

## VOLUNTEER DAYS

Volunteer days offer hands-on land stewardship experience. We provide a forum for the community to help us take care of the parks and preserves that we all enjoy. Opportunities include habitat restoration, trail improvement, litter pick-up, and landscape maintenance. Though the work varies in physical demand, a variety of activities are available for all ages and abilities. We provide water, gloves, tools, and training. Bring snacks or a lunch, sun block, a hat, and a refillable water container. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothes.

### **Friday, September 5. 10am to 2pm**

#### ***Kent Island Restoration Team***

Be a part of the team working to restore the unique ecosystem on Kent Island in Bolinas Lagoon! You'll learn the value of protecting this little oasis, and how to identify and remove the invasive species that threaten it. Space is limited, so RSVP to save a spot! Participation requires a short rowboat ride to the island. Volunteer work involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Rubber boots come in handy, but are not necessary. Snacks and water will be provided, but bring a lunch. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Tori Bohlen at [VBohlen@marincounty.org](mailto:VBohlen@marincounty.org) or the Marin County Parks volunteer office at (415) 473-3778. Meet at the public dock on Wharf Rd in Bolinas (across from the College of Marin biology lab). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 20.4 miles to Olema. Turn left onto Hwy 1, right onto Olema-Bolinas Rd, left to stay on Olema-Bolinas Rd, and straight onto Wharf Rd.

### **Saturday, September 6. 10am to 2pm**

#### ***Yoga in the Park***

*This is a Healthy Parks, Healthy People event*

This fun-filled, dynamic event offers a great way to get active while giving to a wonderful park, and giving to yourself! We will begin with service projects that will focus on beach clean-up, landscape maintenance, and habitat restoration. At noon we will switch gears and enjoy a 45 minute yoga class on a flat grassy area beside the bay. The class will be led by professional yoga teacher Daniel Rauck and will be suitable for all ages and ability levels. Free lunch provided by Whole Foods Market at 1pm. Dress in layers you can get dirty and wear sturdy shoes for the service work. Bring comfortable clothes and a mat or towel for yoga. We will provide water, snacks, tools, and a limited number of extra yoga mats. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at McNears Beach Park. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kirk Schroeder at (415) 763-2977 or [KSchroeder@marincounty.org](mailto:KSchroeder@marincounty.org). If interested, shuttle service will be provided from Pickleweed Park at 9:30am, otherwise meet at the snack bar in McNears Beach Park in San Rafael (201 Cantera Way). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Central San Rafael east. Take 2nd St east, which merges into 3rd St, and then turns into Point San Pedro Rd. Follow Point San Pedro Rd for 3.6 miles, turn right at Cantera Way, and follow to the large parking lot at the end. Park entrance is free.

### **Sábado, 6 de septiembre. 10am - 2pm**

#### ***Yoga en el Parque***

*Este es un evento de Parques Saludables, Gente Sana.*

Este evento dinámico lleno de diversión ofrece una excelente manera de ponerse activo a la vez que contribuye a un parque maravilloso, y ¡se hace un regalo a sí mismo! Comenzaremos con algunos proyectos de servicio que estarán enfocados en la limpieza de playas, mantenimiento de áreas verdes y restauración del hábitat. Al mediodía vamos a hacer un cambio de velocidad y disfrutar de una clase de yoga de 45 minutos en un área plana de pasto al lado de la bahía. La clase será dirigida por el maestro de yoga profesional Daniel Rauck y será adecuada para todas las edades y niveles de habilidad. Almuerzo gratuito cortesía de Whole

Foods Market a la 1 p.m. Vista ropa que se puede ensuciar y use zapatos resistentes para el trabajo de servicio. Traiga ropa cómoda y una colchoneta o una toalla para el yoga. Nosotros proporcionaremos agua, bocadillos, herramientas, y un número limitado de colchonetas de yoga adicionales. No se admiten mascotas (excepto animales de servicio) en McNears Beach Park. Preguntas o para reservar su lugar: Comuníquese con el Coordinador de Voluntarios Kirk Schroeder al (415) 763-2977 o [KSchroeder@marincounty.org](mailto:KSchroeder@marincounty.org). Si le interesa, habrá un servicio de transporte desde Pickleweed Park a las 9:30 a.m., de lo contrario nos veremos en la cafetería de McNears Beach Park en San Rafael (201 Cantera Way). CÓMO LLEGAR: Desde la autopista 101 en San Rafael, tome la salida de Central San Rafael al este. Tome la 2nd St al este, la cual se une a 3rd St, y luego se convierte en Point San Pedro Rd. Siga Point San Pedro Rd por 3.6 millas, gire a la derecha en Cantera Way, y siga hasta el estacionamiento grande al final. La entrada al parque es gratuita.

### **Saturday, September 13. 11am to 2pm**

#### ***Volunteer Recognition Picnic***

Marin County Parks wants to thank our dedicated and valuable volunteers. Bring your family to McNears Beach Park for a late summer picnic and fun activities. Enjoy music, entertainment, and a delicious meal prepared by staff. Feel free to bring a favorite dish to share. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. RSVP by Wednesday, September 10. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at (415) 473-3778 or [Greza@marincounty.org](mailto:Greza@marincounty.org). Meet at the South Shore picnic area in McNears Beach Park in San Rafael (201 Cantera Way). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Central San Rafael east. Take 2nd St east, which merges into 3rd St, and then turns into Point San Pedro Rd. Follow Point San Pedro Rd for 3.6 miles, turn right at Cantera Way, and follow to the large parking lot at the end (park in south end of lot). Park entrance is free.

### **Saturday, September 20. 9am to 12pm**

#### ***California Coastal Cleanup Day***

Join our county's premier volunteer event focused on the marine environment and its watersheds. Marin County Parks will be cleaning litter and recyclables on the Mill Valley/Sausalito Multiuse Path and Bothin Marsh. No prior experience is necessary. Gloves and bags for debris collection will be provided. All ages are welcome; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves (if you have them). We will provide snacks. There will be a post-cleanup barbeque for volunteers at the Bay Model Visitors Center from 12pm to 3pm. Questions: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at (415) 473-3778 or [Greza@marincounty.org](mailto:Greza@marincounty.org). For a full list of California Coastal Cleanup Day opportunities visit [California Coastal Commission](http://CaliforniaCoastalCommission.org). Meet at the end of Sycamore Ave on the multiuse pathway in Mill Valley. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for E Blithedale Ave west 0.7 miles. Turn left onto Camino Alto, left onto Sycamore Ave, and follow to end (dead end).

### **Saturday, September 20. 10am to 2pm**

#### ***Kent Island Restoration Team***

Join us as we celebrate Coastal Cleanup Day out on Kent Island in Bolinas Lagoon! Trash and debris can be a major detriment to the marine ecosystem and your help is needed to clean up the shores of the island. Space is limited, so RSVP to save a spot! Participation requires a short rowboat ride to the island. Volunteer work involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Rubber boots come in handy, but are not necessary. Lunch and extra water will be provided. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Tori Bohlen at [VBohlen@marincounty.org](mailto:VBohlen@marincounty.org) or the Marin County Parks volunteer office at (415) 473-3778. Meet at the public dock on Wharf Rd in Bolinas (across from the College of Marin biology lab). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 20.4 miles to Olema. Turn left onto Hwy 1, right onto Olema-Bolinas Rd, left to stay on Olema-Bolinas Rd, and straight onto Wharf Rd.

**Saturday, September 27. 9am to 12pm**

***Creekside Restoration with Save The Bay***

Join Marin County Parks and Save The Bay staff to learn about the history of San Francisco Bay and Creekside Marsh, and be a part of a community-based effort to enrich important habitat areas of Hal Brown Park! Volunteers of all ages and abilities are encouraged to attend! Pre-registration is required. To register, or for additional information visit [savesfbay.org](http://savesfbay.org).

**Saturday, September 27. 10am to 1pm**

***Ring Mountain Grassland Restoration***

Join us for our monthly drop-in volunteer workday as we focus on restoring the grasslands of Ring Mountain! Ring Mountain is home to numerous rare and endangered plants, but this habitat is being threatened by invasive species. Volunteer work may include invasive species removal, seed collecting, tarping, and/or installing native plants. Educational components are included as we discuss the plants and animals that inhabit this unique place and explain how volunteer activities are having a positive impact. Work is mildly strenuous and usually requires a short hike to the site. Drop-in days are held on the last Saturday of every month (except November and December). Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 473-7191 to get an update on fire danger status and land closures. If a "Red Flag" warning is in effect, all walks and events on Open Space District preserves are cancelled. Questions: Contact Ring Mountain Stewardship Coordinator Sarah Minnick at (415) 473-5058 or [SMinnick@marincounty.org](mailto:SMinnick@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate at the end of Taylor Rd in Tiburon. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Corte Madera, take the exit for Tamalpais Dr east. Go straight onto San Clemente, which merges into Paradise Dr after 0.4 miles. Follow Paradise Dr approximately 1.7 miles, turn right onto Taylor Rd, and follow to end (dead end).

**Saturday, October 4. 9am to 12pm**

***Broom Buster Work Day***

Old St. Hilary's Open Space Preserve has a friend in the Broom Buster team; a loyal group of volunteers who have worked together to remove French broom on the preserve for over 15 years. In that time, incredible progress has been made to suppress the broom regrowth and allow native species to recover and thrive. Come learn about the importance of invasive species removal and lend a hand! Volunteer work involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 473-7191 to get an update on fire danger status and land closures. If a "Red Flag" warning is in effect, all walks and events on Open Space District preserves are cancelled. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Tori Bohlen at [VBohlen@marincounty.org](mailto:VBohlen@marincounty.org) or the Marin County Parks volunteer office at (415) 473-3778. Meet at the Tiburon Peninsula Club parking lot in Tiburon (1600 Mar West St). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east 4 miles. Turn left onto Mar West St; the parking lot is on the right.

**Saturday, October 18. 9am to 12pm**

***Aramburu Island Enhancement***

Our partners at Richardson Bay Audubon Center have worked tirelessly to convert this 17-acre island from an eroding, unproductive, bay dredge dumpsite into prime shorebird and wildlife habitat. Join us as we team up with our friends at Audubon to help them in the enhancement process. Transportation to the island from the meeting place requires a 10-minute motor boat ride. RSVP required; due to the capacity of the boat, space is limited to 12 volunteers. Volunteer work involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Tori Bohlen at [VBohlen@marincounty.org](mailto:VBohlen@marincounty.org) or the Marin County Parks volunteer office at (415) 473-3778. Meet at Richardson Bay Audubon Center. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131).

Turn left at the light and follow Tiburon Blvd east for 1 mile. Turn right onto Greenwood Cove Dr. Greenwood Cove becomes Greenwood Beach Rd. Parking is in gravel pullouts on the right side of the road.

**Saturday, October 25. 10am to 1pm**

***Ring Mountain Grassland Restoration***

Join us for our monthly drop-in volunteer workday as we focus on restoring the grasslands of Ring Mountain! Ring Mountain is home to numerous rare and endangered plants, but this habitat is being threatened by invasive species. Volunteer work may include invasive species removal, seed collecting, tarping, and/or installing native plants. Educational components are included as we discuss the plants and animals that inhabit this unique place and explain how volunteer activities are having a positive impact. Work is mildly strenuous and usually requires a short hike to the site. Drop-in days are held on the last Saturday of every month (except November and December). Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 473-7191 to get an update on fire danger status and land closures. If a "Red Flag" warning is in effect, all walks and events on Open Space District preserves are cancelled. Questions: Contact Ring Mountain Stewardship Coordinator Sarah Minnick at (415) 473-5058 or [SMinnick@marincounty.org](mailto:SMinnick@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate at the end of Taylor Rd in Tiburon. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Corte Madera, take the exit for Tamalpais Dr east. Go straight onto San Clemente, which merges into Paradise Dr after 0.4 miles. Follow Paradise Dr approximately 1.7 miles, turn right onto Taylor Rd, and follow to end (dead end).

**Saturday, November 1. 9am to 12pm**

***Broom Buster Work Day***

Old St. Hilary's Open Space Preserve has a friend in the Broom Buster team, a loyal group of volunteers who have worked together to remove French broom on the preserve for over 15 years. In that time, incredible progress has been made to suppress the broom regrowth and allow native species to recover and thrive. Come learn about the importance of invasive species removal and lend a hand! Volunteer work involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Tori Bohlen at [VBohlen@marincounty.org](mailto:VBohlen@marincounty.org) or the Marin County Parks volunteer office at (415) 473-3778. Meet at the Tiburon Peninsula Club parking lot in Tiburon (1600 Mar West St). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east 4 miles. Turn left onto Mar West St; the parking lot is on the right.

**Saturday, November 1. 9am to 1pm**

***REI Ridge Trail Service Day***

REI is partnering with land management agencies throughout the nine-county Bay Area to promote a morning of service on the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Join us to maintain the 680 Trail, which offers incredible views of Marin and the Bay Area and is an important connection linking Fairfax to Terra Linda. We will use hand tools which require a fair amount of strength and stamina, and will work on uneven terrain. The work is recommended for people ages 12 and older with a moderate to high level of fitness. Chipotle is providing burritos for lunch. We provide snacks, drinks, tools, extra gloves, and training, and we will also have a raffle with prizes! Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. To participate, you must register for the event on the [Bay Area Ridge Trail website](#). Registration opens in September. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 473-3778 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled on Saturday, November 15th. Questions: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at (415) 473-3778 or [Greza@marincounty.org](mailto:Greza@marincounty.org). Meet at the roadside parking area near the top of White Hill Grade on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 6 miles. Park in the big gravel pullout on the right side, below the crest of the hill.

**Saturday, November 8. 9am to 1pm**

***Pizza Party on Horse Hill***

We are hosting a broom-busting pizza party and raffle on Horse Hill with The Alto Bowl Horseowners Association. Over the past 16 years we have pushed back invasive French and Scotch broom on this Open Space preserve. Now we need your help to make a final push into the broom frontier on the western part of the preserve. The work site is located approximately ¼-mile up, toward the top of the hill. We will pull broom and sow native grass seed. The work requires considerable strength and stamina but it is possible for volunteers as young as 5 years old to join if teamed with a parent or guardian. Some members of association will talk about their horses living on the preserve. Participants will get a chance to meet the horses up close. Questions: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at (415) 473-3778 or [Greza@marincounty.org](mailto:Greza@marincounty.org). Meet at the entrance gate across from address 49 Lomita Dr, near the intersection of Lomita Dr and Greenfield Ct. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the Tiburon Blvd/E Blithedale Ave exit west on E Blithedale Ave, turn right at Tower Dr 0.2 mi, stay right at Meadow Dr 0.1 mile. Continue onto Shell Rd 0.1mile and turn left at Lomita Dr 0.2 mile. Preserve entrance is on your right.

**Saturday, November 22. 9am to 12pm**

***Aramburu Island Enhancement***

Our partners at Richardson Bay Audubon Center have worked tirelessly to convert this 17-acre island from an eroding, unproductive, bay dredge dumpsite into prime shore bird and wildlife habitat. Join us as we team up with our friends at Audubon to help them in the enhancement process. Transportation to the island from the meeting place requires a 10-minute motor boat ride. RSVP required; due to the capacity of the boat, space is limited to 12 volunteers. Volunteer work involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Tori Bohlen at [VBohlen@marincounty.org](mailto:VBohlen@marincounty.org) or the Marin County Parks volunteer office at (415) 473-3778. Meet at Richardson Bay Audubon Center. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131). Turn left at the light and follow Tiburon Blvd east for 1 mile. Turn right onto Greenwood Cove Dr. Greenwood Cove becomes Greenwood Beach Rd. Parking is in gravel pullouts on the right side of the road.

**Sunday, November 23. 9am to 12pm**

***Tiburon Uplands Habitat Restoration***

Join us to remove French broom and restore habitat at Tiburon Uplands Nature Preserve. This preserve offers stunning views and supports rare wildflowers and rich natural habitat. We will work to stop the spread of a ridge-top broom population. Volunteer work involves bending, pulling, kneeling, and hiking on steep and uneven terrain. We will provide snacks, water, tools, gloves, and training. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kirk Schroeder at (415) 763-2977 or [KSchroeder@marincounty.org](mailto:KSchroeder@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate at the end of Heathcliff Dr in Tiburon. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east for 3.5 miles. Turn left onto Lyford Dr and follow 0.8 miles, right onto Sugarloaf Dr, right onto Heathcliff Dr, and follow to end (dead end).

## NATURALIST WALKS

These outings are for ages 15 and up who are interested in the diverse flora and fauna of Marin County. Our walks cover a variety of topics; some are quite specific, others are more general, but we never fail to take a moment to marvel at whatever natural wonders we encounter. Binoculars, a pocket sized magnifying lens, and your favorite field guide(s) are recommended for all walks. Most of the walks are moderately paced and cover less than 5 miles. Walks that are longer or more strenuous are noted in the descriptions. Bring a lunch if you plan to stay all day, and remember to bring plenty of water.

**Thursday, September 4. 10am to 1pm**

### ***Spiders at Lake Lagunitas***

This is a great place to see many species of spiders that represent a variety of arachnid lifestyles. We will explore the biology of spiders in general, learn how to identify many common species, and discuss their life histories. Bring lunch. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the Lake Lagunitas parking area. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 5 miles to Fairfax. Turn left onto Pacheco Ave, immediate right onto Broadway Blvd, left onto Bolinas Rd for 1.8 miles. Turn left onto Sky Oaks Rd. At approximately 0.5 miles, stop and pay \$8 parking fee, then follow signs to Lake Lagunitas (end of Sky Oaks Rd).

**Saturday, September 6. 10am to 2pm**

### ***Birds of Abbotts Lagoon***

We'll take advantage of the outer reaches of the county to enjoy the numerous species of birds that are found along the coast this time of year; some are migrating to southern destinations, some will stay for the winter, and some are local residents. This is a great place to see raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl that aren't as prevalent in other parts of Marin. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at Abbotts Lagoon parking lot. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 20.4 miles to Olema. Turn right onto Hwy 1 and go 2 miles. Turn left onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd and go 6.4 miles. Turn right at Pierce Point Rd and go 3.4 miles, the trailhead is on the left.

**Saturday, September 20. 10am to 2pm**

### ***Blithedale Summit***

This access point allows us to climb to the long ridge that extends from the east flank of Mount Tamalpais and runs between Mill Valley and the Larkspur/Corte Madera area. The initial climb is steep, but once we are on the ridge we can scan the sky for passing raptors as we enjoy a 5 mile loop that includes the Huckleberry Trail and the Southern Marin Line Fire Road. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate near the end of Glen Dr in Mill Valley. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for E Blithedale Ave west 1.4 miles. Turn right onto Carmelita Ave, right

onto Buena Vista Ave, and follow Buena Vista (turns into Glen Dr). The gate is approximately 1 mile up on the left (before dead end).

**Tuesday, September 23. 7pm to 8:30pm**

***Lecture: The Fall Migration***

Each year, a few million birds move along the pacific coast, passing from their breeding areas to their “winter” homes. Some birds only stop here briefly; others remain with us for several months. This lecture will focus on the changing of the guard that takes place in the fall, including waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds. This program is intended for ages 15 and up. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the little theater at the Marin Humane Society in Novato (171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the Ignacio Blvd/Bel Marin Keys Blvd exit. Follow the signs to Bel Marin Keys Blvd, go past the overpass, and turn left at the first stop light into the parking lot.

**Sunday, September 28. 10am to 2pm**

***Deer Island***

This beautiful little ridge that rises above the surrounding marshland is a great place to enjoy an autumn day. We'll spend the day walking through oak forests, open meadows, and along the edge of a marsh as we discuss the change of seasons and what it means for our local flora and fauna. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate on Deer Island Ln in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave east 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Olive Ave and left onto Deer Island Ln. The gate is on your right.

**Tuesday, September 30. 9am to 2pm**

***San Geronimo Ridge***

We'll start the morning with a slow ascent from the valley floor to San Geronimo Ridge. It's a sustained climb (elevation gain 1,000 ft), but once we reach the top we will enjoy amazing views and the pygmy Sargent cypress forest that makes this preserve so unique. For lunch we'll drop down to a shaded clearing among towering Redwoods and Douglas-firs. (8-mile round trip.) This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate on Redwood Canyon Dr in San Geronimo. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 7.7 miles. Turn left onto Railroad Ave, sharp right onto San Geronimo Valley Dr, and take the second left onto Redwood Canyon Dr. The gate is immediately on the right.

**Monday, October 6. 10am to 2pm**

***Focus on Raptors at Hawk Hill***

Every year thousands of raptors move down the Pacific coast as they head to wintering sites as far away as South America. A large percentage of these birds pass through the Marin Headlands where they are annually documented by the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO). We'll start the day with a walk in Rodeo Valley learning to identify these birds and discussing their life histories, then we'll head up to Hawk Hill for more raptor viewing and to meet GGRO Director Allen Fish who will discuss the work of this amazing volunteer-based organization. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the east end of Rodeo Lagoon. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101, take the exit for Alexander Ave and follow the signs to the Headlands. Follow Bunker Rd (through the tunnel) and continue west down the valley. Meet in the dirt parking lot at the first building after Bunker Rd crosses the bridge.

**Sunday, October 12. 10am to 2pm**

***All About Oaks at Mount Burdell***

Oaks and their acorns are vitally important to a broad spectrum of animals (including humans). We'll discuss the role of these trees in local ecosystems as we compare five oak species and several interesting hybrids. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate on San Andreas Dr in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.3 miles. Turn right onto San Andreas Dr and follow approximately 0.5 miles. The gate is on the right (before dead end).

**Thursday, October 23. 10am to 2pm**

***Fall Colors at Cascade Canyon***

We associate fall with the autumnal colors of deciduous shrubs and trees, but what causes these colors, and why do some plants drop their leaves in preparation for winter? We'll discuss the processes behind these changes as we enjoy a palate of hues in beautiful Cascade Canyon. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate at the end of Cascade Dr. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west to Fairfax 3.4 miles. Turn left onto Pacheco Ave, turn right onto Broadway and make first left onto Bolinas Rd 0.4 miles, slight right onto Cascade Dr (at the stop sign) continue about 1.5 miles to the gate (dead end). Parking is limited.

**Saturday, November 1. 9am to 2pm**

***Big Rock Ridge to the Summit***

This walk will take us from Lucas Valley to the 1,895 foot summit of Big Rock Ridge, the second highest peak in the county after Mount Tamalpais. This walk involves a 1,200 foot elevation gain, but doesn't involve any particularly steep sections as it climbs through open grassland, oak woodland, and chaparral. The views along the way are excellent, and the panorama we'll see from the summit is absolutely breathtaking. The total distance is a bit over 7 miles, so remember to bring extra water and food. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the walk for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the Big Rock trailhead in San Rafael. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Lucas Valley Rd west approximately 5.5 miles (look for the big rock). The trailhead is on the north side of Lucas Valley Rd.

**Thursday November 6. 9am to 12pm**

***Birds at Bothin Marsh***

Along the west shore of Richardson Bay, Bothin Marsh is an example of what the wetlands surrounding San Francisco Bay and San Pablo Bay looked like before they were channeled, diked, and filled. During fall and winter, migratory waterfowl thrive in the open water and sandpipers and other shorebirds feast on the invertebrates that are found in the mudflats. We'll also look and listen for year-round residents like clapper rails and common yellowthroats, which inhabit the surrounding cordgrass and pickleweed. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the walk for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the Hauke Park parking area in Mill Valley. DIRECTIONS From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the Tiburon Blvd/E Blithedale Ave exit west on E Blithedale Ave west 0.6 mile. Turn left onto Roque Mores Dr and right onto Hamilton Dr. Parking lot is on the left.

**Sunday, November 9. 10am to 2pm**

***Nature Prepares for Winter: Indian Valley***

As the days get shorter and cooler the natural world bolsters itself for the coming winter through a variety of fascinating adaptations. We'll keep an eye out for evidence of this shift as we make our way up to the ridge and down again. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the walk for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus in Novato, parking lot 6 (1800 Ignacio Blvd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the Ignacio Blvd/Bel Marin Keys Blvd exit west onto Ignacio Blvd approximately 2.5 miles all the way through campus. Parking lot 6 is adjacent to the police station.

**Saturday, November 15. 10am to 2pm**

***Birds at Bolinas Lagoon***

This is an excellent time to see waterfowl in fresh breeding plumage as well as a variety of shorebirds that visit this important overwintering area. We'll make our way around the lagoon via car to seek out these birds in a variety of habitats near this extremely productive ecosystem. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the walk for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet in the pullout adjacent to Stinson Beach School (just north of the town of Stinson Beach). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 20.4 miles to Olema. Turn left onto Hwy 1 and follow 12.5 miles, the school is on the left, park in the big gravel pullout on the right side.

**Thursday, November 20. 10am to 2pm**

***Birds at Rush Creek***

These tidal wetlands at the edge of San Pablo Bay are a fantastic place to appreciate our winter birds. Ducks (in gaudy breeding plumage), shorebirds, raptors, and many types of land birds should keep us entertained all day. The road sometimes gets quite muddy, so bring appropriate footwear. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the walk for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the Pinheiro Fire Rd gate on Binford Rd in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave east. Turn left onto Binford Rd. The gate is on the right.

**Tuesday, November 25. 9am to 12pm**

***Birds at Las Gallinas***

The ponds at the Las Gallinas water treatment facility are a fabulous place to get close looks at a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, plus there are usually plenty of hawks hunting for rodents and other prey in the surrounding fields. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the walk for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the Las Gallinas Sanitary District water treatment ponds in San Rafael (310 Smith Ranch Road). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Smith Ranch Rd east approximately 0.7 miles. Drive over the railroad tracks and immediately turn left to stay on Smith Ranch Rd. (If you go through the park entrance, you have gone too far). Follow Smith Ranch Rd 0.8 miles to treatment facility.

## FAMILY WALKS

Our family walks are intended for families that want to explore nature together. Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, neighbors, or any other inquisitive youngsters in your life who would appreciate a deeper connection to nature. This is not a “drop off” program, we want you to stay and enjoy the experience too. We set out to search for natural wonders and share what we find with one another. The most important take-home message is that animals and the habitats in which they live are fascinating and delicate things that should be treated gently. Bring a lunch, we usually stop to eat at about 11:30am, and remember to bring plenty of water.

### **Tuesday, September 9. 10am to 1pm**

#### ***Nature for Kids: Spiders at Lake Lagunitas***

Spiders are everywhere, and this is the perfect time of year to see spiders of every shape, size, and color. We'll learn how they hunt, how they make their webs, and how to identify many common species. Don't forget to bring your lunch! We request that no animals (except service animals) attend. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the Lake Lagunitas parking area. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 5 miles to Fairfax. Turn left onto Pacheco Ave, immediate right onto Broadway Blvd, left onto Bolinas Rd for 1.8 miles. Turn left onto Sky Oaks Rd. At approximately 0.5 miles, stop and pay \$8 parking fee, then follow signs to Lake Lagunitas (end of Sky Oaks Rd).

### **Wednesday, September 17. 5:30pm to 7pm**

#### ***Novato Library Lecture: Trail Terrors?***

*This is a bilingual event*

Many people are concerned about the dangers they might encounter in the wild. Mountain lions, rattlesnakes, coyotes, and spiders have a bad reputation and keep many people from enjoying nature here in Marin County. This family oriented talk will be about many of the animals in our area, and you might be surprised to learn just how little we have to worry about when we are out on the trail. We are partnering with the Marin County Free Library to present this talk by naturalist David Herlocker, which will be translated into Spanish by librarian Silvia Molina. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the Novato Library in Novato (1720 Novato Blvd). The library's phone number is (415) 473-2050. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for De Long Ave east. After 0.05 miles continue on Diablo Ave, turn right onto Novato Blvd and follow 0.5 miles. Library is on the right.

### **Miércoles, 17 de Septiembre. 5:30pm-7:00pm**

#### ***Presentación en la biblioteca de Novato: ¿Terroros en los senderos?***

Muchas personas se preocupan por los posibles peligros que pudieran encontrar en la naturaleza. Los pumas, las serpientes de cascabel, los coyotes y las arañas tienen mala fama e impiden a muchas personas disfrutar de la naturaleza aquí en el Condado de Marin. Esta charla orientada a la familia tratará sobre muchos de los animales en nuestra área, y tal vez le sorprenda saber lo poco que hay que temer cuando estamos haciendo senderismo. Nos estamos asociando con la biblioteca gratuita del Condado de Marin para presentar esta charla por el naturalista David Herlocker, la cual será traducida al español por la bibliotecaria Silvia Molina. Preguntas: Comuníquese con David Herlocker al (415) 893-9508 o [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Nos vemos en la biblioteca de Novato (1720 Novato Blvd). El teléfono de la biblioteca es el (415) 473-2050. Cómo llegar: De la Carretera 101 en Novato, tome la salida para De Long Ave al este. Después de 0.05 millas siga por Diablo Ave, dé vuelta a la derecha en Novato Blvd. y continúe 0.5 millas. La biblioteca está a la derecha.

**Saturday, October 4. 10am to 1pm**

***Nature for Kids: Deer Island***

*This is a Healthy Parks Healthy People Event*

We'll follow the 2.3 mile loop trail around this "island" as we walk through oak forests and open meadows. This beautiful little ridge that rises above the surrounding marshland is a great place to enjoy an autumn day with the family. Don't forget to bring your lunch! We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate on Deer Island Ln in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave east 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Olive Ave and left onto Deer Island Ln. The gate is on your right.

**Tuesday, October 28. 10am to 1pm**

***Nature for Kids: Cascade Canyon***

This beautiful canyon is a great place to enjoy the changing of the seasons and the colors of fall. If it's warm we might find some lizards still out and about; if it has rained we might find some early season salamanders! Don't forget to bring your lunch! We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate at the end of Cascade Dr. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west to Fairfax 3.4 miles. Turn left onto Pacheco Ave, turn right onto Broadway and make first left onto Bolinas Rd 0.4 miles, slight right onto Cascade Dr (at the stop sign) continue about 1.5 miles to the gate (dead end). Parking is limited.

**Tuesday, November 11. 10am to 12pm**

***Nature for Kids: Birds at Las Gallinas***

This is a fantastic place for new birders to get great looks at a variety of birds. The water treatment ponds here are a magnet for ducks in colorful breeding plumage, hawks soar over the surrounding fields, and songbirds flit about the bushes along the levees. We'll have a spotting scope, but bring binoculars if you have them! Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 7am on the morning of the event for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the Las Gallinas Sanitary District water treatment ponds in San Rafael (310 Smith Ranch Road). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Smith Ranch Rd east approximately 0.7 miles. Drive over the railroad tracks and immediately turn left to stay on Smith Ranch Rd. (If you go through the park entrance, you have gone too far). Follow Smith Ranch Rd 0.8 miles to treatment facility. Park on the left.

**Sunday, November 23. 10am to 1pm**

***Nature for Kids: Indian Valley***

This is the time of year when it could be dry or it could be rainy. We'll set out on an adventure to see what the weather has brought us; if we're lucky we could see newts or mushrooms, or we might even hear frogs starting to sing! Don't forget to bring your lunch! We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 on the morning of the walk for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at (415) 893-9508 or [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org). Meet at the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus in Novato, parking lot 6 (1800 Ignacio Blvd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the Ignacio Blvd/Bel Marin Keys Blvd exit west onto Ignacio Blvd approximately 2.5 miles all the way through campus. Parking lot 6 is adjacent to the police station.

## RANGER ACTIVITIES

Rangers host a variety of family-friendly events for all ages and interests. We offer barbeques, bike rides, campfires, fishing derbies, horseback rides, interpretive hikes, outdoor safety and skills seminars, skateboard contests, stargazing, and more! Bring snacks, water, and sun block.

**Saturday, September 6. 9am to 12pm**

### ***Fall Fishing Derby***

Join rangers for our fall fishing contest at Paradise Beach Park! Prizes will be awarded for the first fish and the biggest fish! A limited number of fishing poles and bait will be provided first-come, first-served to beginners, thanks to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. A valid California fishing license is required when fishing from the shore; not from the pier. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Questions: Contact Supervising Ranger Mike Maraccini at (415) 435-9212 or [MMaraccini@marincounty.org](mailto:MMaraccini@marincounty.org). Meet at the fishing pier in Paradise Beach Park in Tiburon (3450 Paradise Dr). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east 1.8 miles. Turn left onto Trestle Glen Blvd, right onto Paradise Dr, and follow for 1.5 miles. The park is on the left. Park entrance is free.

**Saturday, September 6. 10am to 12pm**

### ***Junior Ranger: Wildland Fire***

Join us for a Junior Ranger program created to teach youth about outdoor skills, natural history, and environmental stewardship. These activities are intended for 7-12 year olds, though explorers of all ages are welcome. Join rangers Mike Warner and Felicity Hartnett for an easy nature walk to explore Mount Burdell. We will learn about the role of fire in our ecosystem and how rangers manage fire. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 473-7191 to get an update on fire danger status and land closures. If a "Red Flag" warning is in effect, all walks and events on Open Space District preserves are cancelled. Questions: Contact Ranger Mike Warner at (415) 473-2816 or [MWarner@marincounty.org](mailto:MWarner@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate on San Carlos Way in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.1 miles. Turn right onto San Carlos Way and follow to end (dead end).

**Saturday, September 13. 11am to 1pm**

### ***Mini Golf***

Rangers will host a fun afternoon of miniature golf at the McInnis Park Golf Center. Prizes will be given for anyone who gets a hole-in-one! Healthy snacks will be provided. This event is for children ages 12 and under, who must be accompanied by an adult. Questions: Contact Supervising Ranger Audrea Bocchi at (415) 446-4423 or [ABocchi.marincounty.org](mailto:ABocchi.marincounty.org). Meet at the Hillside picnic area in McInnis Park in San Rafael (310 Smith Ranch Rd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Smith Ranch Rd east approximately 0.7 miles. Drive over the railroad tracks and immediately turn left to stay on Smith Ranch Rd. (If you go through the park entrance, you have gone too far). Look for the sign for Hillside picnic area and turn right; Hillside is immediately on the right. Park entrance is free.

**Saturday, September 20. 10:30am to 12pm**

### ***Story Time with a Ranger***

Explore the adventures and lives of salt marsh creatures through stories and activities. Meet Ranger Felicity Hartnett at Santa Margarita Island to discover who is living at our salt marsh and learn how they survive. Don't forget to bring your imagination! This program is ideal for ages 4-6 but explorers of all ages are welcome. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 473-7191 to get an update on fire danger status and land closures. If a "Red Flag" warning is in effect, all walks and events on Open Space District preserves are cancelled. RSVP's are appreciated but not required. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Ranger Felicity Hartnett at [FHartnett@marincounty.org](mailto:FHartnett@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate at the end of Meadow Dr in San Rafael. DIRECTIONS: From

Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for N San Pedro Rd east 1.1 miles. Turn left onto Meadow Dr (opposite the 7-Eleven store) and drive to the end (dead end).

**Sunday, September 28. 11:30 to 1:30pm**

***Make Your Own Moss Garden***

Bring your junior green thumb and join rangers at Stafford Lake Park in building and decorating your very own moss garden. Learn about the roles mosses and lichens play in our environment, while we enjoy a fun family project. Watch your kit grow from scratch into a lush, green landscape. This event is geared towards ages 5 and up, all skill levels are welcome, and no experience is necessary. Supplies and healthy snacks will be provided. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Space is limited so please reserve your spot (and a kit) in advance by emailing [Stafford Lake Park](#). Questions: Contact Ranger Michael Campos at (415) 897-0618. Meet at Stafford Lake Park in Novato (3549 Novato Blvd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.9 miles. Turn right onto Novato Blvd and follow for 2.6 miles. The park is on the left. Turn right after the gate house and follow to the first parking lot. Park entrance is free.

**Friday, October 10. 6pm to 7:30pm**

***Not Afraid of the Dark Hike***

Halloween is coming but we're not scared; come enjoy Old St. Hilary's at night! Join Ranger Felicity Hartnett for a short one-mile hike at sunset with beautiful views of San Francisco. This hike is ideal for young adventurers and their families as an introduction to night hiking. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a flashlight or headlamp. High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 473-7191 to get an update on fire danger status and land closures. If a "Red Flag" warning is in effect, all walks and events on Open Space District preserves are cancelled. RSVP's are appreciated but not required. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Ranger Felicity Hartnett at [FHartnett@marincounty.org](mailto:FHartnett@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate at the end of Lyford Dr in Tiburon. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east 3.5 miles. Turn left onto Lyford Dr and follow to the end (dead end).

**Saturday, October 11. 11am to 2pm**

***Picnic Hike at Tiburon Uplands***

Join ranger staff on a hike of the Tiburon Uplands Preserve. Hike to the top of the preserve and enjoy good company, a picnic lunch, and spectacular views of the San Francisco Bay. This hike is moderate-to-strenuous. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water and lunch. Questions: Contact Ranger Jason Olivotti at (415) 435-9212 or [JOlivotti@marincounty.org](mailto:JOlivotti@marincounty.org). Meet at the parking lot in Paradise Beach Park in Tiburon (3450 Paradise Dr). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east 1.8 miles. Turn left onto Trestle Glen Blvd, right onto Paradise Dr, and follow for 1.5 miles. The park is on the left. Park entrance is free.

**Friday, October 17. 5:30pm to 8:30pm**

***Movie Night***

Come enjoy a fall evening on the lawn at Stafford Lake Park for Family Movie Night! We will be featuring a family movie, free popcorn and more! Feel free to picnic and BBQ too. Movie begins 15 minutes after sunset. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Rain will cancel. Questions: Contact ranger staff at Stafford Lake Park at (415) 897-0618. Meet at Stafford Lake Park in Novato (3549 Novato Blvd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.9 miles. Turn right onto Novato Blvd and follow for 2.6 miles. The park is on the left. Turn right after the gate house and follow to the first parking lot. Park entrance is free.

**Saturday, October 18. 5pm to 6:30pm**

***Rush Creek Bike Ride***

Ranger Mike Warner will host a moderate 9-mile mountain bike ride at the Rush Creek Open Space Preserve. This route has very little elevation change and offers sweeping views of the marshlands at Rush Creek. Dress in layers, bring water, and don't forget your bike! High fire danger may cancel: Call (415) 473-7191 to get an update on fire danger status and land closures. If a "Red Flag" warning is in effect, all walks and events on Open Space District preserves are cancelled. Questions: Contact Ranger Mike Warner at (415) 473-2816 or [MWarner@marincounty.org](mailto:MWarner@marincounty.org) Meet at the Pinheiro Fire Rd gate on Binford Rd in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave east. Turn left onto Binford Rd. The gate is on the right.

**Saturday, October 25. 10am to 1pm**

***Kayak Paddle and Cookout***

Join ranger staff for a paddle at Paradise Beach Park. After the paddle, stay for BBQ hot dogs and refreshments, free of charge. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Dress in layers, bring water, and your own kayak. A Coast Guard-approved lifejacket for each person onboard is required for use on the water. Rain will cancel. RSVP to save your spot, as this event is limited to 30 participants. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Ranger Jason Olivotti at (415) 435-9212 or [JOlivotti@marincounty.org](mailto:JOlivotti@marincounty.org). Meet at the parking lot in Paradise Beach Park in Tiburon (3450 Paradise Dr). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east 1.8 miles. Turn left onto Trestle Glen Blvd, right onto Paradise Dr, and follow for 1.5 miles. The park is on the left. Park entrance is free.

**Saturday, October 25. 6pm to 7:30pm**

***Graveyard Stroll***

Join rangers for a head start on Halloween! Experience our one-of-a kind program that uncovers one of Marin's most interesting, but little known cemeteries. All treats (and tricks) are free. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a flashlight and treat bag. Questions: Contact Ranger Christin Lopez at (415) 473-2816 or [CLopez@marincounty.org](mailto:CLopez@marincounty.org). Meet at the Marin County Parks Lucas Valley Field Office in San Rafael (18 Jeannette Prandi Way). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Lucas Valley Rd west 1.9 miles. Turn right onto Mt Lassen Dr, right onto Jeannette Prandi Way, and follow to end (dead end).

**Sunday, October 26. 10am to 12pm**

***Jeepers Jack-O-Lanterns***

Join ranger staff at Paradise Beach Park in carving your own spooky Jack-O-Lantern for Halloween! This event is best for ages 7 and up. A limited amount of pumpkins will be available (otherwise, you are more than welcome to bring your own), and festive, healthy snacks will be provided. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Questions: Contact Ranger Sarah Burkhart at [SBurkhart@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurkhart@marincounty.org). Meet at the fishing pier in Paradise Beach Park in Tiburon (3450 Paradise Dr). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east 1.8 miles. Turn left onto Trestle Glen Blvd, right onto Paradise Dr, and follow for 1.5 miles. The park is on the left. Park entrance is free.

**Saturday, November 1. 10am to 12pm**

***Fun Family Mile***

*This is a Healthy Parks, Healthy People event*

Come out and enjoy a spectacular fall morning and gorgeous views while participating in an easygoing, one-mile walk with your family in this beautiful bayside park. This will be an easy walk, and a great way to bond as a family. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Water and healthy snacks will be provided. Friendly dogs are welcome, but must be leashed. Questions: Contact Supervising Ranger Audrea Bocchi at (415) 446-4423 or [ABocchi@marincounty.org](mailto:ABocchi@marincounty.org). Meet at the McInnis Park dock in San Rafael (310 Smith Ranch Rd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Smith Ranch Rd east approximately 0.7 miles.

Go through entrance and look for the softball field on the right, turn right, then immediate left into the dock parking area. Park entrance is free.

**Saturday, November 1. 6pm to 8pm**

***Girls Can Be Park Rangers Too***

Girls can play in the dirt, rock at sports, fight fires, camp in the woods, and be park rangers! Join Ranger Felicity Hartnett at the Marin County Parks Lucas Valley Field Office for hot chocolate and s'mores and learn about what a Marin County Park Ranger does and how to become a park ranger. This program is ideal for Girl Scout groups and other young ladies between ages 6-12. Boys welcome too. Maximum capacity: 20 participants. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Ranger Felicity Hartnett at [FHartnett@marincounty.org](mailto:FHartnett@marincounty.org). Meet at the Marin County Parks Lucas Valley Field Office in San Rafael (18 Jeannette Prandi Way). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Lucas Valley Rd west 1.9 miles. Turn right onto Mt Lassen Dr, right onto Jeannette Prandi Way, and follow to end (dead end).

**Sunday, November 2. 9am to 11am**

***Fitness Hike: Indian Tree***

Join Ranger Christin Lopez for a fast-paced adventure on a 4+ mile loop. The emphasis of the hike is to get your heart pumping and burn calories! This is a great way to de-stress, and get fresh air. Wear comfortable athletic clothing, extra layers and sturdy footwear. Plenty of water and high energy snacks are strongly recommended. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. This is a rain or shine event but high winds will cancel. Questions: Contact Ranger Christin Lopez at (415) 473-2816 or [CLopez@marincounty.org](mailto:CLopez@marincounty.org). Meet at the trailhead on Vineyard Rd in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.7 miles. San Marin Dr turns into Sutro Ave at Novato Blvd. Follow Sutro Ave 1 mile, turn right at Vineyard Rd and follow 1 mile. Trailhead is on the left where the paved road becomes a dirt road.

**Saturday, November 15. 9am to 11am**

***Fall Color Photography at San Geronimo***

Join Supervising Ranger/Photographer Craig Solin as we explore fall colors at beautiful Willis Evans Canyon in San Geronimo. If weather allows we will take a short hike up the trail focusing on nature's various colors. We'll also walk through a small redwood grove exploring shadows and patterns. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a snack and your camera. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Questions: Contact Supervising Ranger Craig Solin at (415) 473-2816 or [CSolin@marincounty.org](mailto:CSolin@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate on Redwood Canyon Dr in San Geronimo. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 7.7 miles. Turn left onto Railroad Ave, sharp right onto San Geronimo Valley Dr, and take the second left onto Redwood Canyon Dr. The gate is immediately on the right.

**Friday, November 21. 9am to 12pm**

***Sturgeon Derby***

Join rangers for this popular annual fishing contest! Prizes will be awarded for the biggest fish. A limited number of fishing poles and bait will be provided first-come, first-served to beginner fishermen thanks to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. A valid California fishing license is required when fishing from the shore; not from the pier. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Questions: Contact Chief Park Ranger Dan Sauter at (415) 446-4424 or [DSauter@marincounty.org](mailto:DSauter@marincounty.org). Meet at the fishing pier in McNears Beach Park in San Rafael (201 Cantera Way). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Central San Rafael east. Take 2nd St east, which merges into 3rd St, and then turns into Point San Pedro Rd. Follow Point San Pedro Rd for 3.6 miles, turn right at Cantera Way, and follow to the large parking lot at the end. Park entrance is \$5.

**Saturday, November 22. 11am to 2pm**

***Thanksgiving Floral Arrangement Workshop***

Bring your creativity to this holiday festivity! Join ranger staff in making your own mini pumpkin floral centerpiece for your Thanksgiving Day table. Healthy snacks and all supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome and no experience is necessary. This event is best for ages 7 and up. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. RSVP to save your spot, as this event is limited to 15 participants. Questions and to RSVP: Contact Ranger Sarah Burkhart at [SBurkhart@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurkhart@marincounty.org). Meet at the snack bar in McNears Beach Park in San Rafael (201 Cantera Way). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Central San Rafael east. Take 2nd St east, which merges into 3rd St, and then turns into Point San Pedro Rd. Follow Point San Pedro Rd for 3.6 miles, turn right at Cantera Way, and follow to the large parking lot at the end. Park entrance is free.

**Saturday, November 29. 9am to 12pm**

***Fitness Hike: Hoo Koo E Koo to Huckleberry Trail***

Feeling guilty after Turkey Day? Explore Baltimore Canyon and the Blithedale and Corte Madera ridges on a fast-paced hike with Ranger Ian McLorg. We will take the Hoo Koo E Koo Trail up to the ridge, come down the Huckleberry Trail and then head back to Crown Rd (approximately 5 miles total). Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, bring water, and high energy snacks. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. This is a rain or shine event but high winds will cancel. Questions: Contact Ranger Ian McLorg at (415) 473-2816 or [IMcLorg@marincounty.org](mailto:IMcLorg@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate at the end of Crown Rd in Kent Woodlands. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 2.1 miles. Turn left onto College Ave, right onto Woodland Rd, left onto Evergreen Dr. Continue uphill to the intersection with Ridgecrest; 50-foot uphill from this junction, left onto Crown Rd, and follow to end (dead end).

**Sunday, November 30. 10am to 12pm**

***Junior Rangers: Youth Birding Adventure***

Join us for a Junior Ranger program, created to teach youth about outdoor skills, natural history and environmental stewardship. These activities are intended for 7-12 year olds, although explorers of all ages are welcome. Join Ranger Christin Lopez for a birding adventure at Rush Creek Preserve. As we hike we will discuss birds commonly found in the area this time of year, unique attributes of different groups of birds, and identification for the beginner. Following our walk we will have lunch and share all the cool facts we learned about birds! Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Bring water, lunch, and binoculars if you have them. Rain will cancel. Questions: Contact Ranger Christin Lopez at (415) 473-2816 or [CLopez@marincounty.org](mailto:CLopez@marincounty.org). Meet at the Bahia trailhead near the end of Bahia Dr in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave east approximately 1 mile. Turn left onto Bugeia Ln, which turns into Bahia Dr at the "y". Follow Bahia Dr approximately 0.5 miles. Trailhead is on the left before Bahia Dr dead ends.