

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
KIDS

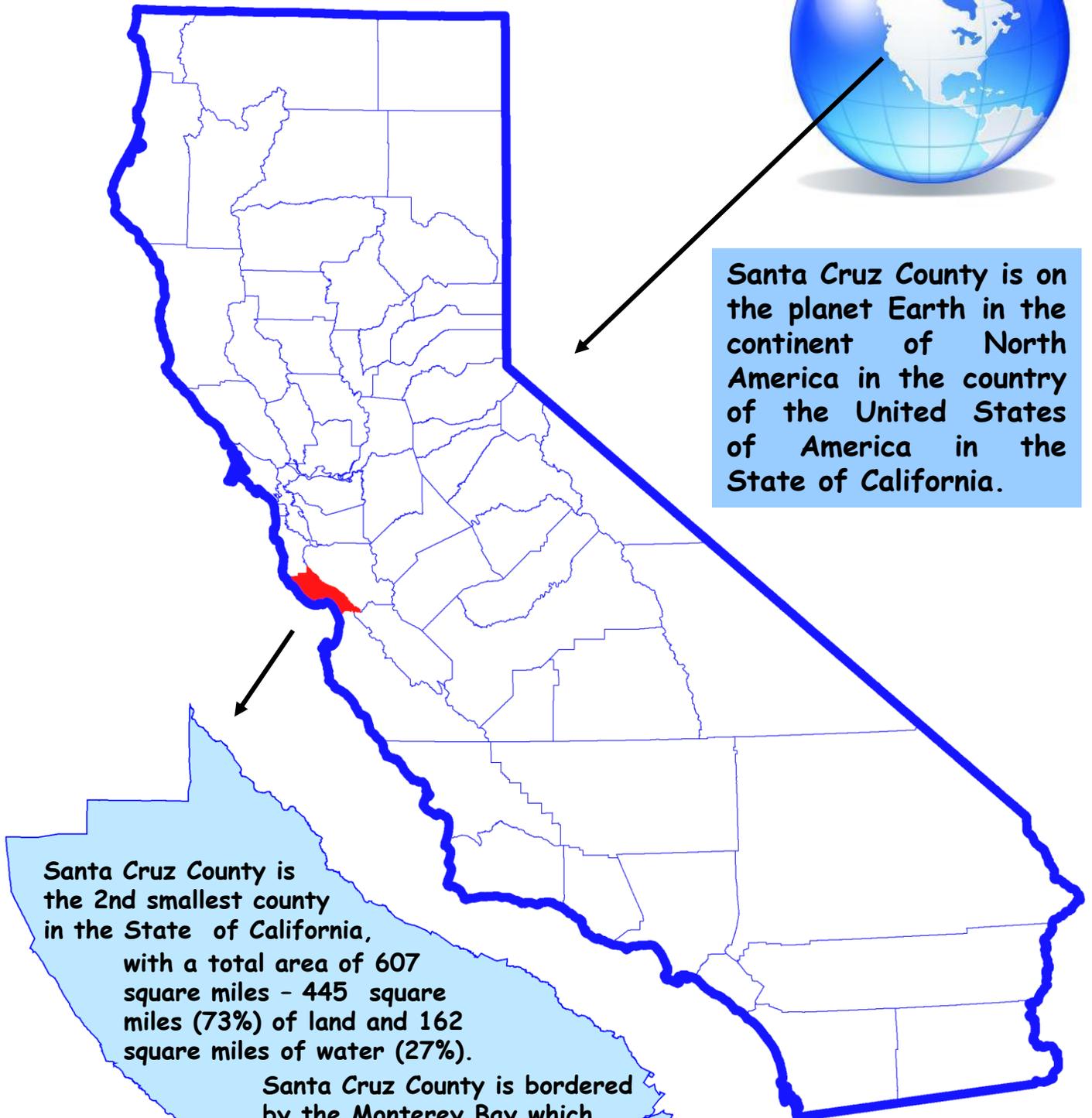


Learn about your County government

Where in the World is Santa Cruz County?

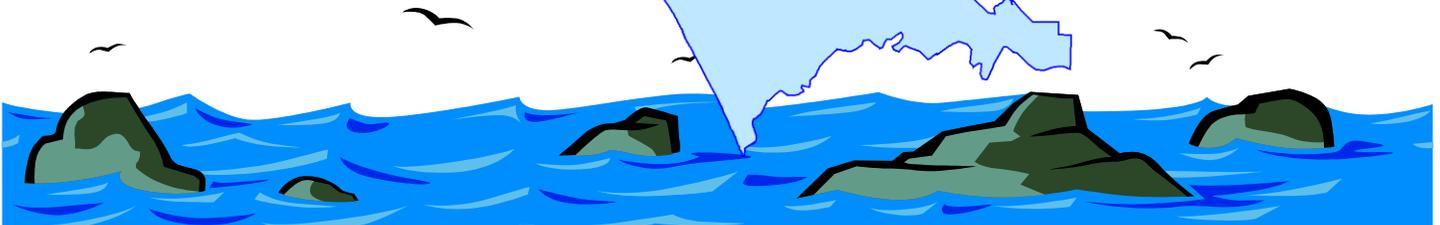


Santa Cruz County is on the planet Earth in the continent of North America in the country of the United States of America in the State of California.



Santa Cruz County is the 2nd smallest county in the State of California, with a total area of 607 square miles - 445 square miles (73%) of land and 162 square miles of water (27%).

Santa Cruz County is bordered by the Monterey Bay which leads to the Pacific Ocean.



What is a County?

In California, the state is broken up into 58 smaller land areas called counties. A county is also a local government within a state. The purpose of a county is to help bring services to people that live there, like fire protection, sheriffs for public safety, roads, parks, and health care. These services get paid for when people pay taxes.

Counties also have laws that govern the people who live in the county. These laws cover a lot of different subjects. For example, they may tell how land can be used - for housing or shopping or agriculture; or they may say what people need to do to help the environment, like recycling. All of the laws are put into one document called the County Code.

Counties can also have smaller local government divisions known as cities. There are four cities in Santa Cruz County: Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville. If you do not live within a city boundary you live in an area called the "unincorporated" part of the county.

Of the over 36 million people who live in California, about 262,382 people live in Santa Cruz County.

What are the names of the 4 cities in Santa Cruz County?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Where do you live?

Unincorporated County

City (which one?)

What do you think a good law would be for Santa Cruz County citizens?

Who Makes the Laws in Santa Cruz County?

County laws or ordinances are made by the Board of Supervisors. There are 5 members of the Board of Supervisors, each representing a different district of the County. The Supervisors are elected by the people in their districts. Each Supervisor serves for 4 years before they have to compete again in a new election.

In order to make laws the Supervisors study information they get from County employees, the public and experts in the topic under review. They also talk to your parents and neighbors to find out what they think should be done. You can also write a letter or send an email to your Supervisor to express your opinion on a subject. You can find more information on how to contact the Supervisors on Page 6.

When Supervisors want to make a decision they must do it in a meeting that is open to the public. The Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday of the month (with some exceptions) at 9:00 a.m. at the County Building which is located at 701 Ocean Street. **EVERYONE IS ALWAYS INVITED!!**

You can also watch the meetings on TV (Channel 26 or 72) or listen to them through the Internet by going to: **www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us**

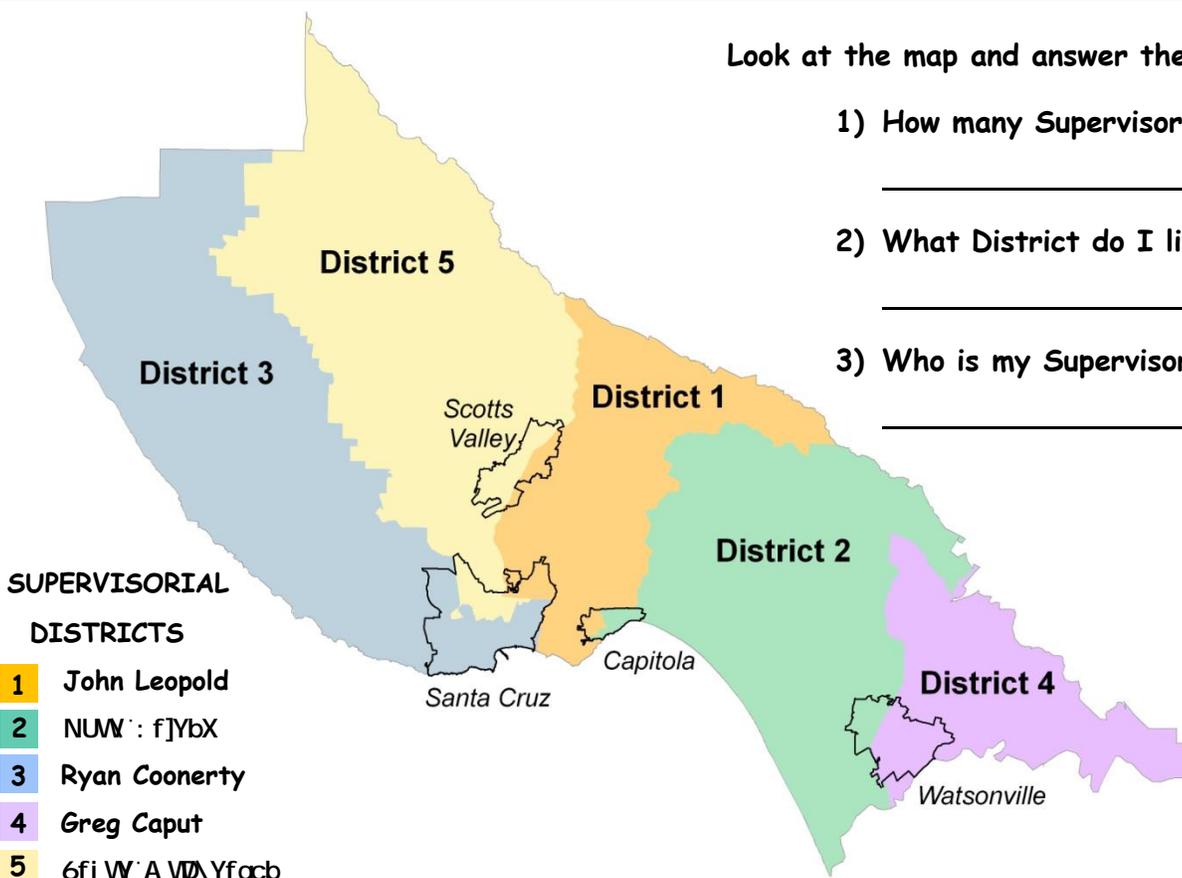
Besides making laws the Supervisors also have other jobs. They decide how the County's money will be spent and they decide what goals and projects are important.

Look at the map and answer these questions...

1) How many Supervisors are there?

2) What District do I live in?

3) Who is my Supervisor?



How is the County Organized to Do Work?

County government is organized into a series of smaller sections called departments. Departments provide information and skills to the public and the Supervisors in order to carry out their decisions. Listed below are some of the departments that make up the County of Santa Cruz. On the list below try to match the department with the job they do.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Agricultural Commissioner |  | A. Maintains parks and provides recreation opportunities |
| 2. County Clerk |  | B. Collects the taxes County residents and visitors pay |
| 3. County Administrative Office |  | C. Helps people find jobs, receive benefits from the State or Federal government, provides foster care and helps Veterans |
| 4. District Attorney |  | D. Provides leadership to the department directors, makes the budget, develops action plans to carry out the Supervisors' decisions |
| 5. General Services |  | E. Takes legal actions against people accused of crimes |
| 6. Health Services Agency |  | F. Enforces land use policies through building or other permits and helps protect the environment |
| 7. Human Services Department |  | G. Provides medical and mental health services to County residents |
| 8. Information Services |  | H. Protects the production, sale and distribution of food |
| 9. Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services |  | I. Takes care of all the computers and networks for the County departments |
| 10. Planning |  | J. Provides patrol services, investigates crimes, runs the jails and investigates certain kinds of deaths |
| 11. Public Defender |  | K. Takes care of the buildings and vehicles owned by the County and manages what the County purchases |
| 12. Public Works |  | L. Takes care of roads, sewers and water lines, collects garbage and recycling |
| 13. Sheriff-Coroner |  | M. Responsible for elections, birth and marriage certificates and issuing passports |
| 14. Treasurer-Tax Collector |  | N. Provides a lawyer to defend people accused of crimes when they cannot afford to pay for one themselves |

Answers: 1-H, 2-M, 3-D, 4-E, 5-K, 6-G, 7-C, 8-I, 9-A, 10-F, 11-N, 12-L, 13-J, 14-B

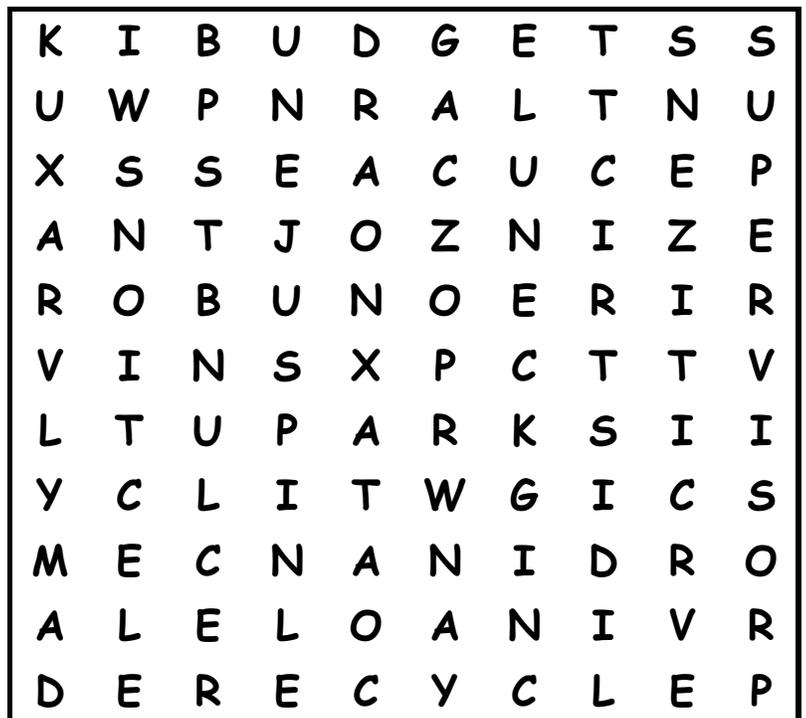
How Does the County Pay for Things?

The County Government receives money through a variety of sources. When visitors stay at a hotel, they pay a tax. People pay taxes on the property they own. They also pay sales taxes on things they buy. The County also receives money from fees they charge -- like a building permit fee -- and from the State and Federal government.

All of the collected taxes, fees, and money from other government agencies help to pay for things the County does, like repaving the roads, taking care of the parks, providing health care and supplying police and fire protection.

Every year the Board of Supervisors adopts a budget that tells how much money can be spent that year and what it will be spent on. The process of creating the budget involves all of the departments and the citizens. You can tell the Supervisors how you think the money should be spent by speaking at a public hearing when the Supervisors are discussing the budget.

Can you find the words on the chalkboard in the puzzle?





What Role do Citizens Play in the County?

District 1

Supervisor John Leopold
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2200
john.leopold@co.santa-cruz.ca.us



District 2

Supervisor NUNX : fJYbX
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2200
zach.friend@co.santa-cruz.ca.us



District 3

Supervisor Ryan Coonerty
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2200
ryan.coonerty@co.santa-cruz.ca.us



District 4

Supervisor Greg Caput
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2200
greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us



District 5

Supervisor Bruce McPherson
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2200
bruce.mcpherson@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Citizens are the people who live in the County. They are the most important part in how the County government works because they elect the Supervisors to represent them and they are responsible for telling the Supervisors what is important, including what laws to pass, where the money should be spent and what actions the Supervisors should take to make the County better.

You don't have to be an adult to be a citizen. Kids are citizens, too. Even though you can't vote until you are 18, if you think something is important, be sure to tell your Supervisor.

Write an email message to your Supervisor telling them something you think is important for them to do to make the County a better place to live and work.

Important Business Activities

The process of growing crops and raising livestock is called agriculture. Agriculture is the County's principal business activity. Here are the top 5 crops grown in our County.



Strawberries



Raspberries

Vegetables



Cut Flowers



Landscape Plants



Tourism is when people who live someplace else come to visit Santa Cruz County. Tourism is the second most important industry in Santa Cruz County. Many different kinds of businesses make up the tourism industry including:

• Hotels and Motels



• Theaters

• Restaurants



• Art Galleries

• Retail Stores



• Museums



• Outdoor Festivals

• Farmers Markets



• Music Venues

• Amusement Parks

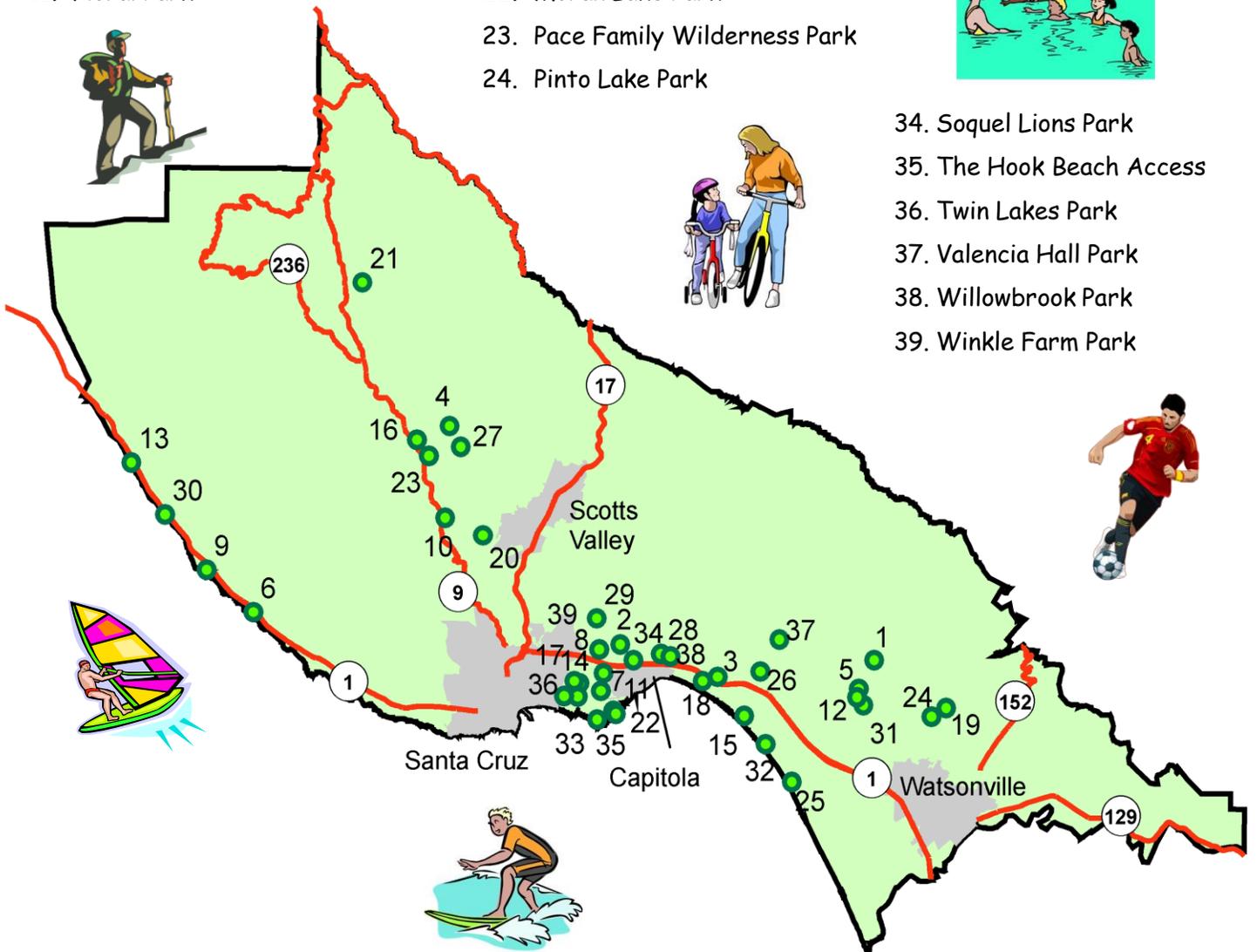


The County also supports tourism by providing parks and taking care of the beaches. Make a list of special things in Santa Cruz County you would show to a visitor.

Where are the County Parks?

There are 39 County Parks where you can have fun. Put a check by all the County Parks you have visited. Circle the park which is closest to your home.

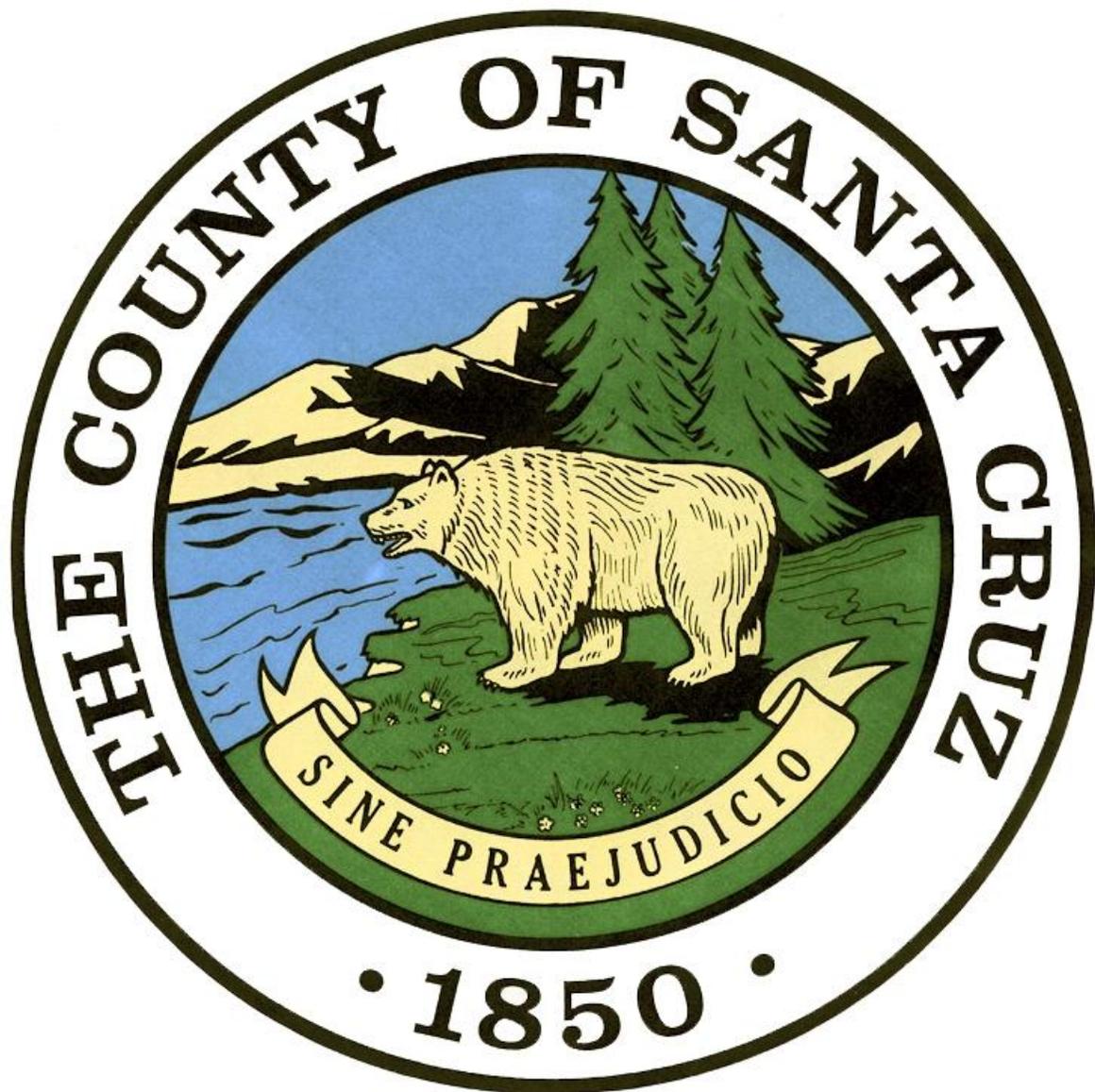
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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Aldridge Lane Park | 12. Freedom Lake Park | 25. Place de Mer Park |
| 2. Anna Jean Cummings Park | 13. Greyhound Rock Park | 26. Polo Grounds Park |
| 3. Aptos Village Park | 14. Hestwood Park | 27. Quail Hollow Park |
| 4. Ben Lomond Park | 15. Hidden Beach Park | 28. Richard Vessey Park |
| 5. Bert Scott Estate Park | 16. Highlands Park | 29. Santa Cruz Gardens Park |
| 6. Bonny Doon Beach Access | 17. Jose Avenue Park | 30. Scott Creek Beach & Bluffs |
| 7. Brommer Park | 18. McGregor Park | 31. Scott Park |
| 8. Coffee Lane Park | 19. Mesa Village Park | 32. Seascape Park |
| 9. Davenport Landing Beach Access | 20. Michael Gray Field Park | 33. Simpkins Swim Center |
| 10. Felton Covered Bridge Park | 21. Miller Property Park | |
| 11. Floral Park | 22. Moran Lake Park | |
| | 23. Pace Family Wilderness Park | |
| | 24. Pinto Lake Park | |



- | |
|---------------------------|
| 34. Soquel Lions Park |
| 35. The Hook Beach Access |
| 36. Twin Lakes Park |
| 37. Valencia Hall Park |
| 38. Willowbrook Park |
| 39. Winkle Farm Park |

Santa Cruz County Seal

The seal of the County depicts the redwoods and a grizzly bear, the official state tree and state animal respectively, as well as the mountains and the ocean. The grizzly bear has since disappeared from the area but thrived in the great valleys and low mountains of California until the late 1800's. The motto at the base of the crest is "Sine Praejudicio" which translated from Latin means "without prejudice."



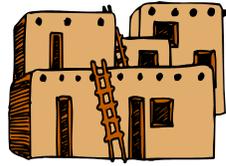
10 Things you might not know about Santa Cruz County!

3



Santa Cruz was also home to the Ohlone Native Americans.

2



The county was originally called Branciforte after the Spanish pueblo founded here in 1797.

Santa Cruz County was one of the original counties of California, created in 1850 at the time of statehood.

1



Legend has it that California surfing began here way back in 1885.



Boulder Creek was the location of a movie set in the 1930s, where there was a thriving movie industry at the time.

4

Many artists call Santa Cruz County home, creating a vibrant community of music, dance, visual arts and theater.



5



6

The County flag was designed by a Soquel resident, Ed Penniman, and began being used in 1986.

8



Big Basin, located in Santa Cruz County, is California's oldest state park, formed in 1902.

7



The Giant Dipper Roller Coaster was built in 1924 and is the 5th oldest rollercoaster in the U.S.

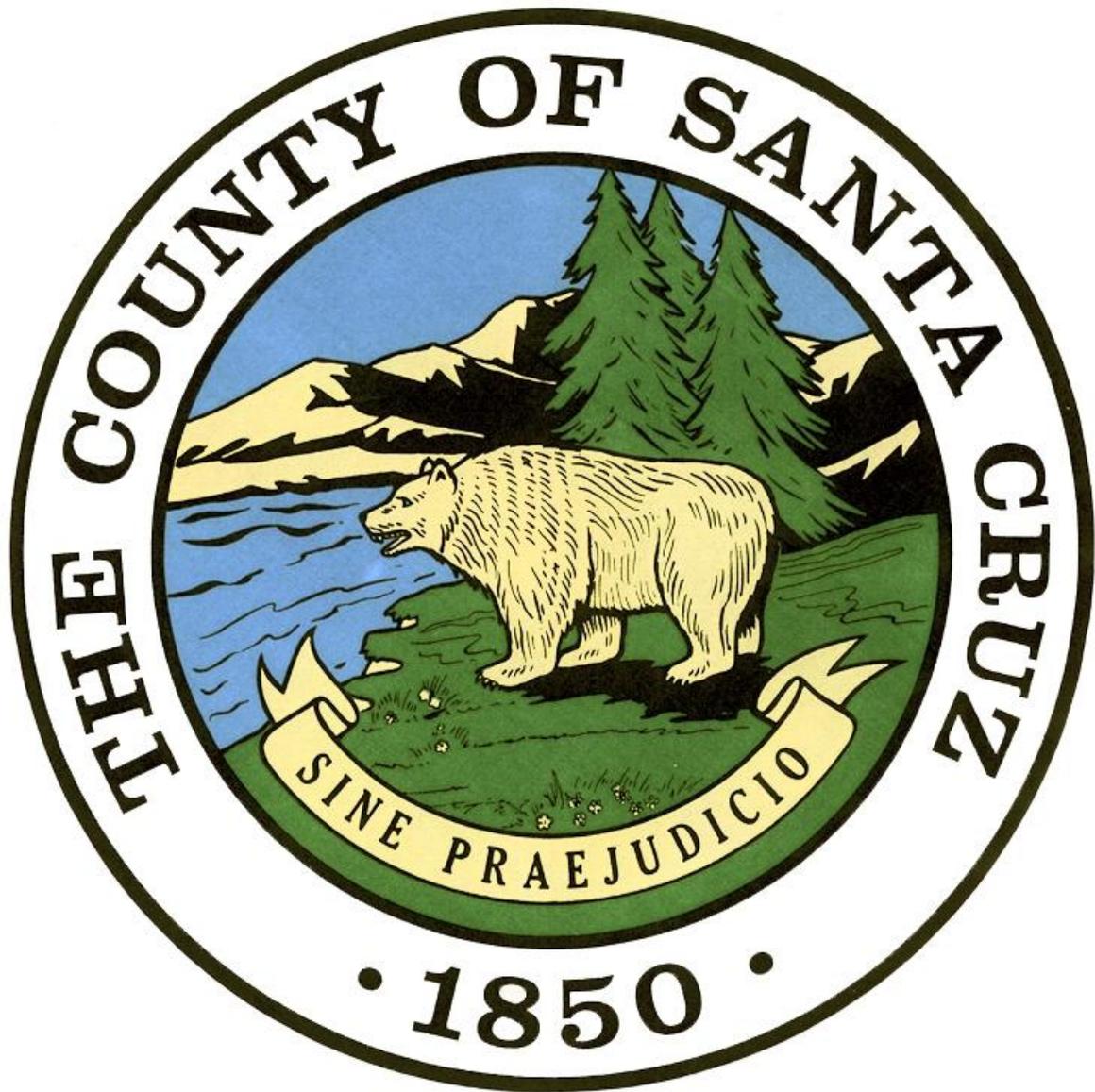


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10

The University of California at Santa Cruz held its first classes in 1965.



**Created by the County of Santa Cruz
for the Children of the Community.**