

## Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course Hiking, Camping, and Volunteering Resources

John Muir wrote "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike." So where do you find these places?

### Websites

#### **Sierra Club Outings**

Santa Barbara-Ventura Sierra Club: <https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-barbara-ventura> and then choose "Outings". Links to the individual groups are located here.

#### **Weather**

[National Weather Service](#)

#### **Hiking Websites**

[Ventura County Trails](#)

[Los Padres National Forest - Hiking](#)

[Modern Hiker](#)

[Hike Los Padres](#)

[Santa Barbara Hikes](#)

[Santa Barbara Outdoors](#)

[Condor Trail](#)

[All Trails](#)

#### **Los Padres National Forest**

[Los Padres National Forest](#)

[Los Padres Forest Association](#)

[Los Padres Forest Watch](#)

#### **Meetup Groups**

There are many great Meetup groups in the area dedicated to hiking. To get a general list, people should go to [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) and put in "Hiking" in the search box, then choose a city and distance from that city. For example there are over 40 groups dedicated to hiking and backpacking within a 50 mile radius of Ventura. Here are just a few:

[Ventura Sierra Club](#)

[Santa Barbara Sierra Club](#)

[Ventura County Day Hikes](#)

[Santa Barbara County Hikers](#)

[The Moderate Hikers](#)

[The PM Hikers](#)

[The Weekday Trailblazers](#)

[The Thousand Oaks Hikers](#)

[Calabasas Day Hikers](#)

[VHC](#)

[The Los Angeles Hiking Group](#)

[US Hiking](#)

[SoCal Hikers and Trail Builders](#)

[Geo-hikes Geologic Maps Foundation](#)

[Adventurers Unlimited!](#)

### **Camping reservations**

[Recreation.gov](#) - National Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas

[Reserve California](#) - Californian State Parks

[Reserve America](#) - Private Campgrounds

### **Permits for Sierra backpacking**

[Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP](#)

[Inyo National Forest](#)

Find the location of bear boxes - [www.climber.org/data/BearBoxes/map.html](http://www.climber.org/data/BearBoxes/map.html)

Info about gear, storage & repair and miscellaneous skills - [www.backpacker.com](http://www.backpacker.com)

**Maps - Most are available at REI, Real Cheap Sports, Mountain Air Sports**

Bryan Conant's Matilija and Dick Smith Wilderness trail map

Bryan Conant's San Rafael Wilderness trail map

Tom Harrison Sespe Wilderness trail map

Ray Ford's Santa Barbara Front Country map

The Santa Barbara Outdoor Recreation Topo Map

**USGS** - [www.usgs.gov/programs/national-geospatial-program/topographic-maps](http://www.usgs.gov/programs/national-geospatial-program/topographic-maps)

**Forest Service** - [data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/index.php](http://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/index.php) - Go to FSTopo under Maps

**CalTopo** - [www.caltopo.com](http://www.caltopo.com) - Build your own maps using different layers

**Reading topographic maps** - [ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/help/](http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/help/)

### **Books**

#### **Day Hiking Books**

[Day Hikes Around Ventura County](#), by Robert Stone

[Day Hikes Around Santa Barbara County](#), by Robert Stone

[Day Hikes of the Santa Barbara Foothills](#), by Ray Ford, Jr.

[Trails of the San Rafael Wilderness](#), by Marty Heister and Ray Ford, Jr.

[Exploring the Santa Barbara Backcountry](#), by Dennis Gagnon

[101 Hikes in Southern California](#), by Jerry Schad

[Roam - Ojai's Hip Little Hiking Guide](#), by Gael Belden

[Wild L.A. - A Day Hiker's Guide](#), by John McKinney

[Trails of the Angeles](#), by John W. Robinson

#### **Camping Books**

[California Camping](#), by Tom Stienstra

[Campgrounds of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties](#), by Jeff Tyler

### **Backpacking and Mountaineering Books**

Hiking and Backpacking Santa Barbara and Ventura, by Craig R. Carey

Pacific Crest Trail, by Jeffrey Schaffer

Wilderness Basics, by the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club

Mountaineering; Freedom of the Hills

Backpacker; Hiking Light Handbook, by Karen Berger

Backpacking One Step at a Time, by Harvey Manning

### **Volunteer Trail Work Crews**

**Santa Clara River Cleanups**, Ventura Sierra Club, listed with Los Padres Sierra Club hikes, contact Nina Danza, [santaclararivergateway@gmail.com](mailto:santaclararivergateway@gmail.com)

**Los Padres National Forest**, [www.lpforest.org/events-calendar/](http://www.lpforest.org/events-calendar/)

**Point Mugu State Park** - Contact ranger

**Pacific Crest Trail Association** - [www.pcta.org](http://www.pcta.org) then choose "volunteer" - work trips from 1 day to 2 weeks

**Channel Islands Restoration** - [www.cirweb.org](http://www.cirweb.org)

**Habitat Works** - [www.habitatwork.org](http://www.habitatwork.org) - Volunteer opportunities in Southern California.