

The De Anza Trek Games • October 16-18, 2026 • Rancho Santa Cruz, Tumacácori

2026 LEADERS GUIDE

The De Anza Trek Games

Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

22nd Annual De Anza Trek • October 16-18, 2026

Rancho Santa Cruz, Tumacácori, Arizona



Hosted by
Catalina Council Scouting America Troop 770

Sponsored by
Catholic Scouting America, Diocese of
Tucson Committee





Quick Reference

Event Name	The De Anza Trek Games: Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary
Dates	Friday, October 16 through Sunday, October 18, 2026
Location	Rancho Santa Cruz, Tumacácori, Arizona
Annual Event	22nd Annual De Anza Trek
Sponsor / Host	Sponsored by the Catholic Scouting America, Diocese of Tucson Committee, and hosted by Catalina Council Scouting America Troop 770.
Theme	Patriotism, unity, Scout spirit, heritage, and Olympic-style physical fitness challenges celebrating America's 250th anniversary.
Meals Included	Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, and Sunday breakfast. Walk-In participants must provide their own food.
RV Fee	\$40 per RV. RV parking will be along the main road; hookups are not guaranteed and will be based on availability.

Family Invitation and Registration Summary

Parents and families are invited to join us for a patriotic, Olympic-themed weekend event filled with fellowship, outdoor adventure, friendly competition, and Scout spirit.

This event is sponsored by the Catholic Scouting America, Diocese of Tucson Committee, and hosted by Catalina Council Scouting America Troop 770.

Registration and Fee Highlights

- Early Bird Registration is \$40 per participant before September 1, 2026.
- Regular registration from September 1 through September 30, 2026 will be \$45 per participant. Registration closes on September 30, 2026.
- Any registration received on or after October 1, 2026 will be considered a Walk-In registration. Walk-In registration will be \$50 per participant. Walk-In participants must provide their own food, as meals will have already been pre-ordered. Event patches and other resources may not be available for Walk-In participants.
- Unit Self-Meal Option: Units that choose to provide all their own meals will pay \$25 per person. Units selecting this option are responsible for planning, purchasing, preparing, serving, and cleaning up their own meals for the weekend. Units will be limited to cooking in designated cooking area due to fire safety.

- RV Fee: RVs are welcome for an additional \$40 fee. RV hookups are not guaranteed and will be based on availability. RV parking will be designate along the street, on premises.
- Pet Policy: No pets are permitted at this event, except for certified service dogs/service animals as permitted by law.
- If there are any problems brought up by the venue owner, and such issues is not resolved, the unit/persons will be asked to leave. Since this is a private venue that has allowed our event to take place, as Scouts, we must remain respectful. Otherwise, you will be asked to leave without a refund.

Event Experience

Start your day with a hike through the picturesque riparian habitat along the Santa Cruz River. Participants may choose between a five-and-a-half-mile hike, which qualifies for the Historic Trails Award, or an approximately three-mile hike on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

In the afternoon, Scouts will participate in patriotic and Olympic-style activities, including team challenges, games, COPES-style problem-solving activities for both older and younger Scouts, challenge ropes courses, climbing, and other fun competitions designed to encourage teamwork, leadership, perseverance, and good sportsmanship. Optional tours of the Tumacácori and Presidio Parks museums may also be available.

An evening campfire program is planned, celebrating faith, fellowship, country, Scouting, and the Olympic spirit. A Catholic Mass will be held Saturday evening before dinner. Attendance at Mass is optional, and this event warmly welcomes families and participants of all faiths.

This year's theme celebrates patriotism, unity, friendly competition, and the values shared by Scouting and the Olympic spirit. Scouts are encouraged to show pride in their patrols, units, communities, and country while demonstrating respect, courage, teamwork, and service to others.

In keeping with the patriotic and Olympic theme, units are encouraged to decorate their campsites with red, white, and blue, Olympic-style symbols, flags, team banners, patrol spirit, and Scouting pride. A friendly competition will be held for the best patriotic/Olympic-themed campsite.

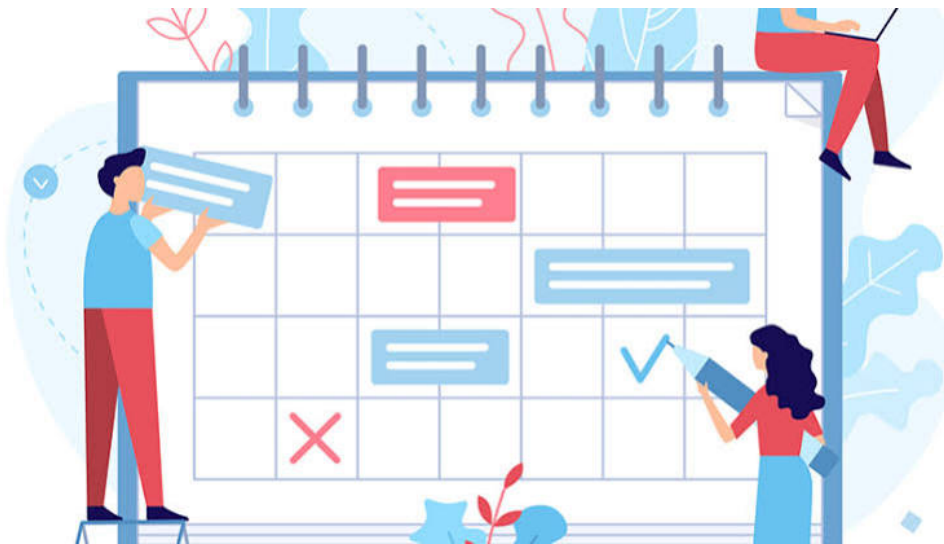
Units may also participate in a patriotic and Olympic spirit parade or showcase before the campfire program. Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear unit shirts, patrol colors, patriotic accessories, or sports-themed attire that reflects the spirit of the event.

Let's see which patrols and units bring the most Scout spirit, teamwork, and patriotic pride!

Please Note: Registrations received on or after October 1, 2026, will be considered Walk-In registrations. Walk-In participants must bring their own food, and event patches may not be available. Please contact the event coordinator with any questions regarding registration, meals, RVs, or event availability.

Leader Planning Checklist

- Register all youth, adults, staff, and day visitors through the official Catholic Scouting America Diocese of Tucson registration link process. ****LINK HERE****
- Confirm participant counts, dietary concerns, and youth age groups before arrival.
- Bring unit flags and flag stands for opening and closing ceremonies.
- Prepare for patriotic campsite decorations celebrating America's 250th anniversary.
- Bring all camping gear, unit tables, first aid supplies, water bottles, sun protection, and mess kits.
- Review safety expectations, buddy system, Leave No Trace, and site rules with all youth before arrival.
- Prepare a brief patriotic, Scout-appropriate skit, song, or cheer for the evening campfire program.



Welcome Letter

Dear Scouts, Leaders, Families, and Friends,

Welcome to the 22nd Annual De Anza Trek, proudly presented as The De Anza Trek Games: Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary. Parents and families are invited to join us for a patriotic, Olympic-themed weekend filled with fellowship, outdoor adventure, friendly competition, and Scout spirit.

The weekend will take place October 16-18, 2026 at Rancho Santa Cruz in Tumacácori, Arizona. The event is sponsored by the Catholic Scouting America, Diocese of Tucson Committee, and hosted by Catalina Council Scouting America Troop 770. Units will have opportunities to hike the historic De Anza route, participate in Olympic-style physical fitness challenges, enjoy fellowship, compete in patriotic campsite decorating, and gather for Catholic Mass before dinner on Saturday evening.

This guide is intended to help leaders prepare their units for a safe, meaningful, and well-organized weekend. Please review the schedule, rules, packing list, campsite expectations, hike information, and safety guidance before arrival. As guests of Rancho Santa Cruz and visitors near treasured cultural and historical sites, all participants are expected to practice the Scout Oath and Law, the Outdoor Code, and Leave No Trace principles throughout the weekend.

We are grateful for the leadership of Catalina Council Scouting America Troop 770, the Catholic Scouting America, Diocese of Tucson Committee, Catalina Council support, and the volunteers who make this annual tradition possible.

Yours in Christ and Scouting,

The De Anza Trek Games Planning Team

Theme Connection: Catholic Faith, Scouting, Patriotism, and Fitness

The De Anza Trek Games connects the Catholic faith, Scouting America values, America's 250th anniversary, patriotism, and physical fitness into one unified weekend experience. The theme is not simply decorative; it gives leaders a way to help youth understand that faith, citizenship, service, and healthy living belong together.

- Catholic faith: The weekend offers time for prayer, reverence, gratitude, and Catholic Mass. Scouts are invited to recognize God's blessings, care for creation, serve others, and practice respect for every person as a child of God.
- Scouting America: The program supports the Scout Oath and Scout Law through duty to God and country, helping other people, physical fitness, leadership, outdoor skills, good turns, and cheerful service.
- America's 250th anniversary: The event celebrates the nation's semi quincentennial by encouraging youth to learn history, honor sacrifice, participate respectfully in flag ceremonies, and reflect on responsible citizenship.

- Patriotism: Campsite decorations, the opening ceremony, the patriotic parade/showcase, and campfire program should model gratitude, respect, unity, and love of country without political campaigning or divisive messaging.
- Fitness and Olympic spirit: Hiking, rope challenge, climbing, COPES-style problem solving, and team games encourage perseverance, discipline, personal best effort, good sportsmanship, and care for the body as a gift from God.

Leader Reflection and Program Tie-Ins

Leaders are encouraged to briefly connect the weekend theme during patrol meetings, the opening ceremony, campsite judging, activity rotations, and the campfire program. These reflections should be short, welcoming, age-appropriate, and respectful of participants of all faith backgrounds.

Suggested Reflection Points

- Duty to God: Invite Scouts to begin the day with gratitude, pray for safety, and recognize the beauty of creation along the Santa Cruz River and De Anza Trail.
- Duty to Country: Use flag ceremonies and America's 250th anniversary theme to reinforce citizenship, respect for the flag, community service, and appreciation for the freedoms and responsibilities of our nation.
- Scout Oath and Law: Tie each activity to being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.
- Physical Fitness: Encourage Scouts to do their best, try safely, support teammates, hydrate, use the buddy system, and practice good sportsmanship whether they win or lose.
- Catholic Scouting America Connection: Present the weekend as a ministry of presence, fellowship, service, and formation, where youth can grow in faith, character, leadership, and care for others through Scouting.
- Olympic Spirit: Emphasize friendly competition, respect for opponents, perseverance, teamwork, and celebrating each Scout's personal best effort.

Registration, Fees, and Meals

Registration Notes

- All participants, leaders, staff, day visitors, and guests must be registered for the event and must check in before participating in activities.
- Units should register early so the event team can plan meals, patches, program supplies, staffing, parking, and activity rotations.
- Unit leaders may check in their unit when arriving together; participants arriving separately must check in individually upon arrival.
- Participants staying in local lodging or bed-and-breakfast accommodations must still register for the De Anza Trek Games and check in at the event registration table.

Participant Fees

Early Bird Registration	\$40 per participant before September 1, 2026.
Regular Registration	\$45 per participant from September 1 through September 30, 2026. Registration closes September 30, 2026.
Walk-Ins	\$50 per participant for registrations received on or after October 1, 2026. Walk-In participants must provide their own food because meals will have already been pre-ordered. Event patches and other resources may not be available.
Unit Self-Meal Option	\$25 per person for units that choose to provide all their own meals. Units selecting this option are responsible for planning, purchasing, preparing, serving, and cleaning up their own meals for the weekend. Meal prep limited to designated eating area near main facility.
RV Fee	\$40 per RV. RV parking will be along the main road; hookups are not guaranteed and will be based on availability.

Meals Provided

Meals provided by Catalina Council's Scouting volunteer Sam Albo. Meals will include Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, and Sunday breakfast. Units arriving Friday evening must provide their own Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast. Walk-In participants must provide their own food, as meals will have already been pre-ordered. Participants should bring personal water bottles and mess kits for all dining.

- Saturday lunch
- Saturday dinner
- Sunday breakfast (Continental)

Weekend Schedule

Schedule is subject to minor adjustment based on weather, trail conditions, staffing, and safety needs. Leaders should listen for announcements at check-in and flag ceremonies.

Friday, October 16, 2026 — Early Arrival

Time	Activity
6:00-9:00 PM	Check-in at Rancho Santa Cruz. All staff, units, and participants must check in before setting up camp. No dinner is provided.
After 9:00 PM	Late arrivals must contact event staff before entering camp. Quiet setup is required.

Saturday, October 17, 2026 — Trek, Games, Mass, and Campfire

Time	Activity
6:30-8:00 AM	Check-in continues. Units provide their own breakfast and drinks.
8:00-8:30 AM	Opening flag ceremony, welcome, prayer/benediction, safety briefing, and trail instructions. Bring unit flags and stands.
8:30 AM	Units proceed by vehicle to assigned trailheads: Presidio at Tubac Trailhead or Tumacácori Trailhead.
9:00-11:30 AM	De Anza Trek hikes. Emergency water and route support will be available as organized by event staff.
11:30 AM-12:45 PM	Lunch served as participants return from the trek. Please allow all participants and staff to be served before seconds.
1:30-4:15 PM	De Anza Trek Games activity rotations: rope challenge, climbing, teamwork games, physical fitness challenges, and age-appropriate Scout activities.
4:15-4:45 PM	Patriotic campsite decorating judging and camp preparation.
5:00 PM	Catholic Mass offered. All are welcome. Field uniform/Class A is encouraged.
5:00-6:00 PM	GROUP 1 Dinner. Those who did not attend Mass
6:00-7:00 PM	GROUP 2 Dinner. Those who attended Mass
7:15-8:15 PM	Patriotic and Olympic spirit parade/showcase, followed by campfire program, unit skits/songs/cheers, recognition, and awards.
10:30 PM	Lights out and quiet hours.

Sunday, October 18, 2026 — Breakfast and Departure

Time	Activity
7:00 AM	Reveille and continental breakfast.
8:30-9:30 AM	Break camp, pack gear, police campsite, and prepare for inspection.
10:00 AM-Noon	Final site inspection, checkout, and departure.

Program Activities

The De Anza Trek Games are intended to provide engaging activities for youth across Scouting ages. Activities will be organized with safety, age-appropriateness, and qualified supervision in mind. Scouts will participate in patriotic and Olympic-style challenges that connect faith, fitness, leadership, and citizenship. Leaders should remind Scouts that the goal is not only to compete, but to grow in teamwork, perseverance, respect, service, and good sportsmanship.

Activity	Purpose / Notes
De Anza Trek Hike	5.5-mile historic trail option from the Presidio at Tubac or shorter approximately 3-mile route from Tumacácori to Rancho Santa Cruz.
Rope Challenge	Team-based problem solving, balance, communication, and leadership challenges.
Climbing	Physical challenge activity focused on safety, encouragement, and personal best effort.
Olympic-Style Fitness Games	Patriotic field challenges encouraging teamwork, endurance, balance, coordination, and good sportsmanship.
Historic Site Visits	Optional visits to Tubac Presidio and/or Tumacácori National Historical Park, as coordinated with unit leaders and site requirements.
Campfire Program	Patriotic skits, songs, cheers, reflections, awards, and fellowship celebrating faith, country, Scouting, and the Olympic spirit.
Patriotic/Olympic Spirit Parade or Showcase	Units may showcase patrol colors, unit shirts, patriotic accessories, sports-themed attire, banners, cheers, and Scout spirit before the campfire program.

Patriotic Campsite Decoration Competition

Units are encouraged to decorate their campsites with red, white, and blue, Olympic-style symbols, flags, team banners, patrol spirit, and Scouting pride. A friendly competition will be held for the best patriotic/Olympic-themed campsite. Decorations must be safe, respectful, family-friendly, securely placed, and completely removed before departure.

Suggested Judging Categories

- Patriotic theme and connection to America's 250th anniversary
- Creativity and Scout spirit
- Respectful historical or civic message
- Leave No Trace compliance and complete cleanup before checkout

Rules and Site Expectations

Rancho Santa Cruz is private property and an operating ranch. The owners and workers live on site. Participants must respect the ranch, guest facilities, historical resources, wildlife, and fellow visitors at all times.

- All participants must check in before unloading gear, setting up camp, or participating in activities.
- Do not park in guest parking areas unless directed by event staff. Parking staff will direct vehicles upon arrival.
- No pets are permitted at this event, except for certified service dogs/service animals as permitted by law.
- RV parking is \$40 per RV. RV parking will be along the main road, and hookups are not guaranteed and will be based on availability.
- Camping is restricted to designated areas within Rancho Santa Cruz property boundaries. No camping in roped-off areas.
- Tent stakes are permitted. Be prepared to walk gear from parking to the campsite area.
- Stay on marked trails and follow all staff instructions.
- Use the buddy system. Younger youth must be supervised at all times.
- Do not feed or disturb wildlife or domestic cattle. Mountain lion activity has been reported in the area in prior years; leaders must maintain youth supervision.
- Practice the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace principles. Pack out all trash, decorations, food scraps, and ashes.
- Do not cut vegetation, dig, move rocks, alter the ground, collect artifacts, or disturb natural or cultural resources.
- All cooking must be done in designated cooking areas or in self-contained camp stoves/barbecue grills. No open cooking fires are permitted except the approved campfire container if authorized by staff.
- No electric generators are permitted except staff-authorized event support equipment.

- Amplified sound or music is not permitted except as authorized for Mass or event operations. Quiet hours begin at 10:00 PM.
- Participants do not have access to ranch amenities reserved for paying guests, including pool, ramadas, kitchen, dining room, and guest areas.
- Port-a-potties, water buffalo, and wash stations will be available in the camp area as arranged by the event team.
- While visiting Tumacácori National Historical Park or Tubac Presidio, youth must walk, use quiet voices, stay on paths, avoid touching or climbing on ruins, and leave artifacts where found.

Health, Safety, and Youth Protection

Unit leaders are responsible for supervising their youth, maintaining required adult leadership, carrying appropriate health forms, and following all applicable Scouting safety policies. The event team will provide general event coordination, but each unit remains responsible for its members.

Safety Reminders

- Always use two-deep leadership and appropriate supervision ratios. Leadership shall be current on their Youth Protection training.
- Keep youth with a buddy during hikes, activities, restroom trips, and camp movement.
- Bring unit first aid supplies and be prepared for heat, sun exposure, blisters, insects, and dehydration.
- Closed-toe shoes are required for hiking and activities. Long pants are recommended because portions of the trail may be overgrown.
- Each hiker should carry at least two liters of water, sun protection, snacks, and personal medications.
- Report injuries, near misses, hazards, lost youth, wildlife concerns, or facility damage to event staff immediately.
- Activities such as climbing will operate only under authorized supervision and posted rules.

Recommended Unit Emergency Plan

1. Confirm that every participant has emergency contact information and required health forms available to unit leadership.
2. Identify unit leaders responsible for headcounts before departure, at trailheads, after hikes, during rotations, at meals, and before lights out.
3. Establish a unit meeting point near your campsite.
4. Carry a charged phone or radio if assigned by event staff, while recognizing that signal may be limited.
5. Notify event staff immediately if a participant is missing, injured, ill, or unable to complete an activity.

Nearest Medical Facility:

Holy Cross Hospital - Nogales
1171 W Target Range Road
Nogales, AZ 85621
(520) 285-3000



Hike and Trail Information

The traditional De Anza Trek hike follows the Anza Trail corridor toward Rancho Santa Cruz through the picturesque riparian habitat along the Santa Cruz River. Units may choose the longer 5.5-mile route, which qualifies for the Historic Trails Award if requirements are met, or the shorter approximately 3-mile route based on youth age, ability, weather, and leader judgment. The trail details below are adapted from the prior leader guide and should be verified by event staff before the event.

Route	Distance / Elevation	Notes
Presidio Trailhead to Rancho Santa Cruz	Approx. 5.5 miles / 135 ft elevation	Recommended for Scouts who are prepared for the longer historic trail option. Youth may be eligible for the Historic Trails Patch if program requirements are met.
Tumacácori Trailhead to Rancho Santa Cruz	Approx. 3 miles / 56 ft elevation	Shorter trail option for younger Scouts, families, and participants needing a reduced distance.

Trailhead Directions

- Presidio at Tubac Trailhead: travel north from Rancho Santa Cruz using the frontage road toward Tubac. Follow event staff directions to the Presidio parking area and trailhead.
- Tumacácori Trailhead: travel north from Rancho Santa Cruz using the frontage road toward Tumacácori. Follow event staff directions to the dirt parking lot/parade grounds trailhead north of the mission grounds.
- Event staff will provide final trailhead assignments, maps, and safety instructions during opening announcements.

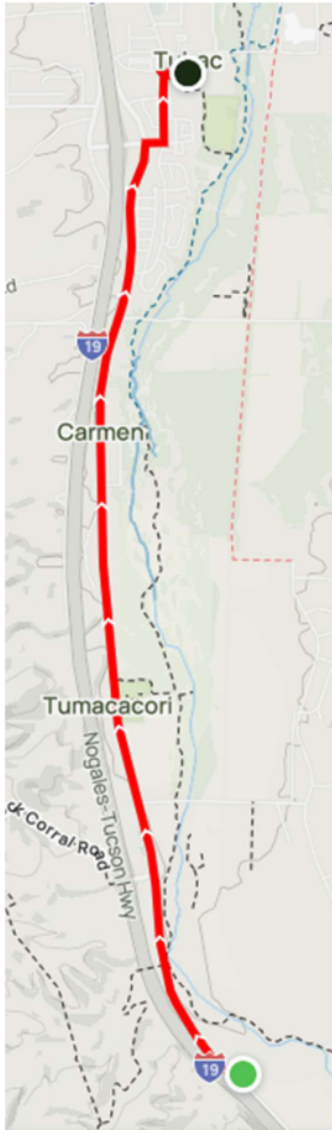


Presidio Trailhead driving reference

Map to Venue:

<https://www.alltrails.com/explore/map/driving-map-to-presidio-b6e3232?u=i&sh=ll9cks>

Getting to Presidio Trail Head (5.2 mile drive)



- Proceed by vehicle to the Presidio at Tubac Trailhead.
- Go North from the Rancho Santa Cruz Ranch parking lot using the frontage road to Tubac.
- Take a right turn onto Plaza Road
- Immediate right onto Tubac Rd
- Proceed east 1 mile to Presidio parking.
- Trailhead is just along the South fence line of the Presidio (follow signs).

You'll be greeted there by an Anza Trek staffer.

Tumacácori Trailhead driving reference

Map to Venue:

<https://www.alltrails.com/explore/map/driving-to-mission-grounds-80c60e6?u=i&sh=ll9cks>

Getting to Tumacácori Trail Head (2.03 mile drive)



- Proceed by vehicle to the Tumacácori Trailhead.
- Go North from the Rancho Santa Cruz Ranch parking lot using the frontage road to Tumacácori
- Take a right turn into the dirt parking lot for the parade grounds after you pass Tumacácori Historic Park parking lot
- Trailhead is just along the north fence of the parking lot

You'll be greeted there by an Anza Trek staffer.

Trail route reference maps

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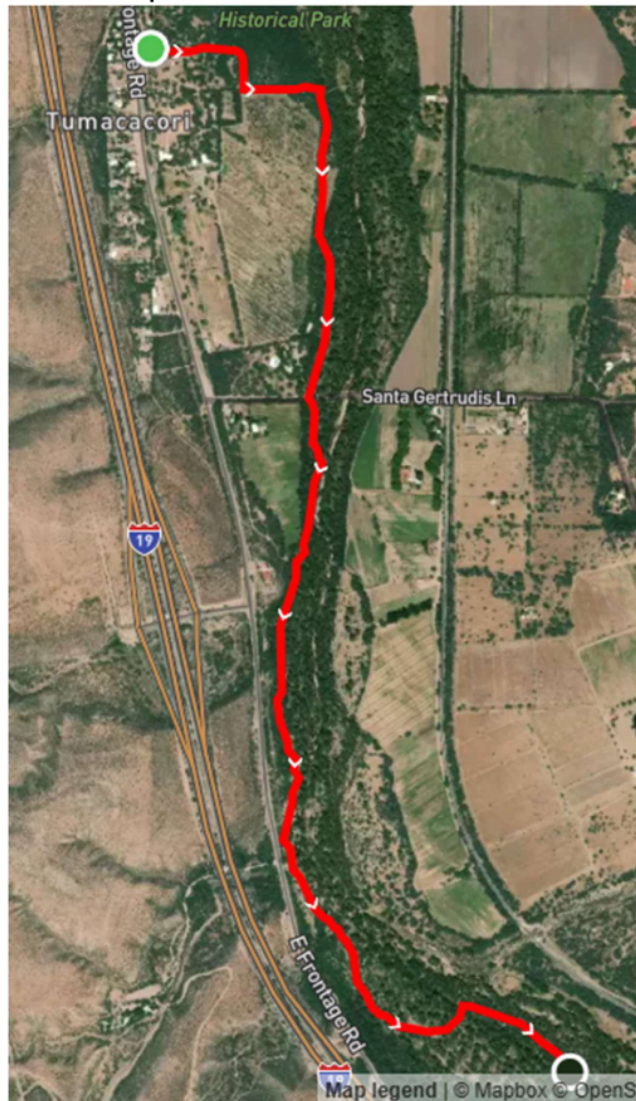
5.5-mile / 135 ft elevation: Presidio Trailhead to Rancho Santa Cruz

<https://www.alltrails.com/explore/map/map-june-10-2024-7e7e69e-3?u=i&sh=ll9cks>

2.5-mile / 56 ft elevation: Tumacácori to Rancho Santa Cruz

<https://www.alltrails.com/explore/map/map-june-10-2024-c8fbbc8?u=i&sh=ll9cks>

Both trails lead right into the camp at Rancho Santa Cruz



What to Bring

For All Participants

- Field uniform/Class A for ceremonies and Mass, plus activity-appropriate clothing.
- Closed-toe shoes suitable for hiking and uneven terrain.
- Water bottle or hydration system with at least two liters for the hike.
- Sun protection: hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and lightweight layers.
- Personal first aid items, required medications, and insect repellent as needed.
- Mess kit, cup, utensils, and personal snacks.
- Headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries.
- Camp chair for campfire and Mass if desired.
- Patriotic campsite decorations that are safe, respectful, removable, and Leave No Trace friendly.

For Overnight Camping Units

- Tents, ground cloths, stakes, sleeping bags, sleeping pads/cots, and weather-appropriate bedding.
- Unit tables and shade as needed; no picnic tables are guaranteed.
- Unit first aid kit and emergency contact information.
- Cooking equipment for meals not provided by the event, if needed.
- Trash bags for complete campsite cleanup.
- Unit flag and flag stand.
- Copies of roster, medical forms, and leader contact list.



Historic Site Visits and Local Lodging

Units may have the option to visit Tubac Presidio and/or Tumacácori National Historical Park. Leaders should confirm current hours, fees, and group requirements before the event. Youth must be supervised and respectful of historical and cultural resources at all times.

- Tubac Presidio: 1 Burruel Street, Tubac. Prior guide listed discounted group rates; verify current rates before arrival.
- Tumacácori National Historical Park: 1891 E. Frontage Road, Tumacácori. Prior guide listed park admission is free; verify current conditions before arrival.
- Local lodging options in prior years included Rancho Santa Cruz, Valle Verde Ranch, Casa Paloma B&B, and Tubac Country Inn. Lodging guests must still register for the event and check in at the De Anza registration table.

Event Contacts

Primary Event Contact: fjreilly63@gmail.com or 520-982-0982. When sending an email, please use “De Anza” as the subject. Please contact the event coordinator with questions regarding registration, meals, RVs, or event availability.

Name/Group	Role	Phone	Email
Joe Reilly	Trek Co-Organizer	520-982-0982	fjreilly63@gmail.com
William Chenevert	Trek Co-Organizer		bsperrysburg@att.net
Catholic Scouting America, Diocese of Tucson Committee	Event Sponsor / Faith Program Partner		ccscoutingtucsonaz@gmail.com
Catalina Council Scouting America Troop 770: Brad Adams	Hosting Unit Primary Event Contact		brad.adams1775@gmail.com
Cindy Reilly	Registration inquiries		reillycindy.nccs@gmail.com

Attachment A: Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to be clean my outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation minded.



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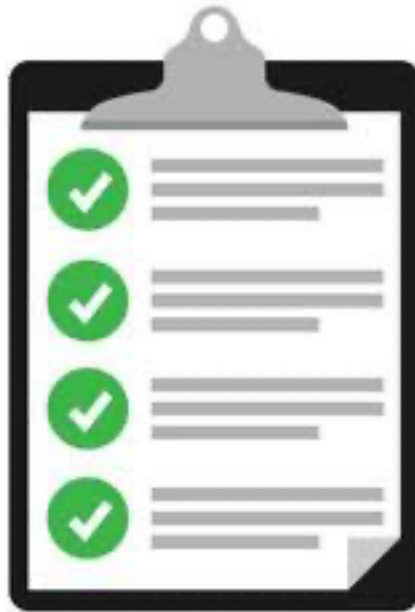
Leave No Trace Principles for Youth

- Know before you go.
- Choose the right path.
- Trash your trash.
- Leave what you find.
- Be careful with fire.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be kind to other visitors.



Attachment B: Unit Leader Final Readiness Checklist

- Roster complete and all participants registered.
- Health forms/emergency contacts available to unit leadership.
- Transportation and trailhead plan confirmed.
- Youth briefed on buddy system, Leave No Trace, wildlife awareness, and quiet hours.
- Unit flag, campsite decorations, skit/song/cheer, and awards spirit items packed.
- Friday meal/Saturday breakfast plan complete if arriving early.
- Trash bags packed and cleanup plan assigned.
- Campsite inspected before checkout.





The De Anza Trek Games • Faith • Fitness • Heritage • Service