

EL RANCHITO

RESOURCE GUIDE

EL RANCHITO | 4040 N. Belflower Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90808

WELCOME TO EL RANCHITO!

Thank you for visiting El Ranchito! We hope you enjoy your stay and take in the beauty of this tree-filled property and all that it has to offer. In this resource guide are some tips, tricks, and general knowledge.

This resource guide contains information on the facility, surrounding amenities, and things to do around town, as well as some of our favorite crafts, activities, and recipes from our nine week Day Camp at El Ranchito. You can also refer to this guide to learn how to facilitate our low ropes elements and teambuilding activities.

PLEASE NOTE: Archery and the climbing wall are ONLY available for use if you have pre-booked it and the activity is being led by one of our certified instructors. You may not bring your own personal archery equipment to camp for safety reasons.

Please make sure everyone is wearing closed-toed shoes and clothes that can withstand the dirt. Don't forget to drink lots of water and wear sunscreen, we want everyone to feel their best throughout their stay.

We hope you have a wonderful adventure, thank you for being a part of our El Ranchito family.

Yours in Scouting, GSGLA Council



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AMENITIES

Sunny & Lupe Shelter, Fire Ring #1

Site #1 features outdoor space for meetings and campouts. The Sunny Shelter includes (4) picnic tables in the covered unit. The Lupe Shelter includes (2) large picnic tables in the covered unit and electricity. Included is fire ring #1, perfect for making s'mores and singing your favorite campfire songs!

Capacity: 32

Scott House, Tula Shelter, Mari Shelter and Fire Ring #2

Site #2 features indoor and outdoor space for meetings and campouts. The Scott House is an indoor space for sleeping and meetings, equipped with (1) refrigerator, (1) freezer, carpeted center area, electricity, (1) microwave, (11) fold up tables, and (20) chairs. The Tula Shelter includes (4) picnic tables in the covered unit. The Mari Shelter includes (2) picnic tables in the covered unit and electricity. Fire ring #2 is our largest fire ring and is located in the center of camp. **Capacity:** 57

Zinni Shelter, Vi Shelter, Rosie Shelter, Fire Ring #3, and Fire Ring #4

Site #3 features outdoor space for meetings and campouts. The Zinni Shelter has (3) picnic tables in the covered unit. The Vi Shelter has (2) large picnic tables in the covered unit, and the Rosie Shelter has (2) large picnic tables.

Capacity: 48

Outdoor Kitchen

Equipped with (2) outdoor sinks with hot and cold water, electricity, and (2) barbecues equipped with propane.

Capacity: Communal

Restrooms

(2) Centrally located restrooms with (7) stalls, sinks, and (2) showers. **Capacity:** Communal

Drinking Fountains

(2) Communal drinking fountains located by the Gaga Court and the restrooms. **Capacity:** Communal

El Ranchito has (5) low ropes elements, perfect for team building! Please see the "Low Ropes" section on page 5 of this guide for activities you can facilitate at each of the low rope elements:

- Spider Web
- Balance Beam
- Zig Zag
- Giant's Finger
- Whale Watch

One unique benefit of a low ropes course is its ability to engage girls by removing them from the challenges they ordinarily face. When confined to the same environment each day, whether it is a classroom or at play, girls may will fall into a routine mindset that allows little opportunity for growth or change. Low ropes courses present challenges that appear to be wildly different from the tasks they face on a day-to-day basis. The challenges encourage them to attempt new problem solving methods to achieve success.

Throughout the completion of each low ropes element, girls rely on group members when they have never relied on before while being forced to think about how they communicate with those around them. As the group begins to move toward success, they discover the parallels between these activities and the challenges in their day-to-day life.

Each low ropes element has a different focus. Leaders/facilitators can use each element in several different ways to present a group with exactly the challenge that they need to overcome their weaknesses and become a stronger team. There are limitless variations on the rules and goals for each low ropes element, providing the opportunity to use the elements multiple times by the same group with different experiences and different lessons each time.

RECOMMENDED GEAR

- Dress appropriately for the activity. Sharp objects, jewelry, and watches are removed and pockets emptied. Long hair is pulled back from the face.
- · Long pants or bike pants for activities when skin abrasions on legs are possible
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 at least) and lip balm
- Sunglasses and close-fitting clothing (avoid wearing loose clothing especially around the head and neck)

DAY OF THE LOW ROPES COURSE

- Girls learn about and prepare for the low ropes course. Leaders describe the objectives, safety procedures, and hazards to the participants before beginning an activity.
- Girls practice safe challenge-course techniques. Spotting techniques are taught, demonstrated, and practiced by participants prior to any challenge-course activity. All activities are appropriately spotted. For activities where partners are needed, instructors match participants according to size and skill level, if appropriate. Instructors supervise spotting on the low element course. Participants are not stacked more than three levels high vertically (in a pyramid, for example) on each other at any time. No one should stand on the middle of someone else's back.

SPOTTING

Spotting is the most important safety method for the low ropes course elements. The main role of the spotter lies in protecting the climber's head, neck, and upper body should a fall occur. Spotters should understand that although they should always be in a position to support a falling climber, it is usually very difficult to "catch" a falling body, even from a small height.

TEACHING SPOTTING TECHNIQUE

Teaching spotting to participants is one of the most challenging aspects of the ropes course. The technique itself is not complicated; the difficulty lies in the fact that would-be spotters do not understand their importance until they actually have to spot a falling person. Remember to include these important instructions when teaching spotting:

- Spotters should mimic the movements of the climber, positioning himself or herself to anticipate any falling action.
- Spotters should always be focused on the climber.
- Spotters should anticipate a fall at any time.
- Spotters should be aware of the special dynamics of each element (i.e. swinging from a rope).
- Spotters must understand how important their role is to both the physical and emotional safety of the climbers. Joking around and horseplay are not acceptable.



FOUR PART VERBAL CONTRACT				
FALLER	"Spotter(s) Ready?"	With this question, the Faller is saying he/she is ready to fall and in the correct position.		
SPOTTER(S)	"Ready"	When the Spotter is in the correct position and 100% focused on the Faller. This is said in a clear, firm voice to ensure that the Faller knows they are ready.		
FALLER	"Falling!"	The Faller is committed and waiting for the final go ahead from the Spotter(s).		
SPOTTER(S)	"Fall On"	Means - go ahead and I/we will support you and keep you safe.		

*Please Note: This is for the trust fall exercise.

SPOTTING INSTRUCTION SEQUENCE

Prior to beginning any low ropes course elements, each group must complete a spotting instruction sequence. Below is a suggested sequence, although there are several different activities and techniques that can be used to teach spotting.

- 1. Explain the meaning of spotting. Start with Human Spring activity (demonstrate first).
 - In pairs, participants face each other standing close together.
 - With feet together and hands up palm out, lean in towards each other.
 - Hands meet and then they push each other back to the standing position.
 - If they feel comfortable with this, take a small step back and repeat process.
 - Continue with this until pair reaches their personal comfort level.
- 2. Demonstrate the proper spotting technique to the group.
 - One leg in front of the other.
 - Knees flexed to absorb impact.
 - Hands up and ready to support. Thumbs tucked along fingers.
- 3. Allow the group to practice moving in the spotting position.
- 4. Demonstrate the two-person trust fall sequence.
 - Faller's position: crossed arms to chest, body stiff and straight, feet together.
 - Four-part verbal contract.
 - Spotter's hand position: aimed directly at Faller's shoulder blades
 - Spotter's body position: first close to Faller, then increasing angle of the fall as Faller becomes more comfortable.

- 5. Allow participants to pair off and practice the two-person trust fall sequence.
- 6. Explain and complete the activity "Willow in the Wind."
 - 8-14 participants stand in the spotting position, shoulder to shoulder in a circle with one person standing in the falling position in the center of the circle.
 - Following completion of the four-part verbal contract, the center person, remaining rigid, may fall in any direction. The spotters in the circle stop the faller and redirect him or her to another arc of the circle. This fall-catch sequence continues in a gentle fashion until it becomes obvious that both the Faller and the Spotters are comfortable (stress the gentle aspect-it is not a pinball game!).
 - Allow each member of the group to have an opportunity to try this activity.

SPIDER'S WEB

The objective is to cross from one side of the spider's web to the other without touching the web. The group must create a plan that takes participant physical size and ability to lift and spot participants' in order to get them through.

Sample Story Line

- 1. Explain to the group that they are exploring caves, looking for treasure, in a "remote" part of the world.
- 2. Fortunately, they found the treasure in the last cave they were looking in. Unfortunately, a giant poisonous spider has spun a web across the entrance to the cave while they were inside. There are no other ways out of the cave.
- 3. The group must help each other through the web without touching it, or else that person would become stuck in the extremely sticky web. Really! Just brushing against a strand ever so slightly would cause someone to become stuck.
- 4. Although very strong and sticky, the web is very sensitive. The vibrations from someone passing through a hole causes it to close, making it impossible to pass another full body through the hole. For some unknown reason, it is still large enough to put hands through.



- 5. The entire group must get through, because each member of the team has a special piece of the map needed to get back to safety. You can't just give the map pieces to save the others, either, as it is tattooed onto your body.
- 6. Good Luck!

Some Facilitation Tips:

- Be sure the group has practiced spotting and lifting, and that they are mature enough to safely do both. This activity requires lifting and must be taken seriously.
- Use clothes pins to mark holes that have been passed through. After the first few people go through, it's almost impossible to remember which holes are available to use.
- You can add a time restriction if you like. The spider will be back in 15 minutes, after all.
- Rope Variation: You can use this element by threading a rope through all of the holes without it ever touching the web. This variation is difficult in its own right, but is perfect for groups that you do not want to do lifting for any reason.

STAYING SAFE:

PRE-CHECK: Facilitator's Responsibility

- 1. Check the area for pinecones, branches, or any other dangerous objects on the ground and in the trees above.
- 2. Collect all hazardous clothing and paraphernalia from participants prior to the activity. For example, large earrings, rings, sweatshirts with draw strings, water bottles, or anything else that could get caught on someone else or the equipment.
- 3. Closed toed shoes must be worn at all times.

RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES:

- 1. Only one person will go at a time.
- 2. Two people must be on each side before you can pass someone through.
- 3. A person must go through the web feet-first and their head should never go below their waist. On the other side, their feet must be lowered to the ground so that they are able to stand. Protect them from landing on their head/neck!
- 4. As soon as room permits, place one person in between the two in a semi-crouched position. This way, if the two fall they will have a spotter in the middle to help them. Add additional spotters as the participants move further along.
- 5. Everyone must reset before the next participant is allowed to start.

Discussion Questions:

What worked? What didn't work? What can we do better next time? What other "webs" will this group face? How will you support each other in the future?

BALANCE BEAMS

The objective is to get your entire group across the balance beam without falling off. Have girls begin by going one at a time across the beam, and then build up to the larger group holding hands to make it all the way across. Make sure participants always have a spotter next to them in case they lose their balance. In addition, to the beam can become an individual problem solving exercise commonly known as the TP Shuffle. A team stands on the beam and they are asked to rearrange themselves in a different order (e.g. youngest at one end and oldest at the other). They must then change places without touching the ground.

STAYING SAFE:

PRE-CHECK: Facilitator's Responsibility

- 1. Check that the beams are secure.
- 2. Check log for splinters and cracks.
- 3. Check the area for sharp or dangerous objects on the ground and in the trees above.
- 4. Collect all hazardous clothing and paraphernalia from participants prior to the activity. For example: large earrings, rings, sweatshirts with draw strings, water bottles, or anything else that could get caught on someone else or the equipment.
- 5. Closed toed shoes must be worn at all times.

RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES:

- 1. Review the group task.
- 2. If a participant feels a fall is imminent, he or she should simply step off of the log.

Discussion Questions:

What worked? What didn't work? What can we do better next time?



ZIG ZAG

Description: Five removable planks with six platforms.

The objective is to create a bridge between the (6) platforms so that the entire team can move across without touching the ground. This is done with teamwork and strategically placing planks for the team to walk across.

Rules:

- 1. Remove the planks from the platforms.
- 2. Mix it up by telling a story about the "lava" flowing underneath the planks or the angry crocodile who lives below. Have the team start off by giving them a few minutes to develop a plan.



- 3. Using only the planks provided, the entire team must get all the way across the obstacle course.
- 4. The entire team must start behind the first platform on the ground.
- 5. Two people must be touching a plank when placing it or removing it from the platforms (planks can be removed and added as needed).
- 6. Only one person may be on a platform at a time.
- 7. If anyone touches the ground, the whole group starts over.

STAYING SAFE:

PRE-CHECK: Facilitator's Responsibility

- 1. Check the platforms and make sure that are on a firm solid base.
- 2. Check the platforms for structural sturdiness and slickness.
- 3. Check boards for splinters and cracks.
- 4. Check the area for sharp or dangerous objects on the ground and in the trees above.
- 5. Collect all hazardous clothing and paraphernalia from participants prior to the activity. For example: large earrings, rings, sweatshirts with draw strings, water bottles, or anything else that could get caught on someone else or the equipment.
- 6. Closed toed shoes must be worn at all times.

RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES:

- 1. Review the group task.
- 2. Boards may never be thrown!
- 3. When carrying or passing boards, caution the group to be aware of where the ends are at all times.
- 4. Caution participants to keep fingers and toes away from areas where two boards meet.
- 5. Participants are not permitted to jump from one location to another, and must at all times have one foot touching a platform or board.

Discussion Questions:

What worked? What didn't work? What can we do better next time?

WHALE WATCH

The whale watching platform is a great team-building initiative. The objective is to balance the platform with all participants standing on it with both feet.



Rules:

- 1. Everyone must be on the platform when it is balanced.
- 2. You must balance the platform for 10 seconds to count. Or, try singing your favorite camp song as a group!
- 3. No hands can touch the platform at any time.
- 4. No feet may ever go under the platform!
- 5. If the platform touches the ground, everyone starts over.

STAYING SAFE:

PRE-CHECK: Facilitator's Responsibility

- 1. Check the platform and make sure that it is on a firm solid base with no nails or screws sticking out.
- 2. Check the platform for structural sturdiness and slipperiness.
- 3. Check the area for sharp or dangerous objects on the ground and in the trees above.
- 4. Collect all hazardous clothing and paraphernalia from participants prior to the activity. For example, large earrings, rings, sweatshirts with draw strings, water bottles, or anything else that could get caught on someone else or the equipment.
- 5. Closed toed shoes must be worn at all times.

RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES:

- 1. Review the group task.
- 2. Girls may only enter on the red painted area, not on the ends.
- 3. Caution participants to keep fingers and toes away from the edges of the structure.
- 4. Participants are not permitted to jump on or off of the whale watch, and must at all times and have one foot touching a platform or board.

Discussion Questions:

What worked? What didn't work? What can we do better next time?

THE GIANT'S FINGER

The objective of this element is to remove the tire without touching the pole and lower it to the ground safely. If the group is younger or struggling, you may allow them to use a hula hoop. The tire may not be thrown.

Rules:

- 1. The tire must be lifted off the pole, flipped over and then lowered back down.
- 2. The tire cannot touch the pole.
- 3. The tire may not be thrown.

STAYING SAFE:

PRE-CHECK: Facilitator's Responsibility

- 1. Check the area for sharp or dangerous objects on the ground and in the trees above.
- 2. Collect all hazardous clothing and paraphernalia from participants prior to the activity. For example: large earrings, rings, sweatshirts with draw strings, water bottles, or anything else that could get caught on someone else or the equipment.
- 3. Closed toed shoes must be worn at all times.

RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES:

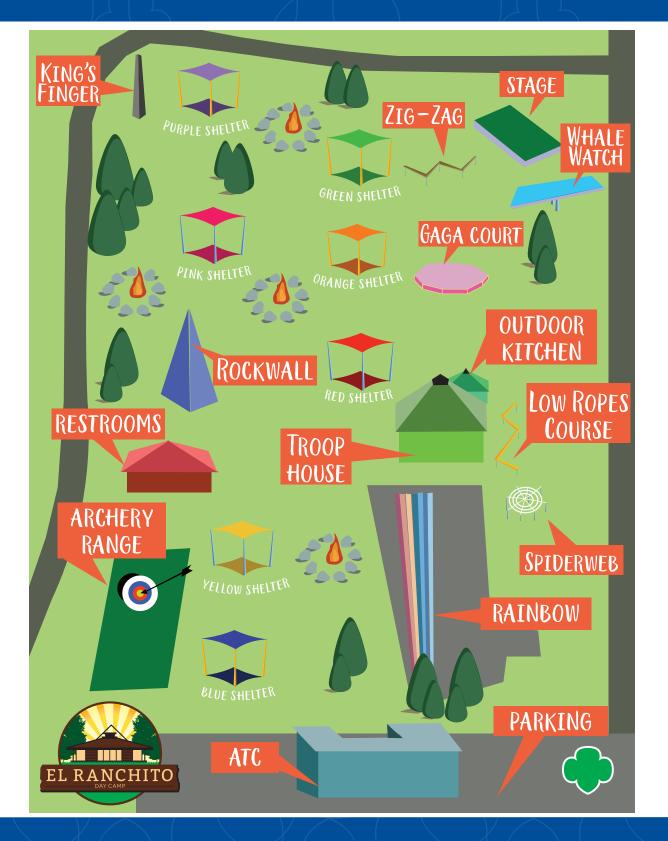
- 1. Review the group task.
- 2. The tire or hula hoop may never be thrown.

Discussion Questions:

What worked? What didn't work? What can we do better next time?



MAP



FLAG CEREMONY

FLAG CEREMONY

OPENING CEREMONY:

"Girl Scouts, attention"

Everyone present should stand silently at attention, and remove any hats or head coverings (including bandanas).

"Color guard, attention"

The Color Guard stands at attention and prepares to advance.

"Color guard, advance"

Guards come forward, stand in front of flag pole.

"Color guard, post the colors"

The Flag Bearer attaches the top clip, unfolds the flag and then attaches the second clip. The flag is raised briskly to the top of the pole. The rope is secured and the guard steps back into place.

"Girl Scouts, please join me in saying the Pledge of Allegiance"

The caller and audience salute the flag and recite the pledge of allegiance. Color Guard is silent.

"Please join me in saying the Girl Scout promise"

"Color guard, dismissed"

"Girl Scouts, dismissed"

CLOSING CEREMONY:

"Girl Scouts, attention"

"Color guard, attention"

"Color guard, advance"

"Color guard, retire the colors" The flag is brought down slowly and folded properly (see image)

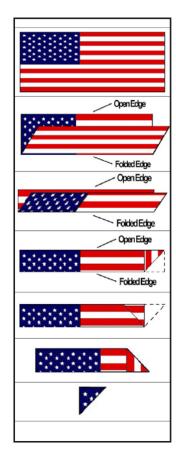
"Girl Scouts, please join me in the singing of Taps"

"Color guard, dismissed"

"Girl Scouts, dismissed"

TAPS

Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake, from the hill, from the sky...All is well, safely rest, God is nigh



CRAFTS

Fidget Spinners:

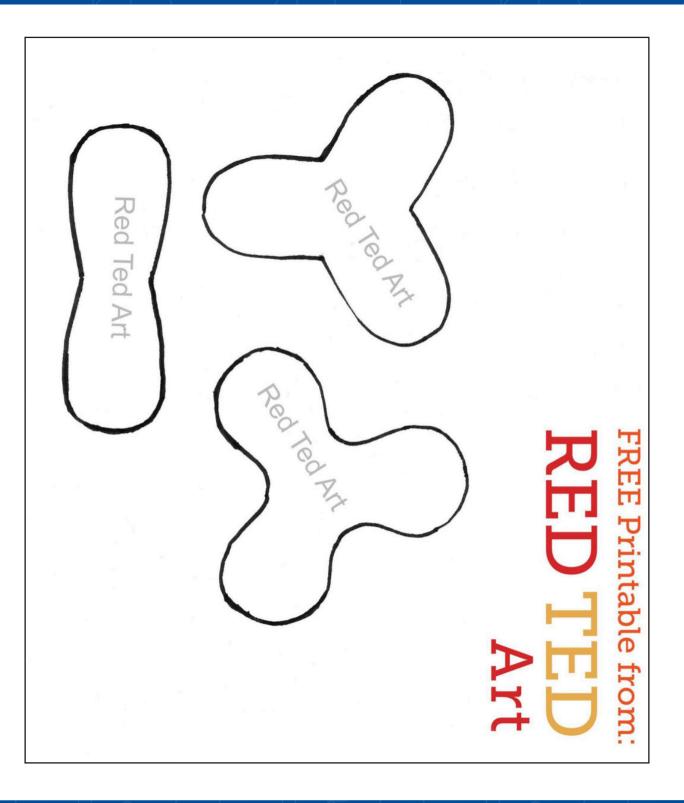
Supplies | cardboard (though several sheets of paper can be used too), a toothpick, coins, strong PVA glue, scissors and "pokey things" like a needle, template.

Instructions:

- 1. Cut out template using the cardboard. Trace template on cardboard. Cut out. Kids can decorate the cardboard.
- 2. Take three coins and use hot glue or PVA glue to glue them onto the corners.
- 3. Cut out two small circles for the center.
- 4. Use a toothpick or needle to make a hole in the center of the fidget spinner.
- 5. Now use toothpick to make a hole in the two circles. This shouldn't be too loose.
- 6. Glue around the toothpick and then break off the excess toothpick.







CRAFTS

Bubble Paintings

Supplies | mixed media or watercolor paper, bubble solution (use store bought or make your own with 1 part dish soap and 2 parts water), liquid watercolors or food coloring, small plastic containers, straws

Instructions:

- Begin by pouring bubble solution into your small containers, filling them about 1/4 full. Squirt some liquid watercolors into the containers (or food coloring) and mix the coloring into the bubble solution.
- 2. Place a straw down into the bubble solution and blow. You'll notice right away that bubbles begin to form at the top of the bubble solution. Continue blowing the bubbles up and up until they overflow the container and form a big mountain. Remove your straw, grab your mixed media paper and place it gently on top of the bubbles. When you remove your paper you can see that you've transferred the beautiful bubbles onto your paper.



Slime

Supplies | glue, liquid starch, food coloring, foam shaving cream

Instructions:

- 1. Pour approx. 2 cups of glue into a bowl.
- 2. Spray about one cup of the shaving cream into the glue and mix together.
- 3. Add a few drops of food coloring and stir. You can make this any color you want, so feel free to get creative. To make the slime as shown in the picture, you will need 3-4 separate batches of colored slime to mix together.
- 4. Once your slime is colored, its time to add the liquid starch. Spray starch is not the same thing, please use liquid. Pour in approximatey 2-3 tablespoons of starch and stir. The slime will start to form immediately. Stir for a few minutes to get it all mixed up and then take out the goop and begin kneading between your hands, passing back and forth.



Nature Names

Supplies | construction paper, nature Items (sticks, leaves, flowers, grass, etc.), glue

Instructions:

- 1. Collect grass, sticks, flowers, etc.
- 2. Make your name in the pieces you collected.
- 3. Glue the nature pieces onto construction paper.

Build a Pioneer Shelter (STEM)

Supplies | nature Items (sticks, rocks, leaves, etc.), recyclables, glue, tape, water for rain simulation

Instructions:

- 1. Use recyclables/nature items to build shelters that can withstand:
 - Earthquakes
 - Santa Ana winds
 - Heavy rain
- 2. Do a camp sweep and collect items for shelter.
- 3. Have girls create shelters with collected items and glue or tape (or for an added challenge, don't include extra items).
- 4. Gather girls around and simulate an earthquake, winds, and heavy rain testing each shelter. Who can successfully complete the challenge.

"I Am" Magazine

Supplies | construction paper, scissors, glue, markers, crayons

Instructions:

- 1. Have girls create a magazine cover with a drawing of themselves on it.
- 2. Decorate the cover however they like with positive things about who they are.







Photo Courtesy of Brave Girls Club: bravegirlsclub.com/archives/4566

SWAPS

SWAPS, is the tradition of Girl Scouts exchanging keepsakes, started long ago when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides first gathered for fun, song, and making new friends. SWAPS stands for "Special Whatchamacallit's Affectionately Pinned Somewhere." Making SWAPS is a great group project during downtime at a campout or at the end of meetings. Below are a few examples of easy SWAPS that are representative of El Ranchito. You can also let the girls be creative and make something representative of their troop. Many troops choose to include small tags with their troop information and council name.

SWAPS Safety and Etiquette

Girls should:

- Never refuse to swap with another person.
- Swap face-to-face, especially if exchanging addresses or email information.
- Avoid using glass or sharp objects in SWAPS.
- Follow all *Safety Activity Checkpoints* guidelines.
- Avoid using food products, unless they are individually wrapped.

Campfire Swap

Supplies | card stock, safety pins, small rocks, toothpicks, red felt, hot glue gun, hole punch

Instructions:

- Give each girl a small square of cardstock, a few small rocks, some toothpicks, and red felt. Girls can write a message on the back of their cardstock (i.e., troop number, favorite part about El Ranchito, etc.).
- 2. Have girl create the fire pit with their small rocks, gluing them in a circle on the cardstock.
- 3. Girls will break/cut their toothpicks and sprinkle them in the middle of the fire pit.
- 4. Add small flecks of red felt for the flame.
- 5. Hole punch the cardstock in the corner and attach safety pin.



Archery Swap

Supplies | toothpicks, safety pins, construction paper, glue **Instructions:**

- 1. Have girls create a target using construction paper.
- 2. Hole punch the target, this is where the safety pin will go.
- 3. Take toothpicks and glue them inside of an oval shaped piece of construction paper, this is your quiver and arrows.
- 4. Glue your quiver to the target.
- 5. Write a message on your target, and voila! You have an archery swap!

El Ranchito Camp Magic Swap

Supplies | safety pins, small vials, glitter, beads, markers, glue, template or create your own on paper, stickers (optional), tape, ribbon, hole punch



Instructions:

- 1. Fill vial with glitter or for a more meaningful dust, use some ash from your campfire!
- 2. Color tag and add glitter, stickers, etc.
- 3. Add "Camp Magic Unicorn Dust" to your vial using tape.
- 4. Attach "Camp Magic Unicorn Dust" using a hole punch and some ribbon.
- 5. (Template below)



OUTDOOR COOKING

We love using our fire pits to cook, from roasting hot dogs and s'mores, using a Dutch oven to bake, to simply wrapping food in some foil and putting it on the fire to cook (nachos and pizza bagels? YUM!).

Some helpful hints:

The secret to great Dutch oven cooking is temperature control. While you can use a Dutch oven to cook over an open fire, most Dutch oven cooks use charcoal. It cooks evenly and maintains a more consistent temperature. Choose a good quality briquette, that is easy to light and will last a long time.

The best way to prepare charcoal for a Dutch oven experience is to put it in a charcoal chimney. Crumple some newspaper, put the chimney on top of it, and light the newspaper on fire. This will start the briquettes and after about 20 minutes they will be hot and ready to use.

Placing the briquettes on top of and under the Dutch oven is the best way of maintaining an even temperature. The best rule of thumb is to take the size of your Dutch oven (10" or 12"), and multiply that number by two. Then place one-third of the coals underneath the oven and two-thirds on top. For example, a 12" Dutch oven, you would use 24 briquettes, with 8 on the bottom and 16 on the top. Evenly space them both beneath and on the lid.

You will also want to make sure that you protect the hot coals from wind, which will cool them off too quickly.

Campfire Hash Recipe

Supplies (Per 6 servings) | Dutch oven, 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, 1 large chopped onion, 2 minced garlic cloves, 4 large peeled and cubed potatoes, 1 lb. of fully cooked sausage **Instructions:**

1. Start coals/fire.

- 2. In a Dutch oven, heat oil.
- Sauté onion and garlic. Add potatoes. Cook, uncovered, over medium heat for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add sausage; cook and stir until potatoes are tender and well browned, about 10 minutes more.



OUTDOOR COOKING

Camping Hot Dogs

Supplies | tin foil, hot dogs, knives, cutting boards, crescent rolls, skewers, ketchup, mustard

Instructions:

- 1. Have girls cut hot dogs in half. Place a skewer in the ends of your hot dogs about 3/4 the way in.
- 2. Open your crescent rolls and wrap one pre-cut triangle around each hot dog, starting with the flat end of the crescent and ending with the tip of the triangle.
- 3. Wrap your crescent wrapped hot dogs loosely in aluminum foil.
- 4. Roast over the fire while turning your stick just like you would to cook a hot dog.
- 5. Cook for 15-20 minutes. Serve with a side of ketchup and mustard.

Sweet Potato Fries

Supplies | sweet potatoes, olive oil, salt, pepper, cutting boards, knives, Dutch oven, spatula, fire, ketchup, mustard, ranch dressing

Instructions:

- 1. Have girls wash potatoes.
- 2. Slice sweet potatoes into ¼ inch sticks.
- 3. Place sweet potatoes in Dutch oven with olive oil.
- 4. Sprinkle salt and pepper over fries.
- 5. Put over fire for 15 minutes. Flip with spatula, let bake for another 15 minutes or until fries are starting to lightly brown and crisp. Remove pan from oven and cool 5 minutes. Serve immediately.

S'mores Cones

Supplies | waffle cones, mini marshmallows, chocolate chips, tin foil

Instructions :

- 1. Fill each cone with marshmallows and chocolate chips.
- 2. Wrap in aluminum foil.
- 3. Place over fire for 7-10 minutes. Keep away from direct flames.
- 4. Unwrap and enjoy. Be careful as contents may be hot.







OUTDOOR COOKING

Dutch Oven Monkey Bread

Supplies | Dutch oven or pie iron(s), refrigerated biscuit doughs, granulated and light brown sugar, ground cinnamon, butter or margarine, paper or plastic bag(s) (for the cinnamon/sugar mix) **Instructions:**

- 1. Start fires/coals.
- 2. Cut up biscuit dough.
- 3. Pour sugar and cinnamon in a large ziploc.
- 4. Place dough in baggie and cover in sugar-cinnamon mixture
- 5. Place over hot campfire coals. It only takes about 25–30 minutes to cook, and should be eaten right out of the Dutch oven.



SUGGESTED BADGE WORK

There are a number of badges and journeys that can be completed or partially completed while at El Ranchito, as well as trainings that can be facilitated:

Outdoor Journey (All Levels)

El Ranchito's large outdoor space makes it a perfect match for completing the outdoor journey! Girls can practice pitching tents on our grass, use our fire ring to hone fire building skills, and experience the great outdoors in Long Beach's backyard. It is helpful for first-timers since there is a refrigerator and electricity, and other amenities that will put everyone at ease. Along with traditional camping skills, El Ranchito offers a unique landscape to complete outdoor art badges, exploring trees, and finding unique insects that call El Ranchito home.

Daisy Flower Garden Journey

The Daisy Flower Garden Journey explores the Girl Scout Promise and Law while learning about gardens, flowers, and insects. The "Daisy Flower Garden" which is a perfect place for girls to plant flowers and learn how to work together just like the flowers and the bees! The space is perfect for sit down activities such as reading the story associated with the journey in one of our shaded shelters, making a snack with ingredients found in a garden in the outdoor kitchen, and acting out garden creatures in the large grassy space. Girls can end their day by planting together in the community garden and taking home small individuals plants to take care of, teaching a very important part of our Girl Scout Law, *being resonsible for what I say and do.*

Brownie Dancer Badge

Bring this badge life by giving girls the experience of performing and learning new dances on our very own El Ranchito stage! Learn a new dance together such as the Charleston or Electric Slide and give girls an opportunity to make up their own dance that tells a story. The stage has lighting so you can even make it a twilight performance! You can find some local dancers to help teach the dances or try contacting one of our favorite community partners, Musical Theater West, to see if they have any available performers to teach girls theater arts during your stay.

Junior Geocacher Badge

This is one of our favorite badges to earn while at El Ranchito because of Heartwell Park right next door. Geocaching is a fun hobby, and the ultimate treasure hunt adventures! Take a moment to learn about geocaching, download the geocaching app on your smartphone and then head out to find the hidden boxes around Heartwell Park! Make sure to leave some SWAPS for the next treasure seekers.



ICEBREAKERS

The Human Chain

Create a human chain with your group by finding common interests! Have girls line up in a single file line. Across from them, have one individual stand and say something they love, for example "I love to play soccer." Any girl who also loves soccer will run to hook arms to create a chain. That girl will then state something she loves. Once all girls are a part of the chain, discuss common interests and the ways they can work together to be a team.

Human Knot

Group stands in a circle, everyone puts hands into center and grabs someone else's hand, (note: both your hands can't be holding both of someone else's hands), then try to get out of the knot without letting go of hands.

Two Truths and a Lie

The classic get-to-know-you icebreaker. Players tell two truths and one lie. The object of the game is to determine which statement is the false one. Interesting variations of this game are provided below.

Get to Know You Toss

Children (and adults) stand in a circle. An adult starts off the game by throwing a beanbag or ball at someone in the circle and asking a question at the same time – such as "What's your name?", "Do you have a brother or sister?", "What's your favorite color?" and so on. The person who catches the beanbag/ball must answer the question and then throw it on and ask their own question. Try to move as quickly as possible and see what types of questions participants come up with!



Pick a Side

Draw a line with chalk or otherwise mark out a line down the center of your space. All participants start by standing on the line. Call out opposites and point in one direction for each. Participants make a choice and run to the correct side of the line. Older girls can facilitate this activity themselves, having a new participant give two options and then finding a new volunteer for each "round". Examples might be:

Cats or dogs? Mountains or Beach? Hot dogs or hamburgers? Cereal or toast? Math or English? Tinkerbell or Peter Pan? Try to think up some opposites that will get the entire group on one side of the line!

GROUP & TEAM BUILDING GAMES

Gaga

Official game rules of The Gaga Center:

- 1. All players start with one hand touching a wall of the pit.
- 2. The game begins with a referee throwing the ball into the center of the pit.
- 3. When the ball enters the pit, the players scream 'GA' for the first two bounces, and 'GA' on the third bounce, after which the ball is in action.
- 4. Once the ball is in play, any player can hit the ball with an open or closed hand.



- 5. If a ball touches a player below the knee (even if the player hits himself or herself) he or she is out and leaves the pit. If a player is hit above the knees the person who hit the ball is out, the play continues.
- 6. Players should not use the wall to lean on sit to avoid being hit.
- 7. Players cannot hold the ball.
- 8. If needed, a second ball can be thrown in the pit to expedite the end of the game. The last player standing is the winner of that round.
- 9. Gaga can be played every girl for herself or you can divide your group into teams, last team with group members standing wins!

Elbow Tag

Everyone gets a partner and links arms. Two people are chosen to split up. One will be "It" and the other will be chased. Whenever the person links with a pair of players, the person on the opposite end must break off. They will now become chased. If the person gets tagged, they become "It."

Museum

Have the players gather in a large room, called the "Museum." One person, who is "it" should then leave the room and count to 20. The players then pose like statues, and the person who is "it" comes back and pretends to be a museum guide. If the guide leaves the room, the players must choose a new pose. When the guide spots someone moving, that player becomes a tourist, and must follow the museum guide. Anytime the guide looks at another statue you can quickly change your pose. Continue play until only one statue is left. She becomes the new museum guide.

GROUP & TEAM BUILDING GAMES

What Time is It, Mr. Fox

Mr. Fox starts out at one end of a field, room, or designated area with his back to the group. The group at the other end then yells out "What time is it, Mr. Fox?" Mr. Fox then calls out a time that is on the even hour (1 o'clock-12 o'clock). The group then takes that many steps. When the group gets to where the fox is, but not past him, and asks the time, the fox can yell "Midnight!" They then turn and chase the group. Those that he catches are to sit out. The last one left becomes the fox. One variation is to allow each child who is tagged to become an honorary fox and help catch people.

Instructions and Actions:

- 1. "Hit the deck" all players get on the floor, stomach down.
- 2. "Salute the captain"- all players salute the captain. NOTE: they cannot put down their hand until the captain says, "at ease."
- 3. "Be the Captain"- groups of two kids get together with one kid being on all fours and the other with their foot on the first kids back while saluting the captain. ("At ease," is not needed here).
- 4. "Row your boat"- groups of three get together back to front and pretend to row a canoe.
- 5. "Eat at the Table"- groups of four get together and pretend to eat at a table.
- 6. "Man overboard"- everyone gets on the floor and pretends to be swimming.
- 7. "Mutant Jellyfish"-kids get on the floor and raise their arms and legs and pretend to be a jellyfish.

Have fun with this! You can make your own commands, have girls create their own actions and phrases. During camp we have an action for each of the counselors.

Sardines

The person that is "it" goes and hides–similar to hide-n-seek. Everyone else counts slowly to 100. When they're done counting they go find the "it." But when they find "it" they hide with him/her until the last person finds the hiding group. You can get very creative with hiding at El Ranchito.





CAMPFIRE SKITS

At El Ranchito we love getting creative. Check out some of our favorite skits below, they can be performed around your campfire ring or on our El Ranchito stage!

The Invisible Bench

One camper comes on stage and pretends to be sitting on something. Another camper comes up and asks what they are doing; the response is, "Sitting on the invisible bench." The other camper joins them. This continues with any number of campers asking what the others are doing and joining them. Finally, one person informs the group that the invisible bench was moved, "over there." And all the campers fall down!

Balloon Orchestra

The players in the orchestra each hold a balloon. They blow up their balloons in unison, and then let out the air in one squeak at a time to the rhythm of some easily recognized rhythm such as "Blue Danube" or "Jingle Bells." To end the skit, all fill their balloons with air and let go at the director's signal.

Is it Time Yet?

Five or more people are sitting on a bench with their right leg crossed. The person at the end of the bench says to the person beside them, "Is it time yet?" That person says the same thing to the next person, who says it to the next person until the message gets to the last person on the other side of the bench. That person checks his/her watch and says "no" to the person beside him and then that person says it to the next person until it gets back to the first person. Repeat two more times, and then one more time but instead of the last person saying "no" that person says "yes" and everyone switches over their legs!

Statue in the Park

One or two people pose as a statue with a park bench or seat in front of him. Two people come along to eat lunch—the statue takes some of their lunch whenever it is left on the seat or when they are not looking. The eaters look more and more suspiciously at each other until they finally leave in disgust.

CAMPFIRE SONGS THE BASIC 8: SONGS EVERY GIRL SCOUT SHOULD KNOW!

BROWNIE SMILE SONG

I've got something in my pocket that belongs across my face, I keep it very close at hand in a most convenient place. I'm sure you couldn't guess it if you guessed a long, long while, So I'll take it out and put it on, it's a great big Brownie Smile.

G FOR GENEROSITY

She wears a G for Generosity She wears an I for her Integrity She wears an R for Real Good Sportsmanship She wears an L for Loyalty, for Loyalty She wears an S for her Sincerity She wears a C for Courtesy, for Courtesy She wears an O-U-T for Outdoor Life, Outdoor Life And that Girl Scout is ME!

GIRL SCOUTS TOGETHER

Girl Scouts together, that is our song, Winding the old trails, rocky and long. Learning our motto, living our creed, Girl Scouts together in every good deed.

Girl Scouts together, happy are we; Friendly to neighbors far o'er the sea. Faithful to country, loyal to home, Known as true Girl Scouts wherever we roam.

HELLO (Parts Song)

(Each part holds their "hello" until all 4 are done)

1: Hello, 2: Hello, 3: Hello, 4: Hello All: We are glad to meet you We are glad to greet you 1: Hello, 2: Hello, 3: Hello, 4: Hello

MAKE NEW FRIENDS (Round)

- 1: Make new friends but keep the old One is silver and the other gold
- 2: A circle is round, it has no end That's how long I want to be your friend.

ON MY HONOR

CHORUS

On my honor I will try There's a duty to be done and I say "Aye" There's a reason here and a reason above, My honor is to try and my duty is love.

VERSE

People don't need to know my name, If I've done any harm, then I'm to blame. If I've helped another, then I've helped me If I've opened up my eyes to see.

I've tucked away a song or two... If you're feeling low there's one for you. If you need a friend, then I will come And there's many more where I come from.

Come with me where a fire burns bright, You can even see better by candlelight And we'll get more meaning from a campfire's glow Then we'll ever learn in a year or so.

We've made a promise to always keep

And we sing Day is done before we sleep We'll be Girl Scouts together and when we're gone

We'll still be tryin' and a singin' this song. We'll be Girl Scouts together and when we're gone We'll still be tryin' and a singin' this song.

SING SING TOGETHER (Round)

1: Sing Sing together, merrily merrily sing, 2: Sing Sing together, merrily merrily sing, Sing, Sing, Sing, Sing

WHEN E'ER YOU MAKE A PROMISE (Round)

1: When e'er you make a promise, 2: Consider well its importance And... when.... Made.... Engrave it upon your heart

WHEN E'ER YOU MAKE A PROMISE (Round)

When e'er you make a promise,
Consider well its importance
And... when.... Made....
Engrave it upon your heart

TAPS

Day is done... Gone the sun From the lake From the hill From sky...... All is well.... Safely rest.... God is nigh.

THE WORLD ASSOCIATION SONG

Our way is clear as we march And see our flag on highls never furledthroughout the world For hope shall never die.

We must united for what is right In friendship true and strong Until the earth in its rebirth Shall sing this song.

LITTLE RED WAGON

This is a "repeat after me" song.

You can't ride in my little red wagon. Front seats broken, and the axle's dragging Chugga, Chugga, Chugga Chugga Chugga

SECOND VERSE, SAME AS THE FIRST A WHOLE LOT LOUDER AND A WHOLE LOT WORSE! (Repeat) Third verse same as the first, a whole lot softer and a lot less worse (Whisper Repeat) Fourth verse same as the first but a WHOLE LOT LOUDER AND A WHOLE LOT WORSE (Repeat as many as times as you would like)

THE PRINCESS PAT

This is a "repeat after me" song.

The princess pat, Lived in a tree, She sailed across, The seven Seas. She sailed across, The channel two. And she took with her, A rick-a-bamboo, A rick-a-bamboo. Now what is that? Its something made, By the Princess Pat, Its red and gold, And purple too, That's why it's called, A rig-a-bamboo, A rig-a-bamboo,

Now Captain Jack, Had a mighty fine crew. He sailed across, The channel two, But his ship sank, And yours will too, If you don't take, A rig-a-bamboo A rig-a-bamboo, Now what is that? Its something made, By the Princess Pat, Its red and gold, And purple too, That's why it's called, A rig-a-bamboo, A rig-a-bamboo.

BOOM-CHICKA-BOOM

I said a boom chick-a boom I said a boom chick-a boom I said a boom chick-a rock-a chick-a rock-a chick-a boom Uh-huh Oh yeah One more time!

Farm Style I said a Moo Chicka Moo. I said a Moo Chicka Moo, Cock a Doodle Doo

Star Wars Style I said a zoom chicka zoom I said a zoom chicka zoom I said a Luke I am your father Join the Dark Side chicka zoom.

Janitor Style

I said a Broom Sweep-a Broom ... I said a Broom Sweep-a Mop-a Sweep-a Mop-a Sweep-a Broom

Astronaut Style

I said a moon shoot the moon ... I said a moon blast-me shoot-me blast-me shoot-me-to-the-moon

Parent Style

I said a boom GO TO YOUR ROOM... I said a boom GO TO YOUR ROOM and don't come out 'til next June

Taco Bell Style

I said a bean chicka bean I said a bean chicka bean I said a bean and cheese burrito and a nacho supreme.

THERE WAS A GREAT BIG MOOSE

This is a "repeat after me" song.

There was a great big moose! He liked to drink a lot of juice. There was a great big moose! He liked to drink a lot of juice. Singin' oh way oh The moose's name was Fred. He liked to drink his juice in bed. The moose's name was Fred. He liked to drink his juice in bed.

CHORUS

Singin' oh way oh He drank his juice with care, but he spilled some in his hair. He drank his juice with care, But he spilled some in his hair. Singin' oh way oh Now he's a sticky moose Because he's all covered in juice! Singin' oh way oh

BUBBLE GUM SONG

My mother gave me a penny, to go and see Jack Benny, but I didn't see Jack Benny! Instead I bought bubble gum.

Chorus

Bazooka zooka bubble gum, Bazooka zooka bubble gum. I bought bubble gum.

My mother gave me a nickel to go and buy a pickle, but I didn't buy a pickle! instead I bought bubble gum.

Chorus

My mother gave me a dime, to go and buy a lime, but I didn't buy a lime! instead I bought bubble gum. *Chorus*

My mother gave me a quarter, to go and tip a porter, but I didn't tip a porter! Instead I bought bubble gum.

Chorus

My mother gave me fifty cents, to go and buy a picket fence, but I didn't buy a picket fence! Instead I bought bubble gum.

Chorus

My mother gave me a dollar, to go and buy a collar, but I didn't buy a collar! Instead I bought bubble gum.

BABY BUMBLE BEE

I'm bringing home a baby bumble bee, Won't my Mommie* be so proud of me? I'm bringing home a baby bumble bee... *Ouch! It stung me!*

I'm squashing up my baby bumble bee, Won't my Mommie be so proud of me? I'm squashing up my baby bumble bee...

Ew! What a mess!

I'm licking up my baby bumble bee, Won't my Mommie be so proud of me? I'm licking up my baby bumble bee...

Ugh! I feel sick!

I'm barfing up my baby bumble bee, Won't my Mommie be so proud of me? I'm barfing up my baby bumble bee...

Oh! Another mess!

I'm mopping up my baby bumble bee, Won't my Mommie be so proud of me? I'm mopping up my baby bumble bee... Mommie, aren't you proud of me? * Can be substituted with many other words: Mother, Mama, Daddy, Father, Papa, Grandma, Grammie, Grandpa, Pappy, Auntie, Uncle, etc....

The motions:

Verse 1: Hands are cupped together as if carrying a captured bee. – Sad, hurt face on Ouch! Verse 2: Hands are mashed together then look at the mess Verse 3: pretended to lick hands. Then look sick & rub tummy Verse 4: holding stomach, & simulate barfing. Verse 5: With "mop" in hand, mop up bumble bee

ON THE LOOSE

CHORUS

On the loose to climb a mountain, on the loose where I am free

On the loose to live my life the way I think my life should be

For I've only got a moment and this whole world yet to see

I'll be looking for tomorrow on the loose Have you ever watched the sunrise turn the sky completely red?

Have you slept beneath the moon and stars, a pine bough for your bed?

Do you sit and talk with friends though not a word is ever said?

Then you're just like me and you've been on the loose

Chorus

There's a trail that I'll be hiking just to see where it might go

Many places yet to visit, many people yet to know And in following my dreams, I will live and I will grow=

On a trail that's waiting out there on the loose *Chorus*

Have you ever heard a whippoorwill singing to the morning dew?

When you hear the bells ringing, do you know they ring for you?

And when you look back on the past, all I really ask Is to remember me when you're out on the loose

Chorus

So in search of love and laughter I'll be traveling 'cross this land

Never sure of where I'm going for I haven't any plan And in time when you are ready, come and join me, take my hand

And together we'll share life out on the loose *Chorus*

As I sit and watch the sunset and the daylight slowly fades

I am thinking of tomorrow and the friendships we have made

I will value them for always and I hope you'll do the same

And forever we'll explore life on the loose

THINGS TO DO AROUND EL RANCHITO

THINGS TO DO AROUND EL RANCHITO

Long Beach is filled with fun places to explore and eat. Voted one of America's "Most Walkable Cities," Long Beach is a big city with a small-town vibe. If you are looking for a place to take your troop or group on an outing, check out some of these hot spots!

Looking for some adventure? Check out the Aquarium of the Pacific, the Rainbow Lagoon, El Dorado Nature Center, or the Earl Burns Japanese Garden at Long Beach State! All of these places are within driving distance and can add valuable programming to your weekend.

If you get to El Ranchito and realize you forgot an important item, there are plenty of shopping centers nearby, as well as some restaurants in case you are feeling hungry. Within walking distance there is a CVS, El Burrito Grill, Eco Coffee, Panvimarn, and some small shops along Viking Way. If you are looking for a larger spot with shopping and restaurants, Long Beach Town Center is a short drive up Carson Street and you will find a movie theater, a wide range of restaurant options, and shops.

El Ranchito is conveniently located within walking distance from Heartwell Park. This park offers a pond, huge grassy fields, and baseball fields. We take field trips to the park for AWESOME kickball tournaments and capture the flag tournaments.

Visit http://www.visitlongbeach.com to find out more areas of interest and adventure.

EL RANCHITO EVENTS AT A GLANCE

EL RANCHITO EVENTS AT A GLANCE

El Ranchito is home to council-led programming, including: nine weeks of summer day camp, adventure days, and so much more! Check out upcoming events at **girlscoutsla.org** or in our Greater magazine!

WEEKEND EVENTS

El Ranchito hosts weekend events focused on outdoor adventure. Troops and families are invited to attend these events where you can come and get a feel for the El Ranchito experience. Weekend events vary from year to year, so check out the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles calendar for upcoming events for you and the whole family.

SUMMER CAMP

El Ranchito day camp runs for nine weeks in the summer for girls entering grades K-6, incorporating new activities each day! With a full schedule that includes arts and crafts, rock wall, teambuilding, archery, gaga (a kinder, gentler version of dodgeball), STEM lab, outdoor cooking, songs by the campfire, dance-offs on the El Ranchito stage, badge work, and all-camp activities, there is never a dull moment at camp! Girls are placed in units based on their grade level where they are able to make new friends and create lasting memories.

Day camp focuses on girl-led programming, emphasizing girl planning and challenge-bychoice activities, giving them an opportunity to challenge themselves in a safe space. Girls are encouraged to try new things while surrounded by fellow Girl Scouts and counselors who foster an environment of support and empowerment. These new experiences instill courage, confidence, and character in each girl who is a part of the camp magic. Check out our summer camp guide to see themes and dates for El Ranchito day camp! For more information contact Randi Helgesen, Rhelgesen@girlscoutsla.org. Explore what a week at camp might look like.



EL RANCHITO EVENTS AT A GLANCE

EL RANCHITO EVENTS AT A GLANCE

*Sample schedule, each group rotates through activities listed

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
TIME	Monuay	Tucsuay	Weathesday	IndiSudy	IIIddy
7:00-	Before Care				
9:00- 9:05am	Bridge of Silence				
9:05- 9:15am	Flag & Announcements				
9:15- 9:45am	Rules/ Fire Drill/ Units	Rock Climbing	Camp Photos	Rock Climbing	Archery
9:45- 10:00am	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
10:00- 10:45am	Unit Time/ Ice Breakers	Badge Work	Badge Work	Badge Work	Badge Work
10:45- 11:30am	Team Building	Gaga	Sunset Cowboy Craft	Wanted Poster Making	Gaga Tournament
11:30- 12:00pm	Cowboy Boot Craft	Candle Making	Archery	Guest Speaker Community Project	Chili Cook Off Preparation
12:00- 12:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30- 1:00pm	Songs Around The Campfire				
1:00- 1:30pm	Town Hall Meeting/ Mystery Skit	Town Hall Meeting/ Mystery Skit	Town Hall Meeting/ Mystery Skit	Town Hall Meeting/ Mystery Skit	Town Hall Me- eting/ Mystery Revealed!
1:30- 2:15pm	Life Dancing Class	Butter Making	Outdoor Cooking	Sewing Lessons	Country Summe Carnival
3:00- 3:30pm	Camp Forever/ All Camp Activity	Camp Forever/ All Camp Activity	Camp Forever/ All Camp Activity	Camp Forever/ All Camp Activity	Chili Cook Off & Camper Awards
3:30- 3:45pm	Kapers	Kapers	Kapers	Kapers	Kapers
3:45- 4:00pm	Closing Flag				
4:00- 6:00pm	Extended Care	Extended Care	Extended Care	Extended Care	Extended Care

*Activities subject to change



GSGLA	www.girlscoutsla.org	213-213-0123
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DAY CAMPS

EL RANCHITO LA CASITA MARINE LANDING MARIPOSA

RESIDENT CAMPS

LAKOTA (will reopen in 2020) OSITO RANCHO