

JANUARY 2026

Camp Life E-Newsletter

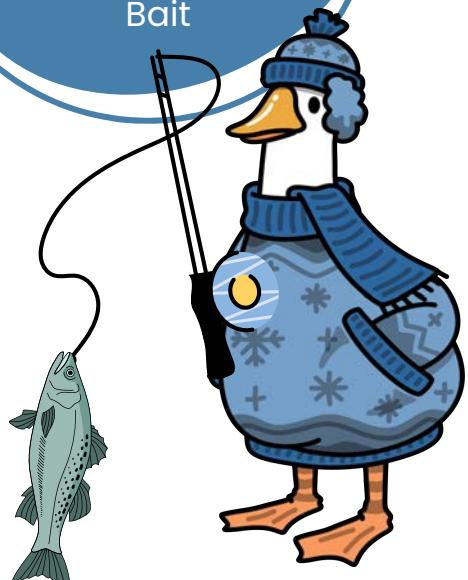
Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve



Happy
New Year 2026

General Store

Fishing Permits
Merchandise
Ice Cream Novelties
Firewood
Snacks & Drinks
Ice
Bait



**It's TROUT
SEASON!
We have bait.**



**General Store/
Park Office
hours:**
8:00AM-5:00PM daily

We are OPEN
New Year's Day!



Come check
out some
cozy items
for those chilly
nights in the
Campground.

**Pedal Boat
Rentals**

10:00AM-4:00PM
Everyday
\$17-\$24 half-hour



**WINTER
CAMPING
NOW!**

Campsites available!



**Book all seasons at
santeelakes.com**

**SUMMER
CAMPING
LATER!**

Camping/cabins
reservations for
JUNE are now
open!

Upcoming Park 2026 Events



We will be stocking the camper lakes with tagged trout for prizes!



Step outside your rig and fish! Lakeshore camping sites are available now on santeelakes.com.



Our first Paint & Sip of the year in our Create on Deck Series is coming!

Event date: Saturday January 17 | 10AM-12PM
Sign up [HERE](#).



Cornhole is not only for campers anymore! Southern California Cornhole Association will be hosting this tournament at Lake 1.
Event date: Saturday May 30 | 12PM-6PM

Trout Re-Opener

January 10 & 11, 2026

3,500 lbs. of Rainbow, Steelhead & Golden Ruby Trout
Lakes 2, 3, 4 & 6

Tip: Buy your permits early at the General Store January 2, 2026, or on our App now!

TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE

Trout Re-Opener January 10th / 11th
January 23rd
February 6th
February 20th
March 6th

*Stocking dates and time are subject to change



Inspired by the success of our Ladies at the Lake Fall Market is our newest event—Spring Market and this time we're expanding the experience, it's not just for the ladies.

Event date: Saturday May 2, 2026 | 10AM-3PM
Application will open on January 5, 2026

Upcoming Park 2026 Events



Our Concert Series is coming in MAY!

Due to popular demand, we are increasing the number of concert dates! Concerts will now begin in May and run through September.

Event dates: Saturdays in May & Fridays & Saturdays June through September | 5PM-7PM



Catfish Opener

2,500 lbs. of Catfish will be stocked!

Event date: Saturday & Sunday | April 11 & 12



Night Fishing

Event dates:
Thursdays & Fridays
June 11, June 26
July 9, July 24
August 6, August 21
5:00PM – 11:30PM



Ladies at the Lake Fall Market will celebrate its **10th Anniversary!** Stay tuned for all the details planned for this milestone.

Event date: Saturday October 10 | 10AM-3PM



Spooktacular

Trunk or Treat, inflatables, games & more!

Event date: Saturday October 24 | 10AM-2PM



Trout Opener

3,500 lbs. of trout stocked for this event!
Event date: Saturday & Sunday | November 7 & 8

News

It's official! Santee Lakes is part of the brand-new **Monopoly, San Diego Edition!** Over 1000 locations across the county applied to be included on the popular board game. We are honored to be chosen! The San Diego Edition was the first licensed Monopoly game ever published by USAopoly, back in 1995. An upgraded edition was published in 2002. And now here we are 2025, featured between the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Convention center. **Guests may purchase the game in our General Store, while supplies last.**



A special shout-out to Volunteer Terri and our awesome staffer Carrie for bringing this opportunity to our attention.



Our new **smart meters** communicate wirelessly to show electrical usage as it happens. This will eliminate the need for volunteers to physically be on each site to read the meter after a guest checks out. Additionally, we will get alerts for outages, damaged meters, and even usage alerts for sites that should be vacant. Overall, the smart meter upgrade will save staffing hours and allow for a more efficient billing system for the park.



The Wood Duck population at Santee Lakes has thrived thanks to our successful program! If you would like to learn more about our **Adopt a Wood Duck Box**, visit santeelakes.com for details.

News

Topwater Grill Hours

Monday – Sunday
7:00AM–5:00PM

Menu



Super exciting news about our staffer, Malachi!



One of the most prestigious powerlifting competitions is the **IPF World Classic Powerlifting Championships**, organized by the International Powerlifting Federation. This event attracts the best athletes from all over the world to compete for the title of world champion in different weight categories.

At the International Powerlifting League World Championship in London, **Malachi** got first place overall for his weight class and gold in his squat and bench press. He squatted **667 pounds** and bench pressed **402 pounds**!

Malachi will now be in charge of checking fish permits.

***Congratulations!** Malachi*

Campground Events



Campfire & S'mores will be at the Lakeshore Fire Ring on **Saturday, January 3** from. We will bring the s'mores! Bring a flashlight for the walk back to your rig.



Join us for Bingo!
Saturday, January 10
in the Clubhouse from
4PM-6PM.



Make a fun Friendship
Bracelet for your bestie!
Saturday, February 17 in
the Clubhouse.



Board games are always fun!
Come to the Clubhouse on
Saturday, January 24 from
2PM-4PM.



Join us for a variety of crafts
in the Clubhouse on
Saturday, January 31 from
2PM-4PM.



Lion's Club will be serving
pancakes in the Clubhouse
on **Saturday, January 31**
from 8AM-10:30AM

Sports on
the Lawn is
happening
EVERY
Saturday
morning
from
10AM-11AM!

Camping Hacks

A “Camping Hack” is a clever, simple shortcut or DIY trick that makes camping easier, more efficient, or more fun.

Homemade Tank Cleaner

Mix a cup of dish soap and ½ cup of Calgon water softener to create an effective, cheap waste tank cleaner.

Keep Addresses and Contact Numbers Within Sight

Get a dry-erase board and stick it somewhere convenient. Write down the name, site number, phone number, and address of any campground when you arrive. In case of an emergency, having this information available for paramedics or emergency personnel will help them get to you faster.

You can also write convenient information like the WiFi password on the dry erase board as well.

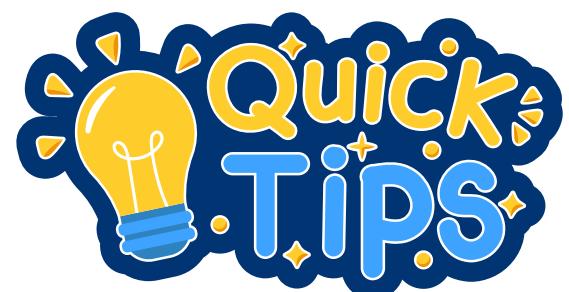
Hold Black Out Curtains in Place With Velcro

Add a small square of Velcro to the backs of your curtains, and to the spot on your wall where you want the curtains to stay in place. This keeps the curtains from falling open and letting the sunshine in!

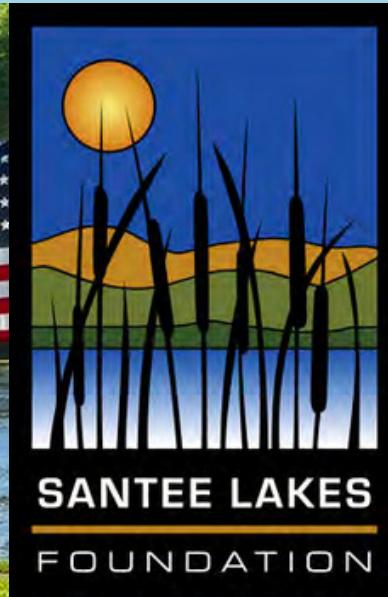
Use Shoe Organizers For More Than Shoe Storage

Shoe organizers can be used to organize shower supplies or various other items around an RV. They can even be cut up and used as shorter organizers hanging off an RV bunk.

Share your camping hacks at santeelakes@padre.org and get featured in the next newsletter!



Santee Lakes Foundation



Happy New Year from the Santee Lakes Foundation!

Do you love Santee Lakes? If so, the Santee Lakes Foundation is looking for you! We are actively seeking volunteers to join our Board of Directors. As a member of our organization, you will help support Santee Lakes with projects like the Kid's Fishing Pond, 50 Flags of Freedom and multiple veterans activities at the lakes. Your top desire for joining us should be that you love Santee Lakes and want to share its benefits and enjoyment with others. Are you a regular camper? Do you enjoy fishing at the lakes? Do you regularly walk or exercise at the lakes? Do you photograph the birds of Santee Lakes? If so, please consider giving back to Santee Lakes by joining the Santee Lakes Foundation. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us 619-258-6135.

The Foundation is dedicated in our mission to promote the importance of outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental sustainability at Santee Lakes through charitable support in the following areas:

Recreational Programs
Habitat Restoration
Habitat Maintenance
Environmental
Education Park
Improvements
Park Maintenance

All donations to the Santee Lakes Foundation are tax deductible. You can make your donation at the Santee Lakes Park Office or mail your donation to:

Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve
Attn: Santee Lakes Foundation
9310 Fanita Parkway
Santee, CA 92071
Tax Id: 27-1296867

Campfire Recipes



Red Wine Hot Chocolate

[Click here for
recipe](#)

You had me at wine.



Campfire Popcorn

[Click here for recipe](#)



Campfire Pear Crumbles

[Click here for recipe](#)

Camper Safety



Electric bikes & scooters

If you or your kiddos have an E bike or E scooter, please be mindful of your speed and the speed of your kiddos. The posted speed limit of 15 mph is for all vehicles including Electric bikes/scooters.



REMINDER:

9.2.4 No person shall permit any child under the age of twelve years to be left unattended on the park property.



Leash please

Please keep your fur babies on a leash. Not only because of wild animals that visit periodically, but for the safety of your your pet and neighboring campers.



As always...

Our campground is situated in an area of wildlife habitat. If you see a coyote, you should exhibit caution, as they may be desperate for food and will attempt to get close if there is food nearby. If you are approached by a coyote, shout, wave your arms, and do what you can to make yourself appear bigger. If you are walking a small pet, pick it up. If you are walking a larger pet, keep it close to your side.

Campground FAQs



- Do campers need to purchase a fishing permit?
 - Yes, campers will need a permit. You can purchase a permit at the General Store, Gate house, or Park Ranger.
- How late are campers able to fish in Lake 6 and 7?
 - Campers may fish until 11 PM.
- Do we have to bring our own fire pit?
 - Yes, please bring your fire pit, there are no ground fires allowed.
- Can we set-up a tent on our RV site?
 - No, there is only one camping unit per site. If you wish to set-up additional camping units you can reserve one of our designated tent sites.
- What time is checkout?
 - 11:00AM is checkout for campers, Cabin guest's checkout time is 10:30AM.
- Where is the Campground Bark Park located?
 - The Bark Park is located in the very north west corner of the Campground.
- Can we use an inflatable pool?
 - No, due to safety issues, inflatable pools are not allowed.
- What time is quiet time?
 - 9:00PM is Campground quiet time.
- What time does my fire have to be out?
 - Please have your fire extinguished by 10:00PM
- How many people are allowed on my campsite?
 - Campers can have a maximum of 6 people on each site.
- Can we hang up a hammock?
 - No. Hammocks can be harmful to trees, as well as other safety issues.