

Sheriff-Coroner's 'Community Service Officer' County Park Patrol Program:

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner's Office mission is to be united with local communities to make Santa Cruz County a place where all people can live safely and without fear. Community Service Officers (CSO) work for the Sheriff-Coroner's Office and are uniformed, non-sworn employees who provide a variety of public relations, technical, clerical and enforcement related functions. CSOs use good judgment, make sound recommendations, take a proactive approach to problem solving, communicate effectively with the public, personnel, and other agency personnel and work as a designated liaison between the Parks Department and the Sheriff-Coroner's Office. CSOs are assigned to patrol all Santa Cruz County Parks and related areas. The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well-designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community.

The goal between the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner's Office is to act in unison with each other to provide safe parks where all people can enjoy a wide variety of recreational activities and opportunities for the community through prevention and intervention. The partnership is a two-way relationship with shared rights and responsibilities. This program is an effort to have a liaison between the two departments that creates prevention and intervention of crime within Santa Cruz County Parks and related facilities. The officer has the following duties: issues warnings and citations for crimes within County Parks, handles crime reports, patrols all areas of the County Parks, communicates with communities surrounding County Parks, patrols County Park rented facility events and other similar duties. By working together the two departments develop specific plans to keep the Parks safe.