



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



Camp Chance 2026: 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.





Camp Chance 2025: Another Fantastic Summer!

This year's Camp Chance was a resounding success! Camp Chance did not disappoint! It was packed with surprises, unforgettable adventures, and meaningful connections. We were thrilled to welcome **65 enthusiastic campers**, including five 14-year-old interns and two Counselors-in-Training (CITs). We also had a strong team of **14 returning counselors**, joined by three new additions—two of whom are former CITs themselves.

Olympics, Teamwork & Pond Time



From the moment the campers arrived, they were warmly welcomed into their cabins, introduced to new friends, and met their counselors. The incredible staff at Walker Creek Ranch kicked things off with an overview of the exciting activities planned for the week, setting the stage for a memorable experience.

The annual Walker Creek Olympics brought high energy and laughter as campers competed in water balloon tosses, egg-carrying races, cup-flipping contests, and team-building challenges. From racing to fill buckets with sponges to creating human pipelines to move a ball into a bucket, the fun was nonstop! Campers also completed swim tests so they could enjoy the pond safely throughout the week.



Fire Safety & Search and Rescue Demos

Team members from Fire Station 56—**Captain Williams, Engineer Morel, and Firefighter Crouch**—demonstrated firefighting techniques and equipment. Campers got to handle a fire hose and spray down a tree, quickly learning how much strength it takes to control the water. They loved it!

Camp Chance is sponsored by the San Rafael Police Department (SRPD) in collaboration with the Marin County sheriff's Department (MCSO). SRPD personnel included Community Service Officer Bullock, Officer Sanchez, Ortiz, Gomez, Ambrose, and Mancia. Mental Health Supervisor Murphy, Cadet Cardenas, Woolensack, Gutt, Jensen and Marin County Deputy Gasparini.

Meanwhile, Marin County Search and Rescue (SAR), led by **Frank Gerber** and **10 SAR volunteers**, set up interactive learning stations. Campers practiced using a rope system for transporting heavy loads, tried out the rescue litter basket, and participated in a thrilling search-and-rescue demo led by **Naomi Harada's search dog, Cat**, who successfully tracked down hidden campers!



Learning with Law Enforcement

Campers rotated through engaging learning sessions led by our dedicated local law enforcement partners: **Officers Sanchez, Mancia, Ortiz, Ambrose, and Deputy Gasparini** gave a hands-on presentation on police procedures and what it takes to become an officer. Campers witnessed a live demonstration of a mock traffic stop.



Sergeant Dodson and Officer Rodriguez from the Crisis Response Team introduced campers to tactical gear and shared insights into how their specialized team operates.



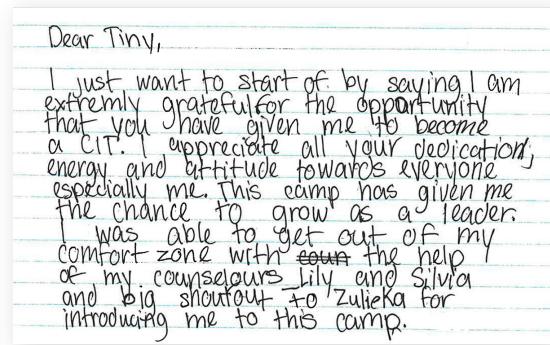
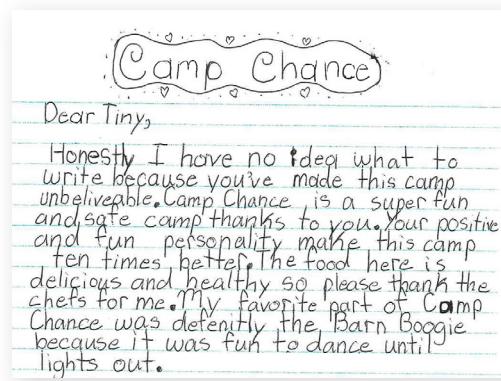
Mental Wellness & Camp Fun



Deputies from the Marin County Sheriff's Office amazed everyone with a demonstration of their Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)—also known as a drone—and gave a tour of their Bearcat vehicle, which campers found incredibly cool!



In between arts and crafts, archery practice, and prepping for skit night, campers participated in a meaningful session called **Healthy and Happy Habits** led by our Mental Health Supervisor, Lyn Murphy. Campers discussed behaviors they wanted to change, such as reducing screen time to help improve sleep and overall wellness.



A Day at the Beach

No Camp Chance experience is complete without **Beach Day!** Everyone boarded the bus for a trip to Drakes Beach at Point Reyes National Seashore, where the day was packed with arts and crafts, soccer, football, kite flying, and plenty of time to relax by the shore.

The highlight? An intense game of dodgeball—campers versus counselors! Let's just say... the counselors didn't take it easy on the kids! Everyone had a blast.



Keep the Magic Alive! Help us send 65 students to Camp Chance 2026

Plans have begun and we need your help

It costs about \$550 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*



Donate online at: www.cityofsanrafael.org/donate-to-camp-chance • Our tax-exempt number is 94-6000424

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

Special Thanks

A huge thank-you goes to **Betzy Decker**, owner of **Moonlight Deli** and **Betzy's Tacos** in San Rafael, and a long-time supporter of the SRPD. Betzy and her team drove out to Drakes Beach and generously grilled hamburgers for all the campers, counselors, and Walker Creek staff. The campers were overjoyed—and the burgers were delicious!



We also want to express our deepest appreciation to **SRPD Cadets Cardenas, Woolensack, Gutt, and Jensen**.

Their contributions were truly invaluable. Camp Chance wouldn't be the same without their dedication and hard work.

We're incredibly grateful to our amazing **counselors** and **Walker Creek Ranch staff** for their tireless energy and support throughout the week. Special appreciation goes to our **CITs and interns**, who helped lead activities and supported campers while counselors recharged. Although we had just two CITs this year, they rose to the challenge with confidence and grace—we're excited to see them grow into future Camp Chance leaders.



Project Linus North Bay/Sonoma & Marin Airporter

Project Linus is a nation-wide organization that has supported Camp Chance for many years by donating handmade blankets made by volunteer "blanketeers". They donated almost 100 blankets this year to Camp Chance!

We thank Marin Airporter for safely transporting campers on their buses to Walker Creek Ranch and returning them back to the designated pick-up location.

Until next summer...
thank you to everyone
who made Camp Chance
2025 an unforgettable
experience! If you have
any questions, contact
Community Service Officer
Bullock-415-485-3114.

