



Camp Chance 2027: 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.

Keep This Magical Camp Alive! Help us send another 50 students to Camp Chance in 2027

It costs approximately \$1,200 to send one camper to Camp Chance, and the need for this program continues to grow. With your support, we can continue providing young people with a week filled with new experiences, positive connections, encouragement, and memories that can last a lifetime

Camp Chance is made possible through the generosity of our community members and local businesses. Every contribution makes a difference, and your tax-deductible donation helps us continue creating this unforgettable experience for 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.sanrafael.gov/donate-to-camp-chance • Our tax-exempt number is 94-6000424



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



campchanceconnect.org



Camp Chance 2026: What an Action-Packed Summer!

Camp Chance 2026 may have been smaller in numbers, but it was still a huge success! This year, we welcomed 50 campers, including six Counselors in Training (CITs) and five interns who were excited to step into leadership roles and help create memorable experiences for our younger campers. We were also thrilled to welcome back 12 of our amazing veteran counselors.

Upon arrival, campers met their cabin leaders, settled into their cabins, got acquainted with their cabinmates, and met our “Big Campers”—Sergeant Mathis, Officer Ortiz, Deputy Gasparini, and CSO Bullock. Walker Creek Ranch staff then gave everyone a preview of the exciting activities and presentations for the week.

Olympics, Teamwork & Pond Time

The annual Walker Creek Olympics kicked off the fun with water balloon tosses, egg-carrying and cup-flipping contests, along with team-building challenges. Campers raced to fill buckets using only sponges and worked together to create a human pipeline to move a ball into a bucket. The fun—and teamwork—was endless! Campers also completed their swim tests in preparation for enjoying the pond throughout the week.



Learning with Law Enforcement & Canine Demo

Campers split into groups for interactive learning sessions with local law enforcement. Sergeant Mathis, Officer Ortiz, and Deputy Gasparini introduced campers to police procedures and the journey to becoming an officer. Campers even dressed in uniform and role-played real-life scenarios officers may encounter on the job—and some really got into character!



Sergeant Dodson introduced another group to the Crisis Response Team, giving

campers hands-on opportunities to try on tactical gear and learn about the role of each team member.

Officer DeBolt and K9 Tango delivered another crowd favorite with an action-packed demonstration featuring Officer Ambrose in a protective suit. Campers were amazed by Tango's strength and skills—and quickly discovered that when he wasn't working, Tango loved all the petting and attention he could get!



Fire Safety & Search and Rescue Demos

Fire Station 52 set up three interactive stations where campers toured a fire engine, learned about emergency medical equipment, and, of course, got the chance to handle the fire hose and spray water!

Marin County Search and Rescue also provided three hands-on stations. Campers learned about rope systems used for heavy-load transport, tried out a “litter basket” used in patient rescues, and participated in an exciting search exercise with Naomi Harada's search dog, Cat, who expertly tracked down hidden campers.



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 Ortiz, Sergeant Mathis, Mental Health Supervisor Murphy, Cadet Cardenas, Woolensack, Gutt, Jensen, Ahuncain, and Marin County Deputy Gasparini.

Marin County Sheriff & Coast Guard Helicopter

The Marin County Sheriff's Office wowed campers with a look at some of its specialized equipment, including an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), also known as a drone, and a tour of the BearCat. Campers especially enjoyed trying on safety gear and posing for pictures.

The U.S. Coast Guard helicopter landing was a major highlight! Campers met the three pilots, asked questions, toured the helicopter, and got an up-close look at the equipment they use. The crew shared stories about incredible rescues, and spoke about their careers and offered career-path advice to the campers.

Mental Wellness & Camp Fun

Between arts and crafts, archery, and fishing—which was especially popular this year—campers participated in Healthy and Happy Habits with Mental Health Supervisor Lyn Murphy. They talked about everyday behaviors they would like to change, including reducing screen time and developing healthier sleep habits.

And no Camp Chance would be complete without our annual Barnyard Boogie! Campers danced the night away with music and colorful party light sticks.



Beach Day & Kickball

King tides and some wet weather did not stop the fun! We held our traditional Drakes Beach activities, including kite flying and the much-anticipated Campers vs. Counselors soccer and dodgeball games.

Back at Walker Creek Ranch, campers and counselors engaged in one of the best kickball games ever! Two mixed teams of campers and counselors battled it out, and the energy was incredible.



To Camp Chance, to those whose light has shaped my way, who stood beside me, come what may. Your kindness carved me strength, I know, your faith helped every triumph grow. Because of this experience, I stand with pride, no longer scared to shine or strive. The roots I've grown, the dreams I chase, are touched by each and every one of you, your love and grace. At this very camp, I've met the greatest people. Every moment is memorable there—fore every laugh stitched the pain that frayed, and your guys' kindness turned the night to day.

When I first came here, I didn't see any of my friends I saw last year. I was nervous but my counselors, Jordan and Nathan made me comfortable. I connected and made new friends with people inside and outside my cabin. I also enjoyed waking up in the morning ready to have fun and see animals. My favorite part was playing kickball and winning because they helped. Thank you for taking me in as an intern and I can't wait to be a CIT next year. Thank you Tsai

Counselor Brett helped make our final day of Camp Chance even more memorable by sharing a heartfelt poem that recognized our counselors, SRPD personnel, and Walker Creek Ranch (WCR) staff while leaving our campers with an inspiring message of encouragement. Here is an excerpt from his moving tribute.

The paths we walk in life are very diverse, just like human beings. Some days, the obstacles you face may feel as if they are beyond your best capabilities and you are unsure how to pass them. On other days, you might sense that you just experienced a moment which will live with you forever as a fond memory. Therefore, let us think about the wonderful qualities of the people we know here so we can practice being our best selves for our roads ahead in life.

Be a leader like Lily, Mama Zay and Jordan, advocating for others and leading by example.

Be strong like Lilyette and Nahum, finding a physical activity to strengthen yourself and pursuing it.

Be funny like Brian and a calm Zen like Ricky, where you access multiple wonderful parts of yourself.

Be a best friend like Jaylee and Zuleika, supporting one another with love and compassion.

Be a critical thinker like Adan, Kelis and Andres, expanding your knowledge to become your best selves.

Be passionate about the outdoors like Dune, Eclipse, Mia, Oliver and Skye, returning to the beauty of nature.

Be protectors like Genesis, Devon, Micky D, Sebastian and the cadets, serving your community in liberty and justice for all.

Be role models like Tiny, Rowan and Patrick, working to make the world a better place for all they meet.

Be grateful and give thanks to all the staff at SRPD and WCR who make this week possible.

Go forth now. Believe in yourself. Always. The universe is here for you. Learn and grow from life experience. Our spirit is with you all of your days.

❤️ 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 longtime supporter of SRPD. Betzy and her team traveled to Drakes Beach and generously grilled hamburgers for our campers, counselors, and Walker Creek staff. The campers were thrilled—and the burgers were delicious!



We also extend our appreciation to SRPD Cadets Cardenas, Woolensack, Gutt, Jensen, and Ahuncain, whose contributions were invaluable. From capturing memories throughout the week to assisting with setup, breakdown, and everything in between, their hard work helped keep Camp Chance running smoothly.



We're incredibly grateful for our veteran counselors who return each year with even more heart and love for Camp Chance. Their dedication and experience are a huge part of what makes this program so successful. Thank you also to the Walker Creek Ranch staff for their tireless energy and support.

Project Linus North Bay & First Student Charter

Project Linus has supported Camp Chance for many years by donating beautiful handmade blankets created by volunteer "blanketeers." This year, they donated nearly 70 blankets to Camp Chance. The love, patience, and time that go into creating these special blankets can be seen in each and every one.



We also thank First Student Charter for safely transporting our campers to Walker Creek Ranch and returning them home at the end of an unforgettable week.

