



10 Most Frequently Asked Questions & Answers to Help You Plan Your Wedding in Santa Cruz County

- 1. How can I arrange a marriage license?**
Contact the office of the [Santa Cruz County Clerk](#) for information on marriage licenses at **831.454.2060**.
- 2. How can I hold my wedding ceremony right on the beach?**
Our beautiful local beaches offer a range of scenery and ambiance for a magical wedding. Reservations and permits are usually required for larger groups (over 20), and long-term advance planning is advised. Our beaches fall under the auspices of one of the following: California State Parks, Santa Cruz County Parks, or the City of Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation Dept. For an extensive list of local parks and beaches, start by visiting this page of our website: www.santacruz.org/things/index.php.
- 3. Can I have my reception or a large party on the beach?**
Permits are required for any event at which chairs, tables, a stage, or sound systems are present. Reservation and permit information for Santa Cruz City beaches can be found at: www.santacruzparksandrec.com. To reserve a beach, contact the Marine Safety Services Division at **831.420.6015, option 3**. For permit questions, contact the Santa Cruz Police Department at **831.420.5850**.
- 4. What about hosting a beach party and bonfire at night?**
Fire rings are available or individual bonfires are permitted at: Seabright, Twin Lakes, New Brighton, Sunset, and Manresa State Beaches, as well as Rio del Mar Beach. In all cases, fires must be extinguished by **10:00 p.m.** Visit www.santacruzstateparks.com for details, or phone **831.335.3455**.
- 5. What about alcohol or champagne on the beach?**
For the safety of all beachgoers – and to protect the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary off our shores – glass and alcohol are not allowed on any Santa Cruz County beaches.

6. **How can I find detailed information on the availability and policies of the various beaches and parks?**
 - STATE BEACHES: www.santacruzstateparks.org or 831.335.3455. This number should be used to plan an event at any state beach or park in Santa Cruz County. Do not phone individual parks directly.
 - COUNTY BEACHES: www.scparks.com or 831.454.7954.
 - CITY OF SANTA CRUZ: www.santacruzparksandrec.com or 831.420.5270. For permits: 831.420.5850. For beach reservations: 831.420.6015, option 3.

7. **How can I have my wedding among the redwoods?**

The same three park organizations listed previously offer numerous sites in the redwoods. The same reservation and planning restrictions apply.

8. **Where else can I go to have a wedding by the sea or under the redwoods?**

There are many sites in beautiful settings – either outdoors or indoors with lovely views – to leave you with great memories for your special day. Information on numerous venues and services for a ceremony or reception can be found on our [wedding search page](#). Or, order a [Santa Cruz County Wedding Planner Kit](#) with brochures and further details.

9. **What churches or other houses of worship are available in the area?**

For a complete list of churches across denominations, visit www.mapquest.com. Under “place names,” type “churches.”

10. **Where can I find information on community halls for a simple reception or party?**

A printable list of local meeting venues can be found at this link: www.santacruz.org/media/pdf/conf_guide.pdf.

Order your own Wedding Planner Kit!

You can order a [Santa Cruz County Wedding Planner Kit](#) for \$6.00 (to cover shipping and handling). The packet contains the 70-page, full-color Official Santa Cruz County Traveler’s Guide, a complete list of wedding venues and services, and brochures for each. There is no charge for the Wedding Planner Kit when picked up at our office – 303 Water Street, Suite 100 in Santa Cruz.

For additional personal assistance during regular business hours:

Our Visitor Services Director, Marsha Mullins, will be happy to assist you: 800.833.3494 x 102, 831.429.7281, x 102, or mmullins@santacruz.org.