



Chief David C. Spiller, San Rafael Police Department  
Sheriff Jamie Scardina, Marin County Sheriff  
City of San Rafael  
1375 Fifth Avenue, San Rafael CA 94901



## Become Our Community Partner



## Cops & Kids Together: Become Our Community Partner

**Your support** enables us to provide this camping experience for kids whose families are not able to otherwise afford residential summer camps.

Every summer, the San Rafael Police Department hosts a camp for youth, ages 11–13. This 5-day residential camp offers a structured camping and counseling experience with a wide variety of activities. Students that attend schools in the Marin County district are nominated by their teachers, counselors, or office administrators for an opportunity to attend Camp Chance.



Walker Creek Ranch in West Marin provides adult leadership for all camp activities along with both San Rafael Police Department and Marin County Sheriff personnel. The peace officers participate with the kids in activities throughout the week whether it's a first responder demonstration, meeting a comfort canine or playing soccer on the beach. This informal and personal contact with police personnel has proven to be a big win-win to bridge the gap between the kids, police and community. Our goal is for the kids to feel more connected and build good relationships with local law enforcement.

[campchanceconnect.org](http://campchanceconnect.org)



Last summer marked the 21st Camp Chance and the first since the pandemic. Everyone was so excited to see the return of Camp Chance and it was, as always, a magical success. 59 campers attended the 5-day June camp at the wonderful Walker Creek Ranch in West Marin. We were grateful to have 13 of the 15 counselors return from previous camps.

## And they're off!



The campers arrived at the Ranch met their cabin mates and the counselors they would spend the next five days with. Walker Creek Ranch personnel shared the list of activities and the presentations

from different agencies available to them throughout the week. But first are the swim tests! The first day culminates with the annual Walker Creek Olympics, a great ice breaker and big hit among the campers.

## Presentations and Demonstrations

Some campers went fishing at sunrise, while others headed out on an adventure walk to the pond.

Later that morning half of the campers met up with Officer Ortiz and School Resource Officer Gasparini to discuss police procedure and what it takes to become a police officer. The other half met with Detective Sergeant Duncan who is also our police sketch artist. The kids were able to see some of his artwork from real cases and participated in an exercise where they had to draw a person strictly based on the answers from questions they would ask.

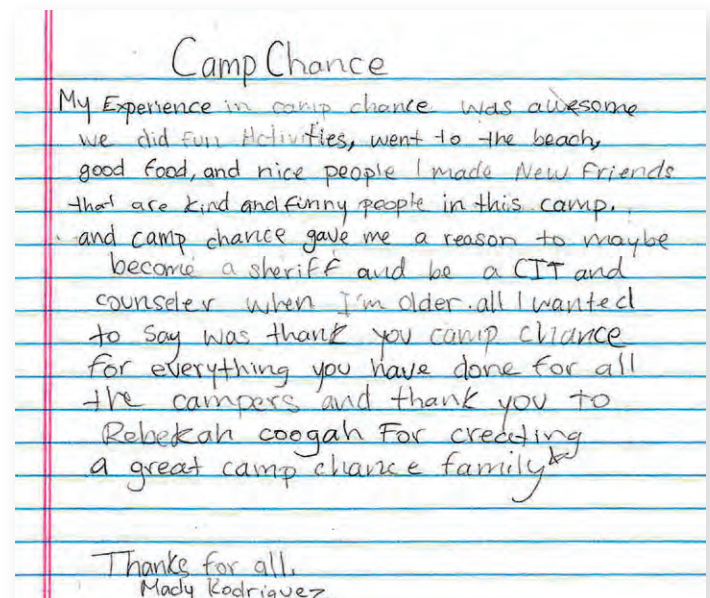


The Crisis Response Team members Sergeant Dodson and Corporal O'con presented the campers with an assortment of equipment used in crisis

situations. The team discussed their training and the types of calls they respond to. The kids really enjoyed the opportunity to try on equipment and take pictures with the team members.



For the first time, SRPD Mental Health Supervisor Murphy attended Camp Chance with our comfort dog, Blue. Blue is always a big hit with kids, and it was love at first site for the campers. Supervisor Murphy spoke about how to cope with different types of stressors that can affect young teens in society today. They were given practical coping tools and techniques to use when faced with difficult situations.



Camp Chance is sponsored by the San Rafael Police Department (SRPD) in collaboration with Marin County Sheriff's Department (MCSO). SRPD personnel included Community Service Officer Bullock, Officer Sanchez, Officer Ortiz, Officer Trujillo, Corporal O'con and Mental Health Supervisor Murphy. Camp Chance 2023 welcomed School Resource Officer Devon Gasparini and three (yes 3!) new cadets: Cadet Taylor, Cadet Collins, and Cadet Rodas.





## Beach Day

Beach Day is one of the most popular activities at Camp Chance. Campers, counselors, Walker Creek Ranch and Police personnel all take a bus ride to Drake Beach at Pt. Reyes National Seashore. This is the first time some campers have ever seen the ocean. What a day! They enjoyed sitting on the beach doing arts and crafts, playing soccer, and of course, cooking s'mores at the firepit.



### Camp Chance Letter

One thing I liked about camp chance is that the counselors were very nice. The food and cabins were good. My favorite activity was the pond and going to the beach. Camp chance was really good.



## San Rafael Fire Department

San Rafael Fire Department Captain Saysette, Engineer Chandra, and Firefighter Close made their first visit to Camp Chance. They discussed their training and demonstrated, while being timed, how long it takes to gather their equipment and suit up before going out on a call. (Firefighter Close's time was under a minute!)



## Marin County Search and Rescue

Marin County Search and Rescue team members Eichstaedt, Freed, Munoz, Tripp, and Van Hooser attended Camp Chance again this year. They explained their equipment and shared training stories while demonstrating techniques for various types of rescues. Several of our campers were interested in the popular Marin County Search and Rescue volunteer program. They were excited to learn the age limit to join is as young as 14.





# Keep the Magic Alive!

## Help us send 65 students to Camp Chance 2024

Plans have begun and we need your help

It costs about \$500 to send one youth to Camp Chance and the need for this program continues to grow. With your help we can continue to infuse enthusiasm and hope for our future adults. The transformation these campers experience in the five days can only be described as magical.

**Camp Chance is funded by local citizens and businesses — we rely on people like you who can give the campers this experience.**

There is no contribution too small. Your tax-deductible donation will help impact the lives of young people in our community.

**Pay by check:** Payable to "San Rafael Camp Chance"

Camp Chance Fund  
San Rafael Police Department  
1375 Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Our tax-exempt number is 94-6000424



Donate online at: [www.cityofsanrafael.org/donate-to-camp-chance](http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/donate-to-camp-chance)

## We don't do this alone. We appreciate everyone who makes Camp Chance happen!



### Counselors and Walker Creek Staff

A big thank you to new and returning counselors who are the heart and soul of the camp, playing a pivotal role in shaping the unforgettable experiences youth have at Camp Chance. They're not just supervisors, but mentors, role models, and friends who create a safe and nurturing environment for campers to grow, learn, and have fun. They are committed to ensuring every camper feels included, supported, and encouraged to explore new interests and challenges. Some counselors were once Camp Chance kids!

Director Patrick McLaughlin and the Walker Creek Ranch staff did an amazing job facilitating all the activities, hikes, and fishing excursions. They are also a big reason why Camp Chance is such a success!

### Project Linus North Bay/Sonoma

Project Linus is a nation-wide organization, with a mission to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. They do this by giving children gifts of new, handmade blankets lovingly created for Project Linus by volunteer "blanketeers". Our gratitude is huge that Camp Chance benefited from their kind donation of 65 blankets.

### Marin Airporter

We thank Marin Airporter for safely transporting campers on their buses from two locations in San Rafael to Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma.



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