



# Walker Creek Ranch

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## **DID YOU KNOW THAT DURING THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR:**

- The Marin County Outdoor School served 5,628 fifth and sixth grade students from 97 schools and 40 school districts, across 12 counties in the greater Bay Area and beyond.
- Walker Creek Ranch Conference Center served 4,800 guests attending 90 conferences.
- The Outdoor School partnered with the Marin County Sheriff's Office and the San Rafael Police Department to provide Camp Chance to 82 under-served middle school campers in Marin County (plus an additional 9 high school "leaders in training"). The program gives kids the chance to interact with law enforcement staff in a positive way, and to enhance relationships with one another and the natural world.
- Approximately 85% of Conference client groups are returning groups.
- 15 new conference groups joined the program totaling 873 participants.
- Recent site improvements include covered entryways for the Willow Lodge and The Teachers' cabin, and a complete remodel of the Live Oak residence.
- Hosted and worked with a volunteer AmeriCorps team in partnership with the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) to remove invasive thistle species. The AmeriCorps team also rehabilitated several miles of hiking trails including the addition of a mile long reroute of a much eroded section of the Fir Trail.
- Food Services staff served over 100,000 meals to students, teachers, cabin leaders and conference center guests.
- The Walker Creek Ranch Food Service continues to be a model for incorporation of fresh foods into student menus.
- The Food Service Department successfully completed the on-site Child Nutrition inspection and audit by the State of California.
- The Outdoor Education promotional video "Walker Creek Ranch-Where Science Comes Alive" was completed and received a Northern California Emmy Award.
- The Ranch web page has been updated and redesigned and provides schools and conference guests with needed information and resources ([walkercreekranch.org](http://walkercreekranch.org)). The Ranch is also on the Facebook social media site.
- Infrastructure improvements included continued enhancements to the wireless network to allow greater guest access to a high speed wireless network. This work primarily took the form of adjustments to existing equipment to optimize usability (ongoing and in conjunction with the MCOE IT Department).
- Ranch grounds and facilities include a low ropes course, over 20 miles of hiking trails, outdoor theater seating for 250 people, and a freshwater pond with waterfront area including kayak/canoe rentals for Conference guests.



**WORK IN PROGRESS IN 2014-2015:**

- Infrastructure improvements carried over from 2013-2014 include ceiling upgrade in Eucalyptus Lodge, continued improvement of hiking trails throughout the property, installation of a wind powered generator to service the drinking water system, and repairs to the Boogie Barn floor and foundation. Added to this list is carpet replacement in meeting rooms and relining of the 10,000 gallon treatment tank in the drinking water system.
- Curriculum enhancement with continued training with Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core Standards.
- Continued enhancement and utilization of Walker Creek Ranch marketing and information tools including the newly revitalized web page, Facebook page, and Ranch promotional video. And, to also begin on promotional video for the Conference Center.
- Continued enhancement of the Walker Creek Ranch emergency response plan to include Incident Command Structure implementation and training (ongoing).



**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

<b>Outdoor School Begins</b> September 8, 2014	<b>Winter Open House</b> January 22, 2015 10:00 AM- 12:30 PM
<b>Fall Open House</b> October 14, 2014 10:00 AM- 12:30 PM	



**2014-15 Outdoor School Schedule of Marin Schools (Partial List)**

<b>September 2014</b> Loretto, Hidden Valley, Wade Thomas	<b>December 2014</b> No Marin Schools	<b>April 2015</b> Manor, Brookside
<b>October 2014</b> Old Mill, Glenwood, Strawberry Point, San Pedro,	<b>January 2015</b> Bel Aire, San Ramon, Loma Verde	<b>May 2015</b> Hamilton, Mary Silveira, Vallecito, Lu Sutton, Dixie, Pleasant Valley, Lynwood, Rancho
<b>November 2014</b> Sun Valley, Bahia Vista, St. Hilary, St Isabella, St Patrick, St Raphael, Coleman, Venetia Valley, Laurel Dell	<b>February 2015</b> St. Anselms	<b>June 2015</b> Edna Maguire
	<b>March 2015</b> Strawberry, West Marin, Tomales, Bodega Bay,	