

Newsletter

Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve



Visit the General Store!

Plush Ducky

Everyone loves the plush duckies! You can adopt one in the General Store for \$11.99+tax.



Maybe Mom would like to camp?

October reservations are NOW open! Visit santeelakes.com to book your sites for one of our most unforgettable months in the campground!



Mom gift ideas:

baseball hat | \$19.99+tax
mug or tumbler | \$12.99-\$14.99+tax



S'mores Anyone?

You don't need a campfire to make a quick s'more snack! Grab you S'mores Maker Jr. for \$24.99+tax.

Coming soon

General Store Hours:

9:00AM - 5:00PM Daily
thru May 16
Beginning May 17
hours will be
8:00AM - 5:00PM Daily

May is for Moms

Some ideas for a great day with Mom!

Book a cabin for a little getaway with mom!



Take some family photos that mom will love in one of our many scenic spots.

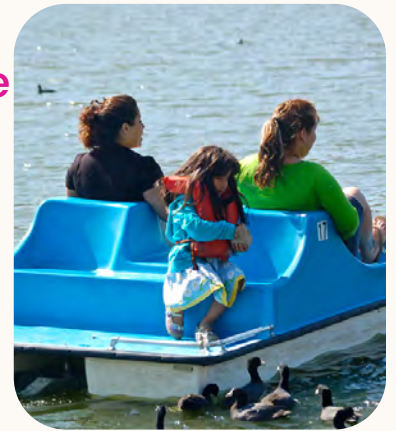
Shrey Mom!

Book a campsite & make some s'mores!



Relax on one of the benches around the lakes.

Pedal Boats are a great way to feed the ducks and see the islands.



mom



Grab some \$2 bird food and feed the birds/ducks.

A fun way to see the park with mom is on a bike!



There are over 5 miles of walking trails or take a stroll on the grass.



If your mom likes to fish, we have been stocking regularly!

Events

Speaking of mom...

Paint & Sip on Deck

We will be painting and sipping on these dates this summer with a special date for Mom on May 10:

May 10 | 11:00AM-1:00PM [SIGN UP](#)

June 21 | 10:00AM-12:00PM

July 19 | 10:00AM-12:00PM

August 16 | 10:00AM-12:00PM



[Sign up here](#)

Memorial Day Weekend Concert

Join us at the Lake 5 Amphitheater for a Memorial Day Weekend Concert! BAND-CO will be joining us on Sunday, May 25 from 2:00PM-4:00PM. Bring your lawn chairs/blankets and some snacks OR grab some food from Dilly's Ice Cream Truck or Big Boys Tacos on site.

Fish with a Ranger

Need some tips or refresher on catching fish at Santee Lakes? You are in luck. Ranger Chris will be on site to help everyone from beginner to seasoned anglers.

Meet at the General Store on Saturday, May 10th and May 24th at 8:00AM until 9:30AMish. Purchase your permit from Chris or at the Gatehouse, bring your bait and lures.



More Upcoming Events



Catfish Stocking Dates:

May 9: 1,000 lbs. Lake TBD
May 23: 1,000 lbs. Lake TBD
June 6: 1,000 lbs. Lake TBD
June 20: 1,000 lbs. Lake TBD
June 27: 2,000 lbs. Lake TBD
July 4: 1,000 lbs. Lake TBD
July 18: 1,000 lbs. Lake TBD
August 1: 1,000 lbs. Lake TBD
August 15: 1,000 lbs. Lake TBD
August 29: 1,000 lbs. Lake TBD
September 12: 3,500 lbs.



Summer Jams

This summer beginning Saturday, June 7th we will be having concerts on our deck every Saturday from 5:00PM-7:00PM (even some Fridays). Music will be from all genres and something for everyone to enjoy! You can visit our website for specific dates.



Camper's Cornhole Tournament*

Our annual Father's Day Weekend Cornhole Tournament is back! Tournament is Saturday, June 14 from 12:00PM to 6:00PM. Bring your teammate and maybe some sunscreen. \$20 Per Person | Cash Prizes Southern California Cornhole will be running the event.

*This event is for registered campers and their guests only

Camping Kids Events



Sports on the Lawn

Have you been able to participate in our Sports on the Lawn program? This Ranger-led activity features outdoor games for all ages every Saturday from 10:00AM-11:00AM, a great way to get outside and have some fun!

Memorial Day Weekend Slip & Slides

Get ready to cool off and do a little slipping & sliding! There will be slip and slides on the campground lawn for all to enjoy on Sunday May 25 from 10AM-12PM (then be sure to come enjoy the concert at 2PM). All kiddos must be accompanied by an adult.



Mom's Craft in the Clubhouse

Join us to make an extra special gift for your special mom! This event is Saturday, May 10 from 2:00PM-4:00PM in the Clubhouse.

REMINDER: October reservations are now open and we will have activities all month long for our camping guests that will make your stay very memorable!



For all camper events visit our Facebook page @santeelakes

Good News



Priority Campsite Program

Exciting News for Memorial Day 2026!

We're giving you an exclusive opportunity during your Memorial Day 2025 stay, to book your Memorial Day spot for 2026 before anyone else! With a \$50 non-refundable deposit (applied toward your 2026 stay), you can book your camping trip for Memorial Day 2026 anytime during your Memorial Day camping holiday 2025. The rest of your 2026 reservations balance will be due 6 months before your check-in date.

Our new App is coming!

We are excited to roll out our new Santee Lakes App! This app will enable users to buy fish permits, make camping/picnic reservations, access our event and special activity calendars, receive important notifications and so much more! Stay tuned.



Campground Cell Tower Update

Construction of the new Sycamore Canyon/Santee Lakes cell tower is progressing as crews work to install electrical infrastructure for the wireless telecommunications facility. Over the next month, ADB Construction will finish the Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) required for the electrical conduit and will then begin assembling the 80-foot Mono Pine Tower.

Did you know there was FREE Wi-Fi on the Deck? You do now! Come try it.



Good News cont.

General Store Counter Remodel



We will be making a few updates to our Park Office counter. Construction will be underway May 12th through May 23rd. The General Store will remain open and there will be a table and canopy set up outside of the Park Office/General Store for reservations and check-ins.

Santee Lakes Food and Beverage Program RFQ

In March 2025, Santee Lakes launched the Food and Beverage Program Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Interested parties were invited to tour the facility before submitting their qualifications. The RFQ drew a diverse range of applicants, including small businesses, catering organizations, and national brands, all showing strong interest in the opportunity. Santee Lakes staff have been carefully evaluating proposals, holding interviews and conducting site inspections of the top candidates. The goal is find the most suitable partner to align with the Park's vision to provide an exceptional guest experience through the Food and beverage program. Santee Lakes is looking to complete the selection process in early may with a new dining experience available in June 2025.



Don't forget to make that October Camping Reservation and you can enjoy our Restaurant!

Spotlight & Babies

Volunteer ~ Dawn

Where are you from?

San Diego

What do you like about working at Santee Lakes?

I love the wildlife, but I also really enjoy watching families having a good time celebrating life events or just enjoying each other's company.

What is your favorite food?

I have never been able to pick a favorite. I like it all - hence the waistline haha!

What do you like to do for fun when you are not at the Park?

Spend as much time as possible with my grandkids and family!

PM Maintenance



Tammy Kokjohn

Babies

Babies have been spotted at several of the Lakes! Keep your eyes open for the little ones and if you take a photo, be sure to share it with us @santeelakes on Instagram or Facebook. You can always email your photos to santeelakes@padre.org.

Vendors in the Park

Burly & the Bean Coffee Roasters

Burly & the Bean Coffee Roasters have been hanging out on deck serving up some delicious coffee and other great drinks! They are here Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 7:00AM-2:00PM for the first two weekends in May.



Dilly's Ice Cream

Dilly's will be serving up sweet treats in the Park May 10, 24, & 31. You will find them at the Kiwanis Playground Parking lot from 11:00AM-4:00PM.

Kona Ice of Coronado

Kona Ice will be in the Park serving up their famous shaved ice! You can find them Saturday May 3 & 17 and every Sunday in May at the Kiwanis Playground parking lot from 11:00AM-4:00PM.



Big Boyz Tacos & Turkish Grill Food Truck

Big Boyz Tacos & Turkish Grill Food Truck will be serving guests on the weekends, call the office for the specific schedule or follow us on social media



Santee Lakes Foundation



The Santee Lakes Foundation's primary purpose is to raise funds to support projects in design and to enhance the guest experience at Santee Lakes. The Foundation is committed to promoting the importance of outdoor recreation in conjunction with habitat maintenance through educational opportunities and financial support. The Foundation is dedicated in our mission to promote the importance of outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental sustainability at Santee Lakes through charitable support in the following areas:

All donations to the Santee Lakes Foundation are tax deductible.

You can make your donation at the Santee Lakes Park Office or mail your donation to:

Tax Id: 27-1296867

Santee Lakes Recreation
Preserve
Attn: Santee Lakes Foundation
9310 Fanita Parkway
Santee, CA 92071



- **Recreational Programs**
- **Habitat Restoration and maintenance**
- **Environmental education programs**
- **Park improvements and maintenance**

Find out more at
santeelakesfoundation.org

Campground FAQs



- Do campers need to purchase a fishing permit?
 - Yes, campers will need a permit. You can purchase a permit at the General Store, Gate house, or Park Ranger.
- How late are campers able to fish in Lake 6 and 7?
 - Campers may fish until 11 PM.
- Do we have to bring our own fire pit?
 - Yes, please bring your fire pit, there are no ground fires allowed.
- Can we set-up a tent on our RV site?
 - No, there is only one camping unit per site. If you wish to set-up additional camping units you can reserve one of our designated tent sites.
- What time is checkout?
 - 11:00AM is checkout for campers, Cabin guest's checkout time is 10:30AM.
- Where is the Campground Bark Park located?
 - The Bark Park is located in the very north west corner of the Campground.
- Can we use an inflatable pool?
 - No, due to safety issues, inflatable pools are not allowed.
- What time is quiet time?
 - 9:00PM is Campground quiet time.
- What time does my fire have to be out?
 - Please have your fire extinguished by 10:00PM
- How many people are allowed on my campsite?
 - Campers can have a maximum of 6 people on each site.
- Can we hang up a hammock?
 - No. Hammocks can be harmful to trees, as well as other safety issues.