



PRESS RELEASE

Date: July 14th, 2023
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Libraries available as Cooling Sites to Beat the Heat

The National Weather Service has issued an excessive heat warning for parts of Santa Cruz County for this weekend. As temperatures rise, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) and the Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3) want to remind the community that library branches are open and available as cool and safe spaces for members of the public to seek refuge from the heat.

All Library branches are open regularly Monday through Thursday 10am to 6pm and Friday through Saturday 10am to 5pm. Additionally, the Capitola and Downtown branch libraries are open Sundays 1pm to 5pm.

The libraries are well-equipped with air conditioning and ample seating areas, providing visitors with a safe escape from the heat. The libraries also offer a range of resources and services, including access to books, magazines, Wi-Fi, and educational materials, ensuring an enjoyable and productive time for all visitors.

During extreme heat, OR3 advises residents to stay hydrated and take cooling breaks, limit outdoor activities during the afternoon and evening, wear sunscreen if they will be outdoors and never leave pets or children unattended in vehicles. To receive local emergency and non-emergency alerts, please enroll at www.CruzAware.org or download the Genasys app.

For more information about SCPL and specific branch hours and resources visit the website at SantaCruzPL.org or contact the library by calling 831-427-7713.

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ABOUT THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM:

Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) brings people, information, and resources together to enrich lives and strengthen the community. SCPL gives every Santa Cruz community



member the opportunity to learn through educational resources, classes, and staff support. The Library develops programs for the broad community as well as for specific groups like students, seniors, and those who are most vulnerable, including the unhoused and incarcerated. SCPL also curates specialty collections, like genealogy and local history. Learn more about at SantaCruzPL.org or on social media.

ABOUT THE COUNTY OFFICE OF RESPONSE, RECOVERY, AND RESILIENCE (OR3):

The Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience (OR3) is the agency responsible for protecting the community before, during and after disasters by improving community emergency response, elevating disaster awareness and preparing for increases in extreme weather due to climate change. OR3's mission is threefold: build the County's resilience for future disasters, serve as the emergency management office for responding to ongoing disasters and coordinating recovery efforts following disasters.