



# Pre-Camp Edition

2016 Rancho Alegre Summer Camp

July 3, 2016

Los Padres Council  
2680 West Hwy. 154  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93105

## Inside this issue:

Program Changes	2
Extreme Fire Danger	2
Our Theme: Hawaiian Summer	3
Our Climbing Wall	3
For the Parents	3
Merit Badge Prerequisites	4
Your Packing List	5
Adult Training	6
Program Notes	6
Trading Post	6
Directions	6

## Arrival Activities

### Welcome to Rancho Alegre!

We are just two weeks away from your arrival and we wanted to share with you some very important information.

We ask that all units arrive between 1 and 3 pm on Sunday (unless other arrangements have been made with the camp office).

We will have guides at the gate which will direct you to your campsite and arrange for a camp staff member to assist you in setting up.

One leader should come to the Dining Hall office with the necessary paperwork (PLEASE keep the Medical Forms separate.) The leader will be provided with the Water Bottles for each participant.

After this check-in at the Dining Hall, the leader will return to his unit and have attendees dress for Med Check and Swim Check. Your Troop Guide will take you to these appointments and along the way discuss various features of the camp. For the med check, please have the Medical Forms and any medications. During the check, the participant should share any information about food or drug allergies or special dietary needs. At the pool the camper will need swim trunks

and a towel. Please remember that proper camp footwear must be worn at all times and that a water bottle is an essential to gain entry to any program area.

The Ax Yard will be open for all wanting to earn a Totin' Chit which is required for certain merit badges and rank advancement.

Later that afternoon there will be a meeting of camp staff officials with leaders and the SPL in Friendship Hall.

At 5:30 there is an Assembly of all campers at the Flags area. Proper Scout Uniform is required for Flag Ceremonies and Breakfast/Dinner. During this Assembly, some important safety information will be shared and staff will be introduced prior to the Flag Ceremony.

At 8:00 pm your Troop Guide will escort you to the Lower Campfire Bowl for a Campfire Show put on by staff. At Rancho Alegre, our campfires close with a flag retirement ceremony. Therefore we ask all participants be dressed in proper uniform. Afterwards all are invited to the Dining Hall for a Cracker Barrel.

Lights out at 10 pm.

# Mahalo

## Program Changes

Rancho Alegre is firmly committed to the BSA's Youth Protection Policies. As a result of this commitment it sometimes is necessary to cancel classes for a lack of enrollment. We need a minimum of three Scouts for each session. We do everything we can to make sure that we honor Scout's commitments. For this year the following classes were deleted: Pioneering, Indian Lore, Orienteering, Stand-up Paddle Board, Swimming (Period 1 only), Weather, Search and Rescue, and Shotgun Shooting (PM classes only). Early on we had to cancel the Kayaking, Rowing, and Canoeing classes as El Nino failed to materialize and left this area and its lakes without adequate water to sustain such a program.

For those of you needing a miniature kit for Pioneering or Indian Lore crafts materials, our Trading Post does have these items in stock.

For Shotgun, we successfully placed all the afternoon applicants in morning classes. For the other merit badges, we make the offer that one of our counselors will sign off on any demonstrated or written work when you or your unit leader make an appointment with that individual. Otherwise, we have gone to your second or third choice and made an assignment.

In some cases, we may not have assigned you to the period that you originally requested. We do this to balance out the classes such as in Archery, Rifle Shooting, Swimming, and Cooking. That way you get more direct activity time and in one case it prevented a class from being cancelled.

At the same time we have created a new Trail to First Class Tenderfoot Session in Period 4. The Scouts assigned to this class originally were in Period 3 and had Period 4 Swimming. These Scouts now have Period 3 Swimming and Period 4 TFC-Tenderfoot. Again, this fulfills our desire to balance sessions. Others wishing to do this session can contact me at [RanchoAlegre@cox.net](mailto:RanchoAlegre@cox.net) to make a change.

Thanks to all for making this year's registration process the best!

Wayne Rascati,  
Program Director/Registrar

## Extreme Fire Danger

As Rancho Alegre is located in the Los Padres National Forest this camp is bound by law and morally to observe local requirements on fire safety. Therefore the following policies are in effect:

- No open flames in camp sites. The only place where a fire will be allowed is in the Lower Camp-fire Bowl during Cooking Merit Badge Sessions, Firem'n Chit qualification, and all-camp Campfires on Sunday and Friday evenings.
- We are not allowed to shoot off rockets for the Space Exploration Merit Badge. Instead, we will discuss the safe use of such rockets and then shoot off water bottle rockets using an air pump.

We ask that all leaders cover fire safety with their Scouts prior to departure for camp.

---



## Our Theme: Hawaiian Summer

Last year when we planned the theme for this year we were bombarded by the news that we should expect an El Nino year with plenty of rain. Great, we thought. We can offer Canoeing, Rowing, and Kayaking. We will be allowed to have campfires. We'll have a lake again instead of a dry bed. We went with the Hawaiian theme as it reminded us of lush paradise we hoped our camp would be.

It has been exceptionally dry winter despite weather forecasts to the contrary. This year's theme will allow us to recall those wonderful days of beach weather and adventure. It is our intent to make your time with us a real Hawaiian experience with welcome leis, a mid-week luau, and other Hawaiian traditional activities and music..

---

## Our Climbing Wall

The first thing I want to tell you is that YES we will have the Climbing Merit Badge at camp this year. Unfortunately, the contractor was unable to obtain all the necessary construction items for erecting the Climbing Wall. Rather than interfere with COPE operations in the same area as the proposed Climbing Wall, we delayed construction until after Summer Camp is over. Now the contractor is

arriving on Monday, July 18. Be sure to watch our Council website—[www.lpcbsa.org](http://www.lpcbsa.org) as we intend to post daily pictures of the construction.

AS we have done in prior years our Climbing class will spend two mornings off-site at a local indoor climbing wall.

---

## For the Parents

For some of our participants this may be the first time that they have been away from home. We want to share some facts about Rancho Alegre with the parents.

Our camp is open year-round. During school months the Council operates The Outdoor School—a 5th and 6th grade science camp attended by over 75 elementary schools.

We have a full-time kitchen staff that works with those having special dietary needs such as lactose intolerance, gluten-free diet, vegetarian diet, etc. We don't allow nuts at camp as many young people have allergies to nuts. We just need to know about it.

Our camp is located just 16 miles from Santa Bar-

bara and 10 miles from Santa Ynez. In the event of an emergency, response time is under 15 minutes and there are hospitals in both locations. For the small cut and first aid, we have a qualified EMT on staff and our staff is all trained in Basic First Aid and CPR/AED (There are 3 AED's on our property.) Water dehydration is our biggest problem. We continually remind all Scouts to drink plenty of water and that is why each one receives a souvenir water bottle at check-in.

In addition to Santa Barbara County Fire and Sheriffs, we have Forest Service camp nearby. We believe that our unique location and staff is able to offer a safe environment in the outdoors!

---

## Merit Badge Prerequisites

There are some things that just can't possibly be done in a camp setting. Therefore, we have prepared this list of items that if you do at home will assist you in receiving a completion rather than a partial at the conclusion of camp.

**ALL MERIT BADGES: Read the Merit Badge Pamphlet!!!**



### AQUATICS:

**Lifesaving**—Requirement 1A

### EAGLE ACADEMIC:

**Citizenship in the Nation**—Requirement 2

**Citizenship in the World**—Requirements 4b, 7cde

**Communications**—2B, 5, 6, 7 (b or c), 9

### HEALTH and SAFETY:

**Emergency Preparedness**—1, 2b (1,2,3,4,5), 2c, 7, 8b, 9 (Be sure to do home inspection.)

**First Aid**—2d (Home-built First Aid Kit is a must)

### HANDICRAFTS:

**Art**—Requirement 6 (Museum Tour write-up; can be done online. (Suggested: Vatican, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Louvre, St. Petersburg)

**Leatherwork**—Requirements (Optional) 5B or 5D

### NATURE:

**Astronomy**—Requirement 6, 7B

**Environmental Science**—Requirements 3, 5

**Soil and Water Conservation**—Requirements (Optional) 7A, 7B, or 7C

**Space Exploration**—Requirement 5B (We will use water rockets rather than igniter type rockets because of fire danger.)

### SCOUTCRAFT:

**Camping**—Requirements 4B, 5E, 7 (all), 8D, 9,10

**Cooking**—Requirements 4, 5, 6, 7C, 7D, 7E

**Geocaching**—Requirements 7C, 8, 9

**Wilderness Survival**—Requirements 5

### PHYSICAL FITNESS:

**Climbing**—A special release form needed to be signed by parent

**Personal Fitness**—Requirements 1, 6, 8 (Record of recent Dental Exam)



## Packing List for Camp

### Clothing

Full Scout Uniform  
 Poncho/Rain Gear  
 T-shirts (6 or more— *All Scout appropriate*)  
 Tennis Shoes  
 Swimming Trunks  
 Hat or Visor  
 Hiking Boots and Heavy Socks  
 Jacket/Sweater  
 Rugged Long Pants  
 Underwear (six pair)  
 Socks (six pair)  
 Pajamas  
 Handkerchief  
 Mesh Laundry Bag

### Camp Necessities

Sleeping Bag  
 Flashlight with Fresh Batteries  
 Canteen or Water Bottle (32 oz. capacity)

### Toilet Kit

Toothbrush/Toothpaste  
 Comb and/or Brush  
 Hand Soap  
 Bath and Beach Towels  
 Sunscreen  
 Insect Repellent  
 Kleenex  
 Medication

### Suggested Items

Sunglasses  
 Compass  
 Camera  
 Air-Mattress or foam pillow and small

### Merit Badge/Advancement Items

Scout Handbook (Centennial Edition)  
 BSA Fieldbook  
 Pencil/Pen & Notebook  
 Personal First Aid Kit

Blue Cards for Merit Badges

Any Merit Badge Partial Cards Any prerequisite work done on Merit Badge prior to camp

Merit Badge Books and Worksheets

Special program items specifically noted in Merit Badge list on pages below.

### DON'T FORGET

Camp Medical Forms

Spending Money for merit badge and program projects and special activities

Special items that you may need to complete some merit badges.

### PROVISIONAL SCOUTS ALSO NEED

Tent

Merit Badge Blue Cards initiated by Scout Leader

### TROOP EQUIPMENT

*(Most Do not apply to Provisional Scouts)*

- \_\_\_ Tents for participants
- \_\_\_ Dining Fly
- \_\_\_ American flag
- \_\_\_ Troop flag
- \_\_\_ Patrol flags
- \_\_\_ Tour Plan aka Tour Permit
- \_\_\_ Addresses and phone numbers of parents on vacation
- \_\_\_ Alarm clock (battery operated)
- \_\_\_ Camp Leaders' Guide
- \_\_\_ Cash box
- \_\_\_ Clothes marking pen (for those who forgot)
- \_\_\_ Duct tape – always a good idea
- \_\_\_ Troop First Aid Kit
- \_\_\_ Matches / Lighter
- \_\_\_ Garbage bags
- \_\_\_ Helpful books from your troop library:  
 Handbook, Field Book, Scout songbook, nature books, etc.
- \_\_\_ Copies of medical forms for leaders
- \_\_\_ Magic marker pens (red, blue, black, green)
- \_\_\_ Merit badge pamphlets (There will be a limited number of pamphlets at the trading post)
- \_\_\_ Polyethylene sheets (for numerous uses)
- \_\_\_ Propane lantern with fuel
- \_\_\_ Dining Fly
- \_\_\_ Stapler and extra thumbtacks for the bulletin board



## RANCHO ALEGRE SUMMER CAMP

### Adult Leader Training Schedule

Each afternoon Rhino will be offering IOLS to Scout Leaders. So check out with Rhino to find out what need to do to get trained in this Introduction to Outdoor Skills (IOLS) course. One must attend all sessions to be certified.

Adult Leaders are invited to the Dining Hall daily at 10:00 for some mid-morning refreshments and a short training presentation. Courses are as follows:

**Monday:** Youth Protection Training.

**Tuesday:** Hazardous Weather

**Wednesday:** Climb on Safely and Trek Safety.

**Thursday:** Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat.

**Friday:** Leave No Trace Training.

As you can see these are the basic trainings required for tour permits. So whether it's your first time or you are renewing, come on up to the Dining Hall each morning.



### Let's Talk About Program

Let's be honest about it—You want to be an Eagle Scout. You want to earn that Award and be proud of the effort that you put into achieving it. We shouldn't take short-cuts along the Trail. At the same time there is this desire to come home from camp having earned several merit badges. So how does one do that? First, one needs to read—not just scan the Merit Badge Pamphlet and requirements. If there are any prerequisites listed in the Scoutmaster's Guide to Rancho Alegre Summer Camp, they need to be done. Next, each participant needs to show up at each session on time and ready to learn, even if it is the most boring of subjects. Finally, you need to ask for help and guidance. Where? From your leaders, the other Scouts in your unit or merit badge class, and from your counselor. It is amazing how much help is out there to make you succeed. That is our goal at Rancho Alegre!

### Trading Post Schedule

**Sunday:** 1:00 to 5:00 pm

7:00 to 7:45 pm

**Monday through Friday:**

9:30 to 11:00 am

1:00 to 4:15 pm

7:00 to 7:45 pm

**Saturday:**

9:00 to 10:00 am

Soda-bottled water-candy-ice cream-snacks-camp t-shirts and hats-Merit Badge Kits-bug spray-poison oak soap-knives-survival items. The Trading Post is where you pay fess for Archery, Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting, and Climbing.

### Directions to Camp

**FROM THE SOUTH:**

Take Highway 154 (San Marcos Pass Road approximately 16 miles north of Santa Barbara. You will cross over the crest of the pass, cross the bridge. Look for an emergency roadside phone labeled "154 163". The entrance to the camp is directly opposite this emergency phone. Pull off to the phone and make a left turn on to the entrance road. Go approximately one-half mile. Follow instructions given at gate to the Dining Hall

**FROM THE NORTH:**

Exit Hwy. 101 about 9 miles below on to Hwy. 154. Turn left and go about 16 miles on Hwy. 154. Do NOT go in the first Rancho Alegre entrance. Go the point where the emergency roadside phone 154 163 is on your left. Turn right and held up the driveway.