

MAKING A DIFFERENCE SUPPORTING A WEEK AT CAMP COVE

Last week, more than 100 Santa Ana kids got to enjoy five fun-filled days in the sun at Crystal Cove State Park as they took part in Camp Cove! The campers, who were all between the ages of 6 to 17, came from the Santa Ana Police Athletics and Activities League (SAPAAL), a community organization that focuses on building a bond between kids and cops through education, fitness, and activities. Their week at Camp Cove was organized by the Crystal Cove State Park Lifeguard and Interpretive staff, with help from Crystal Cove Alliance (CCA). Before coming to the State Park, the campers began exploring the Park's unique ecosystems on shore and at sea as they took part in two boat programs with CCA and then spent an afternoon videoconferencing with Crystal Cove's PORTS interpreter. "Being on the boat was so much fun!" says Zeilyn, age 11. "I had seen dolphins in aquariums but this was my first time seeing dolphins and their calves in their natural habitat. It was awesome!"



During their week at Crystal Cove, campers learned about beach safety with the Crystal Cove

Lifeguards as they enjoyed the waves and played games on the beach. State Park Interpreters led them on an interpretive hike into Crystal Cove's backcountry, and campers were able to take part in ongoing scientific research and explore the Historic District's long tradition of plein air art with Crystal Cove Alliance. Speakers also introduced campers to the possibilities of State Park careers. "Camp Cove this year has been incredible," says Officer Kenney Aguilar, the director of the Santa Ana PAAL program. "With the new joined partnership with Crystal Cove Alliance, these kids not only get to have fun on the beach with the lifeguards, but are able to experience the history of Crystal Cove's Historic District and learn about all the science and research CCA does at the State Park."

Although the participants live just twelve miles from the ocean in inner city Santa Ana, some had never been to the coast before. Their experience was made possible through the generous support of the California State Park Foundation (which funded transportation to and from the Cove), the Laguna Beach Community Foundation, and Crystal Cove's local community, which came together to support this unique program through an online fundraiser.

We put together a little video to thank you for supporting Camp Cove!

FROM THE FIELD SHARKS ARE FRIENDS NOT FOOD

During these hot summer months, many people have been trying to stay cool by heading to the beach. But with an increase of sightings and news coverage, some visitors have had a big worry: sharks!

According to the International Shark Attack File, 2015 had 98 unprovoked shark attacks worldwide, resulting in 8 deaths. That is the highest on record. Why so many shark attacks? Should you stay clear of the waters when hitting the beach here this summer? With proper safety precautions, you and your family can still safely enjoy the waters at Crystal Cove.

Scientists believe the number of shark-human interactions occurring in a given year is directly correlated with the amount of time humans spend in the sea. Though the news lately might make it seem like sharks are a growing threat, it is more likely that there are simply more people in the water, and the actual rate of shark attacks has declined.

Usually, we can safely share the ocean with sharks because sharks do not see humans as prey. Many shark attacks are a case of mistaken identity. A surfer on a surfboard could look like a seal or sea turtle in murky ocean conditions. Shiny jewelry could also be mistaken for light bouncing off of the scales of a fish. Most shark attacks involve only one bite once the shark realizes that what it has sunk its teeth into isn't the nice fatty sea lion it was hoping for.

To make sure you have a safe swim, always consider the ocean conditions and stay aware of your surroundings. If there is murky water or low light conditions, if fishermen are baiting the water, or if you are alone, it is best to stay out of the water.



THEN AND NOW

"WE WERE GOING TO LIVE ALL SUMMER AT THE BEACH" – TENT CAMPING AT CRYSTAL COVE

It wasn't an exaggeration when one Coveite described the heyday of Crystal Cove's tent camping era as "going to live all summer at the beach." In the earliest camping days, families pulled up to the sand over Memorial Day weekend with trucks and trailers full of supplies for ingenious ocean-front tents that they lived in through Labor Day weekend. These seasonal "tents" were outfitted with enough care and creature comforts to be dubbed "cabanas" by their occupants, and they were summer homes for a group of families from all walks of life.

The 1926 opening of Pacific Coast Highway brought even more tenters to light up the Cove with their bonfires and kerosene lanterns. The secret paradise was no longer a secret, and according to the book *Crystal Cove Cottages*, a "sleepy tenting ground" became "a small village" by the late 1930s. Overnight tenting had gradually become over-the-summer tenting for some families.



THEN AND NOW - continued

Tent camping was not allowed during World War II, but it returned after the war. Crystal Cove reflected an optimistic, ready-for-fun post-war mood that included luau parties, fishing for dinner, ukulele sing-alongs, and summer days of exploring on the beach.

Unlike primitive conditions of earlier times, the modern Crystal Cove campsite had wood framing, showers, restrooms, and provided electricity to each individual site. Some tenters rigged running water, and most had coffee pots, hot plates, electric light, and some kind of refrigerator. Sandbags stacked into low walls to protect each tent from high tide, creating individual ocean-front “yards” with sandbag-bench seating. Whatever the ocean or neighbors didn’t provide (including mail service) was offered by the on-the-sand seasonal general store and soda fountain — and a little bungalow that opened on the bluff top in the late 1940s to sell dried fruit, juices, and milkshakes.

In 1962, on-the-sand beach tenting ended in Orange County, and the Crystal Cove camping concession and store closed, but the bluff-top “shake shack” still remains, as does bluff-top and backcountry camping in Moro Canyon. Today, Orange County has close to the same population as the entire state of California had when the new Pacific Coast Highway was completed above the Cove in October, 1926. Almost ninety years later, still being able to pitch a tent under the stars at Crystal Cove today makes us as lucky now as tent campers were back then.

Become a Member

Become a member of Crystal Cove Alliance!

Our partners are all in this together! For as little as \$50, you can become a member of Crystal Cove Alliance.

Our new program includes benefits such as discounts at the Park Interpretive Store, invitations to special events, a one-day parking pass, up to four shuttle passes, the CCA monthly newsletter and lots more.

Don’t miss out – [sign up](#) today as a new member to be entered into a drawing for a two-night stay for two in a Crystal Cove Cottage.



**CRYSTAL COVE
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