hill Creamery

504 Front St, Santa Cruz
831-515-8799

Noah's Bagels

1411 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-454-9555

Pacific Cookie Company

1203 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-429-6905

Peet's Coffee and Tea

1409 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-457-8170

Penny Ice Creamery

913 Cedar St, Santa Cruz
831-204-2523

The Picnic Basket

125 Beach St, Santa Cruz
831-206-1235

SC Roasting Company

1330 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-459-0100

Starbucks

1335 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-459-7681

Swirl Frozen Yogurt

1315 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-425-1997

Westside Coffee Company

849 Almar Ave, Santa Cruz
831-427-1300

Creative Activities

Bead It

1325 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-426-0779
Make your own jewelry.

Petroglyph Ceramics

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

Santa Cruz Fiber Arts Group

Tuesdays at 5:30p.m. year-round at Fins Coffee.
Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. year-round at Kelly's Bakery. Mingle and trade knitting tips. Drop-ins welcome.
www.knitting.meetup.com

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.
831-426-7433
www.beachboardwalk.com

Pacific Edge Indoor Climbing Gym

104 Bronson St #12, Santa Cruz
831-454-9254
www.pacificedgeclimbing.com

Santa Cruz Roller Palladium

1606 Seabright Ave, Santa Cruz
831-454-7946

Scotts Valley Sports Center

251 Kings Village Rd, Scotts Valley
831-439-0939
Area for roller skating and hockey activities.

Martial Arts

Aikido of Santa Cruz

306 Mission St, Santa Cruz
831-423-8326

Aptos Martial Arts Academy

7000 Soquel Dr, Aptos
831-688-1118

Spas

Tea House Spa

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

The Spa at Chaminade

One Chaminade Ln, Santa Cruz
831-475-5600
www.chaminade.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.; carnival rides, roller coasters, arcade, games, and beach.
www.beachboardwalk.com

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

Graham Hill Rd, Felton
831-335-4484
Scenic beach and steam train rides, bbq's, and music.
www.roaringcamp.com

Santa Cruz Wharf

809 Center St, Santa Cruz
831-420-5270
Take a fishing trip, rent a boat, eat fresh seafood, or do a little shopping.
www.santacruzwharf.com

Shopping

Capitola Village

Mediterranean style village located south of Santa Cruz. Offers restaurants, shops, and fishing.
www.explorecapitola.com

Downtown Pacific Avenue

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

Play It Again Sports

4770 Soquel Dr, Soquel
831-475-1988
Buy, sell, and trade new and used sports equipment.

Bookshop Santa Cruz

1520 Pacific Avenue, 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

Movie Theaters

The Del Mar

1124 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-426-7500
Also shows midnight movie classics Friday and Saturday nights.
www.thenick.com

Nickelodeon Theatres

210 Lincoln St, Santa Cruz
831-426-7500
Independent films.
www.thenick.com

Regal Cinemas Santa Cruz 9

1405 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-460-2599
www.fandango.com

Riverfront Twin

155 S River St, Santa Cruz
831-429-7250



Thrift Stores

Bargain Barn

392 Pioneer Street, Santa Cruz
Located in the Harvey West area.
Warehouse run by Goodwill, with donated items that do not end up in their stores.

Cognito

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

Crossroads Trading Co.

811 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz
831- 458-2555
Buy, sell, and trade gently used clothing.

Front Street Thrift

428 Front Street, Santa Cruz
831-457-0229
Perpetual half-off sales.

Goodwill

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

Moon Zoom

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

Retro Paradise

1010 Pacific Avenue #C, Santa Cruz
831-460-9960
Small store of vintage clothing, hats, shoes, accessories, and jewelry.

The Salvation Army

812 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz
831-426-8365
Used clothing, furniture, and other accessories.



Bicycling (Sales & Rentals)

Another Bike Shop

2361 Mission Street, Santa Cruz
831-427-2232

The Bicycle Trip

1127 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz
831-427-2580

Bike Bike

1321 River Street, Santa Cruz
831-425-3843

The Bike Church

224 Walnut Avenue, Santa Cruz
831-425-2453

Bill's Bike Repair

2628 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz
831-477-0511

Cycle Works

1149 41st Avenue, Capitola
831-476-7092

Dave's Recycled Bikes and Rentals

910 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz
831-423-8923

Electric Bike Rentals

115 Cliff Street, Santa Cruz
831-425-1593

Electric Sierra Cycles

302 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz
831-425-1593

Epicenter Cycling

8035 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz
831-662-8100

Family Cycling Center

914 41st Avenue, Capitola
831-475-3883

Mr. E's Cyclery

8059 Aptos Street, Aptos
831-465-9955

Recycled Bikes of Santa Cruz

2420 7th Avenue, Santa Cruz
831-465-9955

The Santa Cruz Bicycle Shop

1325 Mission Street, Santa Cruz
831-454-0909

The Spokesman Bicycles

231 Cathcart Street, Santa Cruz
831-423-5683

Sprockets

1420 Mission Street, Santa Cruz
831-426-7623

Surfboard Rentals

Cowell's Beach Surf Shop

30 Front Street, Santa Cruz
831-427-2355

Freeline Design Surfboards

821 41st Avenue, Santa Cruz
831-476-2950

Haut Surf & Sailboards

345 Swift Street, Santa Cruz
831-426-7874

Jd Rocket Surfboards

402 Ingalls Street, Santa Cruz
831-427-2421

Pacific Wave

1502 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz
831-458-9283

Palm Surf Shop

546 Palm Street, Santa Cruz
831-458-2151

Paradise Surf Shop

3961 Portola Drive, Santa Cruz
831-426-3880

Santa Cruz Surf Shop

753 41st Avenue, Santa Cruz
831-475-1616

Shoreline Surfshop

125 Beach Street, Santa Cruz
831-458-1380

Schroedel Surfboards

2264 Chanticleer, Santa Cruz
831-464-7707

Stretch Boards

205 Capitola Road Extension,
Santa Cruz
831-479-7309

Outdoor Water Activities

Water Sports & Lessons

Adventure Sports Unlimited

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-A Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz
831-479-4386
www.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.santacruzboatrentals.net

Kayak Connection

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

Lighthall Yacht Charters

790 Mariner Park, 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.santacruzboatrentals.net

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

Located at Capitola Village off Bay and Porter Exit.
www.capitola.com

Cowell Beach

West Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz
Located directly west of the Boardwalk.

Lighthouse Field State Beach

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

Main Beach

Beach St, Santa Cruz
Popular beach in front of the Boardwalk.
Includes volleyball nets.

Natural Bridges State Beach

2531 W Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz
831-423-4609
Tide pools and seasonal monarch butterfly sanctuary.
www.parks.ca.gov

New Brighton Beach

Located in Capitola off Highway 1 at New Brighton/Park Ave.
831-464-6330
www.parks.ca.gov

Pleasure Point Beach

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

Rio Del Mar Beach

Rio Del Mar Blvd, Aptos
831-685-6500
Fire pits, barbecues, and picnic areas.

Seabright Beach

East Cliff Dr at Seabright Ave,
831-685-6500
A mile of sandy shoreline, popular for surfing, swimming, picnicking, and campfires.

Twin Lakes State Beach

Parallel to East Cliff Drive and Portola Dr.
831-427-4868
Bird watching at park's adjacent Schwan's Lake.

Wilder Beach

North of Santa Cruz, between Natural Bridges and Wilder Ranch along Highway 1.
www.parks.ca.gov

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

PO Box 1340, Santa Cruz
831-427-2334
Fishing trips, scenic bay cruises, whale and dolphin watching, and private parties.
www.stagnaros.com

Team O'Neill Catamaran

PO Box 6300, Santa Cruz
831-475-1561
Charter the 65-foot Team O'Neill catamaran for up to 49 passengers.
www.oneillseadyssey.org

Surf Instruction

Club Ed Surf School & Rentals, Inc

831-464-0177
Located on the beach between the Wharf and the Santa Cruz Dream Inn.

Richard Schmidt Surf School, Inc.

849 Almar Ave, Santa Cruz
831-423-0928
Reasonably-priced group rates.
www.richardschmidt.com

Santa Cruz Surf School

332 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz
831-426-7072
Close to Cowell's Beach. Operated by Dylan Greiner. Also summer surf camp.

Outdoor Land Activities

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

Batting Cages

410 Kennedy Dr, Capitola
831-476-8181

Ben Lomond Skate Park and Santa Cruz County Highland Park

8500 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond
Santa Cruz County Highland Park
831-336-5366
http://www.caliskatz.com/v4/skateparks/norcal_list.asp

Big Basin State Park

21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek
831-338-8860
Offers guided walks, junior ranger programs, and kids' nature club.
www.redwoodhikes.com/Big%20Basin/Big%20Basin.html

Bike Map

Local website for mountain biking as well as street cycling.
www.sccrtc.org/bikemap.html

Derby Park

Skating, sand volleyball, tennis courts.
Woodland Way, Santa Cruz
831-420-5270
www.santacruzparksandrec.com

Fall Creek State Park

1400 Felton Empire Rd, Felton
See Henry Cowell State Park below for the website detailing 2 hikes in Fall Creek.
831-335-4598
www.santacruzstateparks.org/parks/fall-creek

The Fun Stop

Blacktop surface at the end of Pacific Avenue, at the foot of the Santa Cruz Wharf.

Harvey West Park

326 Evergreen St, Santa Cruz
831-420-6140
Pool, picnic areas and baseball fields.
www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/pr/parksrec/parks/harvey.html

Henry Cowell State Park

101 North Big Trees Park Rd, Felton
Loved for its extensive hiking trails.
www.parks.ca.gov

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.

Neary Lagoon Park

110 California St, Santa Cruz
Abundant wildlife, trails, small play area, tennis courts, floating walkways on the water and interpretive signage.
831-420-5270
www.santacruzparksandrec.com

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

800 Quail Hollow Rd, Felton
www.scparks.com/quail_hollow.html

Santa Cruz Bike Park

Corner of Beach and Front Streets in town.
Ramps and asphalt areas for bicycles only.
www.santacruzparksandrec.com

Santa Cruz City Parks

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/>

Skypark

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

Wilder Ranch State Park

www.santacruzstateparks.org/parks/wilder

Running

Pacific Coast Trail Runs

141 Flora Avenue #34, Walnut Creek
925-947-3787
Trail runs all over Monterey and San Francisco Bay areas.
www.pctrailruns.com/

Santa Cruz Track Club

Year-round club meeting at Soquel High School that participates in competitive events of cross-country and track.
www.santacruztrackclub.com/

Santa Cruz Triathlon Association

Provides a supportive, social, and positive environment for athletes of all abilities.
sctriathlon.com/

Horseback Riding

Monterey Bay Horsemanship and Therapeutic Center

475 Eucalyptus Drive,
Watsonville
831-761-1142
Classes offered by qualified instructors, Monday through Saturday.
www.mbhorsecenter.com

Willow Pond Ranch

P.O. Box 1329, 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

Reasonably-priced tennis classes for all levels of ability.
<http://www.capitolarecreation.com/>

Community Tennis Leagues

831-427-4590
Tennis matches available for all levels of players.
www.communitytennis.com

Golf & Disc Golf

Boulder Creek Golf and Country Club

16901 Big Basin Hwy, Boulder Creek
831-338-2121

Cassery Par 3 Golf Course

626 Cassery Rd, Watsonville
831-724-1654

DeLaveaga Disc Golf Club

DeLaveaga Park, Branciforte Dr, Santa Cruz
831-462-5293

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. Full-service 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
831-459-9155

Ranked among the Top 100 courses in the U.S.
www.pasatiempo.com

Seascape Golf Club

610 Clubhouse Dr, Aptos
831-688-3214
18-hole regulation public golf course.
www.seascaperesort.com

Spring Hills Gold 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
831-427-2998

World famous garden. Located at the base of campus on Empire Grade.
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, and free admission.
www.bamboogiant.com

Monarch Grove

Natural Bridges State Beach
831-423-4609

Tour of a state-designated insect preserve.

Seacliff's Ancient Fossil Beds

831-685-6444

Explore the fossil evidence of an ancient inland sea.

Public State Campgrounds

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek
831-338-8860

Henry Cowell Redwoods & Fall Creek State Park

101N. Big Trees Park Rd, Felton
831-335-4598

Manresa Uplands State Beach

205 Manresa Uplands Rd,
La Selva Beach
831-761-3750

New Brighton State Beach Park

1500 Park Ave, Capitola
831-464-6330

Seacliff State Beach

State Park Dr, Aptos
831-685-6442

Sunset State Beach

201 Sunset Beach Rd, Watsonville
831-763-7063

U-Pick Farms

Organic Strawberries, Olallieberries, and Blackberries

Swanton Berry Farms

25 Swanton Rd, Davenport
831-469-8804

www.swantonberryfarm.com

Olallieberries, Boysenberries, and 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

12 different varieties of organic apples.
www.spranch.org/events.ldml

Pumpkin Farms

Fambrini's Fresh Farm Produce

5 miles north of Santa Cruz on Hwy 1
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.

Swanton Farms

25 Swanton Rd, Davenport
831-469-8804

www.swantonberryfarm.com

Rock Climbing

Bugaboo Mountain Sports

1521 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz
831-429-6300

Pacific Edge Rock Climbing Gym

104 Bronson St Santa Cruz
831-454-9254

Farmers' Markets

Aptos Farmers' Market

8:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Saturdays at Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr. Offers organic and non-organic produce, flowers, pasta, coffee, and music. www.montereybayfarmers.org

Downtown Santa Cruz Farmers' Market

2:30p.m.-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Downtown Santa Cruz. Fruits and veggies grown by local farmers. www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

Felton Farmers' Market

2:30p.m.-6:30p.m. May through November at St. John's Catholic Church parking lot. Community marketplace offering fresh seasonal produce.

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

Scotts Valley Farmers' Market

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

The UCSC Market Cart

12:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. Early June through October on the corner of Bay and High Street.

Watsonville Farmers' Market

3:00p.m.-7:00p.m. Every Friday. The Watsonville Farmer's Market located on Main and Peak Street provides fresh and locally grown foods. Live music on first Fridays of the month. 831-234-9511

Westside Farmers' Market

9:00a.m.-2:00p.m. Saturdays at 2801 Mission St. Food for sale from local farmers. www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

Outdoor Vendors

Antique Fair

9:00a.m.-4:00p.m. Located on Lincoln Street (between Pacific & Cedar Streets), downtown Santa Cruz. Vendors offer an eclectic blend of antiques, vintage, and unique items in an outdoor street fair.

Skyview Flea-Market

2260 Soquel Drive, Live Oak 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, \$2.00 on Saturday, and \$2.50 on Sunday.

Other Destinations Near Santa Cruz

Aptos

The quaint town of Aptos is about 20 minutes south of Santa Cruz and combines the redwoods and the sea in one idyllic setting. Aptos offers a village of boutiques and restaurants as well as a landmark 1870's hotel and 30 miles of forest trails. The U.S.S. Palo Alto, "the cement ship," an experimental concrete vessel, is docked at the end of the fishing pier. Aptos Chamber of Commerce www.aptoschamber.com

Monterey

About an hour 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. www.monterey.org

Capitola

This cozy region just 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 Mountains are about 15 minutes from bustling communities along the coast. The 25-mile long San Lorenzo River threads through the towns of Ben Lomond, Boulder Creek, Brookdale, 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.

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.

Watsonville

Located about 20 minutes south of Santa Cruz, Watsonville is rich with fun and exploration. Between the foothills and the sea, this charming city is adorned with historic Victorian homes and late 1880's storefronts that line the main street. Strawberry fields, flower nurseries, apple orchards and deep green row crops range from the hills to the sea. City of Watsonville www.ci.watsonville.ca.us

Soquel

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.

Classes/Organized Activities

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

Capitola/Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation

General special interest classes include: (Offerings vary by session)

Getting to Know Your Digital Camera
Beginning Photography
Creative Writing
Dog Training Basics
Intro to Guitar
Improv for Adults
Creative Journal Workshop
Broken Plate Mosaic
Encrusted Chain Necklace
Korean Martial Arts
Learn to Surf
Yoga with Props
Social Media Tool Box
Make It in Voice-Overs: You're on Air
Financial Self-Defense for Women
Spanish Conversation
Chinese
German for Beginners
www.capitolarecreation.com
831-475-5935

Louden Nelson Center Special interest classes include:

Artistic Soap Making
Scrapbooking Techniques
Music Workshops
Beginning Sea Kayaking
Kayak Whale Watching
Flag Football
Guitar in the Styles of Flamenco
Beginning Ukelele I & II
Learn to play Guitar
Digital Camera Basics
Beginning Photography
How Your Car Works: The Basics
www.santacruzparksandrec.com
831-420-5270

Dominican Hospital

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 include:

Medical Spanish
Tai Chi
Pilates
CPR Training
Support Groups
Nutrition/ Health Counseling
Water Exercises
Quit Smoking Support Groups

www.dominicanhospital.org
831-462-7709

Volunteer Opportunities

Become a Monterey Bay Master Gardener

1432 Freedom Boulevard, Watsonville
In becoming a Master Gardener, you will have the opportunity to give back to your community through different forms of volunteering.
www.montereybaymastergardeners.org

Volunteer Matching Networks

UCSC Student Volunteer Center

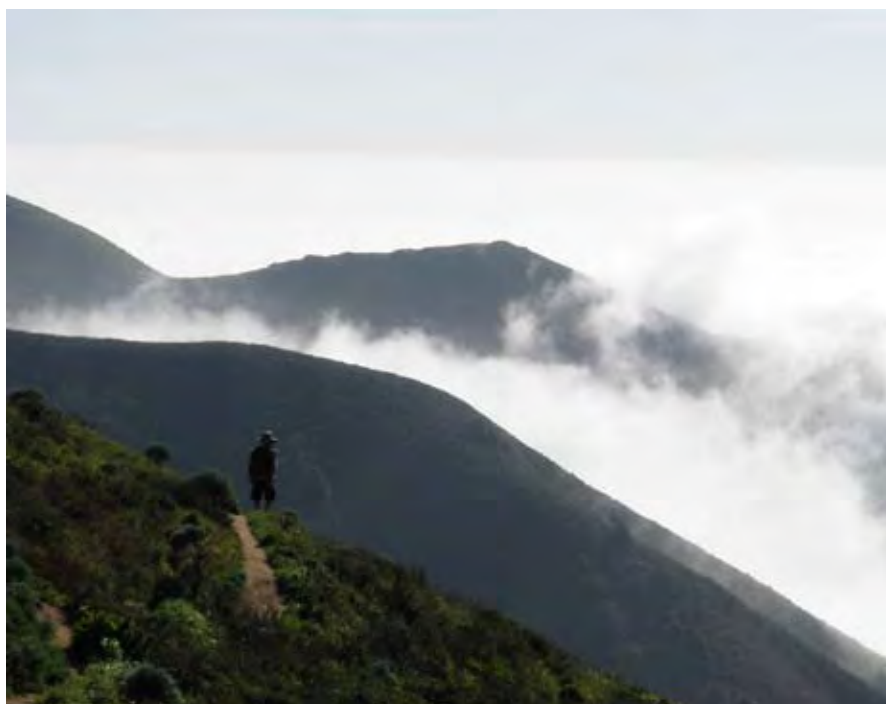
Provides information about both long term and one-time volunteer opportunities with a variety of organizations. Also offers grant opportunities.
www2.ucsc.edu/svc

Volunteer Centers of Santa Cruz County

Great resource for county-wide opportunities to volunteer.
www.scvolunteercenter.org

Volunteer Match

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

800-331-3663

Help provide hungry people with surplus produce from local fields.

www.agagainsthunger.org

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Programs

831-459-4866

Participate in educational workshops, college programming, and peer education.

Big Brothers and Sisters

1000 Fourth Ave, Suite 1

831-464-8691

Be a mentor to local youth.

City of Santa Cruz Water Department

831-420-5403

Learn about the water quality in Santa Cruz and help at fundraising events.

www.cityofsantacruz.com

Familia Center

711 East Cliff Dr

831-423-5747

Latino-based community resource that offers recreational and educational programs for youth.

Friends of Santa Cruz

831-429-1840

Work with school groups, lead nature and history walks, host visitor centers, host booths at special events and more. Apply through State Park's Docent Program.

www.thatsmypark.org

Friends Outside

831-336-9387

Friends Outside provides programs and services to incarcerated individuals in state prisons all over California.

www.friendsoutside.org

HIV Prevention Program

831-459-5489

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.

Homeless Garden Project

831-426-3609

People from 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: set-up, staff booths, take tickets, direct traffic, clean-up,...

www.landtrustsantacruz.org

Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

Help protect, conserve, and restore natural resources through participation in information, education, and technical assistance programs.

www.sccrcd.org

Surfrider Foundation: Santa Cruz Chapter

Help prevent pollution by participating in classroom presentations, beach clean-ups, taking water samples, and many other opportunities.

www.surfridersantacruz.org

Santa Cruz Area Radical Fairies

831-423-0849

Facilitates a variety of social activities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth and young adults (14 and up).

www.santacruzradicalfaeries.com

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.

<http://www.thatsmypark.org/>

Walnut Avenue Women's Center

831-426-3062

WAWC seeks to improve the economic, physical, and emotional well being of all families.

wawc.org



On-Going Events

Sundays

Dance Church

9:00a.m.-11:15a.m. 418 Front St. Freestyle DJ'd dance. Not affiliated with religion; dance represents a spiritual reverence. Donations suggested.

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 9:00p.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

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

Tuesdays

Contact Improv Jam

7:30p.m.-9:30p.m. 418 Front St, across from the Metro Bus Station. Drop-in is okay. Live music every first and third Tuesday. Requested donation.
www.the418.org

Felton Farmers' Market

2:30p.m.-6:30p.m. May through November at St. John's Catholic Church parking lot. Community marketplace offering fresh seasonal produce.

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

Santa Cruz Fiber Arts Group

5:30p.m. Mingle and have fun trading knitting tips at Fins Coffee. Drop-ins welcome.
knitting.meetup.com/115/

Wednesdays

Downtown Farmers' Market

2:30p.m.-6:30p.m. Lincoln and Cedar Street in Downtown Santa Cruz.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

Thursdays

Cookin' at the Kuumbwa

Featuring guest chefs from local restaurants, along with live jazz performances.
www.kuumbwajazz.org

Fridays

Art Bike Ride First Fridays

Wear a costume, decorate your bicycle, and ride to the next destination for more decorating. Hosted by a local artist and craftspeople. 831-440-7699

Free Fridays at the MAH

1st Friday 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/future/

Friday Night Bands at the Beach

6:30p.m. & 8:30p.m. Classic rock bands from the 70s and 80s perform 2 free shows every Friday night on the beach during the summer.
www.beachboardwalk.com

Live Music at Boardwalk Bowl

Live music at Boardwalk Bowl while bowling.
www.boardwalkbowl.com

Midnights at the Del Mar

The Downtown Del Mar Theater features a variety of movies and prizes. www.thenick.com

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. Located at Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr.
www.montereybayfarmers.org

Arboretum Garden Tour

11:00a.m. The tour is free with the price of admission.
<http://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 and the Poet and the Patriot.
www.legendarycollective.com

Midnights at the Del Mar

The Downtown Del Mar Theater features a variety of movies and prizes.
www.thenick.com

Santa Cruz Fiber Arts Group

2:00p.m. Mingle and trade knitting tips at Kelly's Bakery year-round. Drop-ins welcome.
knitting.meetup.com/115/

Santa Cruz Saturday Market

10:00a.m.-6:00p.m., through November. San Lorenzo Park, 137 Dakota Ave. An artisan's bazaar.
www.theSantaCruzSaturdayMarket.org

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. Food from local farmers.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

Other

Karaoke at the Boardwalk

Before 9:00p.m. Boardwalk Bowl five nights a week.
www.boardwalkbowl.com, 831-426-3324

Live Jazz Seven Nights a Week

6:30p.m.-8:30p.m. Hoffmann's Bakery, Downtown Santa Cruz.
www.hoffmansbakery.net

The Legendary Santa Cruz Slam

6:30p.m.-11:00p.m. Talented poets perform thought-provoking spoken word on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month.
www.legendarycollective.com



Yearly Events in Santa Cruz

January

Annual Arboretum Volunteer Training Classes – University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum; Every week 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.santacruzactorstheatre.org, 831-425-7259

Monarch Butterfly Tours – Monarch Grove; 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, before you visit, you may want to call the park to find out population particulars. 831-423-4609, www.parks.ca.gov

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, www.santacruz museums.org

Santa Cruz Chocolate Festival – Cocoanut Grove; Late 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

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

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.ucsc recreation.com

Clam Chowder Cook-Off – Santa Cruz Beach 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

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; 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

The Volcom Great White Surf – Steamer's Lane; Early February. This surf contest annually graces Santa Cruz with its presence.

Volunteers' Annual Training – Wilder Ranch; Early February. 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 10’s contest. 831-425-7529, www.santacruzactorstheatre.org

Jazz on the Wharf – Santa Cruz Wharf; Mid-March. Jazz on the Wharf features live jazz amidst the beautiful setting of Santa Cruz wharf. 831-420-5273, www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us

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 demos. 831-458-3648, www.asudoit.com

April

AIDS Walk – Various locations; Mid-April. An AIDS walk organized by the UCSC Student Health Organization begins at the Santa Cruz Wharf. 831-459-3772, www.scapsite.org/walk

Ducky Derby & Carnival – Harvey West Park, Friendship Gardens; Late April. This event features a carnival, entertainment, rubber duck races, prizes, food, and more. 831-479-4070, www.DuckyDerbySantaCruz.com

Cine Maiz – UCSC Performing Arts Media Theater; Mid April. The Latin American Film Festival Committee holds a mission to expose, educate, and challenge prevailing perceptions of Latin America as conveyed through the mainstream movie industry and popular culture in general. Free admission. www2.ucsc.edu/raza/cinemaiz.html

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

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. 831-459-1253, www.ucsc.edu

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

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. The show will feature a variety of Jewels, Jade and ancient fossils. <http://scmgs.org/shows/index.html>

Wednesday Night Sailboat Races – Chardonnay II; April through October. The Chardonnay II offers food-oriented trips featuring the informal Wednesday night sailboat races. 831-423-1213, www.chardonnay.com

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 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

Strawberry Shortcake 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

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.

831-459-2159, www.sbaroque.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

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

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. The Center hosts a fundraiser with 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

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

July

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

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, www.sharedadventures.com

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

Cabrillo Festival of Cotemporary Music – Cabrillo College; Early 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.scottsvalleypd.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

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

The Museum of Art & History's Plein Air Affaire – Abbott Square; 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. www.wbtemple.org/

Redwood Dulcimer Festival – Bonny Doon; Mid July. This is a musical showcase from the talented 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.
831-429-1691, www.folkplanet.com/dulcimerday

Shakespeare Santa Cruz – UCSC; Early July through August. UCSC Shakespeare Santa Cruz presents various plays at the Mainstage Theater and Festival Glen of UC Santa Cruz. 831-459-2121, <http://shakespearesantacruz.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



August

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, www.cityofsantacruz.com

Shakespeare Santa Cruz – University of Santa Cruz; Through the end of August. UCSC Shakespeare Santa Cruz presents various plays at the Mainstage Theater and Festival Glen of UC Santa Cruz. 831-459-2121

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, www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us

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. www.roaringcamp.com

Cabrillo Music & Art Festival – Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium; Early August. Celebrate the arts at this annual free outdoor festival in downtown Santa Cruz. The Festival features fine arts and crafts and non-stop live world music and dance on the outdoor stage. 831-420-5260

Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music – Santa Cruz Auditorium; Early August. The Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium is the backdrop for this symphonic music festival. www.cabrillomusic.org

Day on the Monterey Bay Regatta – Monterey Bay; Early August. Big Brothers/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

Santa Cruz City Amateur Gold 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. 714-713-4874, www.surfline.com

Begonia Festival – Capitola; Late August to early September. This lovely festival features a nautical parade, a movie on the beach and a sand sculpture competition. 831-476-3566, www.begoniafestival.com



September

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, where it is possible to help clean the local beaches. 831-462-5660, www.saveourshores.org

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/kahuna

Capitola Art Festival – Capitola; Labor Day Weekend. Music is performed throughout the day, with food and art available from local Santa Cruz County artists. This community event raises funds for kids and seniors, arts and music programs among other things it supports. 831-475-6522

Capitola Begonia Festival – Various locations; Early September. This annual event includes a nautical parade, sand sculpture competition, movies, concerts & many more free family events. 831-476-3566, www.begoniafestival.com

Greek Culture and Food Festival – Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church, Church Street; First weekend of September. This is a Santa Cruz tradition with folk dancing and superb food such as dolmas, kabobs, and baklava. 831-425-1234, propheteliassantacruz.org

Monterey Bay Birding Festival – Various locations; Late September. See 200 species of birds in this picturesque area of California on the Monterey Bay. 831-724-3900, www.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. 831-335-7077, www.mountainparks.org

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

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.com

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

October

Apple Butter Festival – Gizdich Ranch; Third Saturday of October. Hayrides, an antique engine display, a pumpkin patch, apple butter cooking, canning and more are the highlights of this event.
831-722-1056, www.gizdich-ranch.com

The Annual Sculpture Garden – Watsonville; All month. This is major exhibition of sculptures throughout the beautiful demonstration gardens and is on display through the month. 831-763-0939, www.sierraazul.com

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. The plant list may be viewed on the website.
831-427-2998, arboretum.ucsc.edu/

Fireworks Extravaganza – Seacliff State Beach; Early October. The Annual Monte Foundation Fireworks Extravaganza hosts a family event and fundraiser with games, food, live entertainment, and a fireworks display at Seacliff State Beach.
831-685-3317, www.monte-foundation.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. 831-423-3720, www.hotrodsatthebeach.com

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow – 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

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

Mask Festival – Louden Nelson Community Center; Late October. 831-420-6177, www.nelsoncenter.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. You may also purchase an artists' guide calendar for your entry into live demonstrations. www.ccsc.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

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, activism.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. www.beachboardwalk.com

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

Scottish Games & Celtic Festival – San Lorenzo Park; Early October. This festival features live music, games, shopping, food and a living history exhibit to explore Scottish traditions.
www.santacruzscottishgames.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

Tours of the Monarch Butterfly Grove – Monarch Grove Butterfly Sanctuary; All month. Join a docent naturalist and see thousands of monarch butterflies wintering in Santa Cruz. 831-423-4609, www.santacruzstateparks.org

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 will be given to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County.
831-426-3324, www.boardwalkbowl.com

Day of the Dead Exhibit – PVAC Art Gallery; All month. Pajaro Valley Arts Council presents their exhibit with themes that vary each year, featuring Mexican tradition and art. 831-722-3062, www.pvarts.org

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

Full Length Play Contest – Santa Cruz Actors’ Theater; Second week of November. The winner and runners-up of the Annual Full Length Play Contest show their world premier works. 831-425-7259; www.actorssc.org

Mixed Nutz! – University of California Santa Cruz; November through December; The Nutcracker Remixed is a Tandy Beal production with dancers, music and circus performers for the winter season.
831-459-2159, arts.ucsc.edu

The Big Sur Half Marathon – Various locations; Late 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.bsim.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





December

The Nutcracker – Santa Cruz Ballet Theater; All month. The Santa Cruz Ballet Theater presents “The Nutcracker” in December, featuring dancers from the Houston Ballet. 831-420-5260, www.scbt.org

Elephant Seals at Año Nuevo – Año Nuevo State Park; All month. 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

Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Train – Roaring Camp Railroad; All month. 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

Watsonville Snow Day! – Corner of Peck and Union Street in Watsonville; first Friday of December. This street corner is transformed into a winter wonderland. The intersection is covered in snow and at the same time you can buy produce from the Farmers Market. Must bring one can of non-perishable food for every ten minutes you want to spend in the snow. 831-768-3240

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

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

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.santacruzstateparks.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

Events Sorted by Type

Art Exhibits and Lectures

The Museum of Art & History's Plein Air Affaire – Abbott Square; 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. 831-763-0939, 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. You may also purchase an artists' guide calendar for your entry into live demonstrations. www.ccscc.org

Mi Casa Es Tu Casa – PVAC Art Gallery; November to Mid-December. Pajaro Valley Arts Council presents their annual Day of the Dead 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, Friendship Gardens; Late April. This event is held at the Harvey West Park in the Friendship Gardens, featuring a carnival, entertainment, rubber duck races, prizes, food, and more. 831-479-4070, www.DuckyDerbySantaCruz.com

Santa Cruz Art and Jazz Festival – Wharf; Mid-May.

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

Redwood Dulcimer Festival – Bonny Doon; Mid July. A showcase made up of the Dulcimer Day staff and various special guests. During three 90 minute workshop sessions, there are diverse workshop options to choose from, catering to players from novice to advanced ability. 831-429-1691, www.folkplanet.com/dulcimerday

The Monterey Bay Strawberry Festival – Downtown Watsonville; Late July. The Monterey Bay Strawberry Festival will serve 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.s sbaroque.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, www.cityofsantacruz.com

Capitola Art Festival – Capitola; Labor Day Weekend. Music is played throughout the day, with food, and art presented by local Santa Cruz County artists. This community event raises funds for kids and seniors, arts and music programs among many things it supports. 831-475-6522

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; First weekend of September. This is a Santa Cruz tradition with Greek folk dancing and superb food such as dolmas, kabobs, and baklava. 831-425-1234, propheteliassantacruz.org

Capitola Begonia Festival – Various locations; Early September. This annual event includes a nautical parade, sand sculpture competition, movies, concerts and many more free family events. 831-476-3566, www.begoniafestival.com

Monterey Bay Birding Festival – Various locations; Late September. See 200 species of birds in this picturesque area of California on the Monterey Bay. 831-724-3900, <http://www.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. 831-335-7077, www.mountainparks.org

Scottish Games & Celtic Festival – San Lorenzo Park; Early October. This annual festival features live music, games, shopping, food and a living history exhibit to explore Scottish traditions. www.santacruzscottishgames.com

Apple Butter Festival – Gizdich Ranch; Third Saturday of October. Hayrides, an antique engine display, a pumpkin patch, apple butter cooking, canning, and more happen at this festival in Watsonville. Call for times. 831-722-1056, www.gizdich-ranch.com

Mask Festival – Loudon 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

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

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 large variety of nature-oriented items. Includes crafts fair and other activities. 831-335-0782, 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, treats. 831-426-0505, www.santacruzstateparks.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, www.wbtemple.org

Performing Arts

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. www.santacruzactorstheatre.org, 831-425-7259

Best of the Rest – Santa Cruz Actors' Theater; Late March. The "Best of the Rest," stages readings of the runner-ups of the Eight 10's contest. 831-425-7529, www.santacruzactorstheatre.org

Shakespeare Santa Cruz – University of Santa Cruz; Through the end of August. UCSC Shakespeare Santa Cruz presents various plays at the Mainstage Theater and Festival Glen of UC Santa Cruz. 831-459-2121

Full Length Play Contest – Santa Cruz Actors' Theater; Second week of November. The winner and runners-up of the Annual Full Length Play Contest show their world premier works. 831-425-7259; www.actorssc.org

Mixed Nutz! – University of California Santa Cruz; November through December. The Nutcracker Remixed is a Tandy Beal production with dancers, music and circus performers for the winter season.
831-459-2159, arts.ucsc.edu

The Nutcracker – Santa Cruz Ballet Theater; through December. The Santa Cruz Ballet Theater presents “The Nutcracker”, featuring dancers from the Houston Ballet.
831-420-5260, www.scbt.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-March. Jazz on the Wharf features live jazz amidst the beautiful setting of Santa Cruz wharf.
831-420-5273, www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us

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.
831-459-2159, www.scbaroque.org

Cabrillo Festival of Cotemporary Music – Cabrillo College; Early July. During the first two weeks of August, 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.cabrilloomusic.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 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. www.beachboardwalk.com

Nature Lectures and Events

Volunteer Docent Training begins – Seymour center; Mid-January. Join the Seymour Center team for our 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

Annual Arboretum Volunteer Training Classes – University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum; Every week 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, you may want to call the park to find out population particulars.
831-423-4609, www.santacruzstateparks.org

Elephant Seals at Año Nuevo – Año Nuevo State Park; All month. 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

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, Seacliff, 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, www.saveourshores.org

Races, Walks, and Sporting Events

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's – 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's Lane; Early February. This annual surf contest graces Santa Cruz with its presence at Streamers Lane.

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 demos.
831-458-3648, www.asudoit.com

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 – Chardonnay II; April through October. The Chardonnay II offers food-oriented trips featuring the informal Wednesday night sailboat races.
831-423-1213, www.chardonnay.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.
831-475-5234, www.santacruzcycling.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

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

Santa Cruz City Amateur Gold Championship – De Laveaga Golf Course; Mid-August. This annual event allows players to join 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.
714-713-4874, www.surflines.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.com

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 (7223), www.firstwave-events.com/kahuna

The Big Sur Half Marathon – Various locations; Late 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.bsim.org

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/

AIDS Walk – Various locations; Mid-April. An AIDS walk organized by the UCSC Student Health Organization begins at the Santa Cruz Wharf. 831-459-3772, scapsite.org/walk

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 lucky Dad is selected per train to ride down the mountain 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 1950s 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 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

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow – 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 Railroads; 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

Special Events

Santa Cruz Chocolate Festival – Cocoanut Grove; Early February. Santa Cruz Chocolate Festival is a celebration of all things chocolate. Chocolate tastings from area vendors, a silent auction and live jazz will be featured.
831-423-2053, www.santacruzchocolatefestival.org

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 will be 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

Annual Clam Chowder Cook-Off – Beach Boardwalk; Late 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.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us

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

"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.scottsvalleypd.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, www.sharedadventures.com

Xochipilli Community Gala – Mello Center; Mid-October. The Xochipilli Anniversary Community Gala Performance is a two-hour interactive Mexican Folk Dance celebrating the cultural diversity in Mexico at the Mello Center in Watsonville. www.mellocenter.com

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

Fireworks Extravaganza – Seacliff State Beach; Early October. The annual Monte Foundation Fireworks Extravaganza hosts a family event and fundraiser with games, food, live entertainment, and a fireworks display at Seacliff State Beach. 831-685-3317, www.monte-foundation.com

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. 831-423-3720, www.hotrodsatthebeach.com

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

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 downtown 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.
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. Mushrooms can be brought along for identification.
831-420-6115, www.santacruzmuseums.org

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Chili Cook-Off – BeachBoardwalk; 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 will feature a variety of Jewels, Jade and ancient fossils.
<http://scmgs.org/shows/index.html>

Watsonville Snow Day! – Corner of Peck and Union Street in Watsonville; first Friday of December. Corner of Peck and Union Street is transformed into a winter wonderland. The intersection will be covered in snow and you can buy produce from the Farmers Market. Must bring one can of non-perishable food for every ten minutes you want to spend in the snow.
831-768-3240

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