

Regional Open Space

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION

(not a permit)

Name:		Organization:	
Public: <input type="checkbox"/>	Private: <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-profit: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address:		Zip:	
Contact Person:		Phone: ()	
Cell phone for day of event ()		Fax: ()	
Date(s) of proposed activity:		S M T W TH F S (circle one)	
Location (indicate specific preserve and trail(s)):			
Activity title and full description:			
Number of participants expected:		Number of cars expected:	
		Number of trucks expected:	
Do you want to take any vehicle onto the preserve? Please describe your needs.			
Seutup time:	am <input type="checkbox"/>	pm <input type="checkbox"/>	Event starting time: am <input type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>
Event ending time:	am <input type="checkbox"/>	pm <input type="checkbox"/>	Cleanup completed: am <input type="checkbox"/> pm <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the event involve the use or sale of alcoholic drings?		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Will participants or spectators be charged a fee?		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Will items or services be sold at the event?		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any other special conditions or requirements?		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
If you answered yes to any of the above, please explain. Use additional sheets if needed.			
Please describe measures planned to minimize the event's impact on the site and on the preserve visitors who are not attending the event.			
Applicant's signature:			Date:

FAX to: (650) 691-0485

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MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Running/Training at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

L. Craig Britton, General Manager

A number of schools use the trails at Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve as a training area for cross-country running. We have had numerous complaints from other visitors to the preserve of "near-misses" involving these groups of runners. As reported by our constituents, problems include:

- Large groups have been observed organizing and stretching within the traffic flow of the parking areas, impeding other visitors' vehicles.
- Some groups appear to be running in a competitive, timed environment, often in large groups that block the trail and disrupt others' enjoyment of the preserve.
- Inappropriate activities and lack of consideration by groups of young runners.

The District wants to ensure that all visitors have a safe and enjoyable visit, and to eliminate the kinds of impacts that are now resulting from organized groups of runners. If it is determined that these efforts have failed, then the District will be compelled to implement a more restrictive policy for this activity.

Through a permit process, the District seeks to minimize disruption or unreasonable interference with other visitors, and overcrowding on the trails and parking areas. In addition, it is important to ensure that our ranger staff is informed of the presence of such groups, in the event an emergency arises requiring locating or contacting the group or individuals within the group. District rangers have been directed to issue citations as necessary to any unpermitted running practices.

We ask all visitors to observe some basic rules of etiquette, and these certainly apply to anyone from your school who, as a group or individually, chooses to run on District trails. The attached trail etiquette brochure provides some basic information in that regard. I ask you to share this with your students.

I'd like to further point out the importance of educating your students about basic courtesy and consideration of other visitors. I would hope that your students are taught that showing such courtesy and respecting others' right to enjoy the trails is more important than improving their times on training runs.

While we recognize the concept of a timed training, this activity cannot take place at the expense of the comfort and well being of other visitors. Unfortunately, this has frequently been the case, and I am asking you and other such groups to make the necessary changes in behavior by:

- staggered start times
- not running in groups
- never running more than two abreast
- showing courtesy and yielding to other visitors
- not blocking the flow of traffic while stretching and preparing to run
- contacting the District in advance for a permit.

It is only through your recognition of this problem and your cooperation in its resolution that the type of use you have enjoyed can continue.

SHARING THE TRAILS

Welcome! For many visitors, the appeal of the open space preserves is the chance to get away from the hectic pace of everyday life. While the preserves offer peace and tranquility, it is likely that you will encounter other visitors enjoying a variety of recreational activities.

Several uses are permitted on some trails, while others are limited to a specific use. For the safety of all visitors and the protection of the open space preserves, please follow all District regulations. Following the basic trail etiquette guidelines in this brochure will allow everyone to enjoy the preserves.

Here's how you can help:

- **Please be courteous to other trail users.** Always yield to equestrians. Allow other trail users to pass. When in a group, avoid blocking the trail.
- **Stay alert.** Horses and slower moving individuals may be startled by faster moving trail users. Make your presence known to other trail users well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- **Stay on designated trails.** Prevent injury to yourself and damage to natural resources by staying on designated trails.
- **Observe trail speed limits.** A 15-mph speed limit is enforced on all trails (5-mph when passing). At no time may a trail user operate at a speed greater than is reasonable, prudent, or safe, as conditions warrant.
- **Observe District regulations.** You are responsible for knowing open space preserve regulations. A complete list of all District ordinances is available at the District office and on the District's Web site www.openspace.org.

BICYCLISTS

- Bicyclists are required to wear ANSI- or Snell-approved bicycle helmets on all District lands.
- Control your speed at all times and obey the 15-mph speed limit. Slowly approach blind turns in anticipation of other trail users and obstacles that are beyond your view.
- Always yield to all other trail users. On wide trails, slow down and pass with care (5-mph speed limit when passing).
- Ride only on trails designated for bicycle use. Off-trail use is strictly prohibited.
- Racing and reckless riding are prohibited.
- Horses and slower moving individuals may be startled by faster moving trail users. Make your presence known to other trail users well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- When encountering equestrians and hikers on narrow trails, stop and wait for them to pass or signal you through.
- Yield to other bicyclists traveling uphill.

RUNNERS

- Slow down and allow oncoming hikers and equestrians to pass on one side of the trail.
- If you are approaching from behind, alert other trail users of your presence and pass carefully.
- Stop and wait for equestrians to pass or signal you through.
- When approaching bicyclists, slow down and pass when it is safe.

HIKERS

- Always yield to equestrians.
- Be alert for approaching bicyclists and runners.
- If you are approaching from behind, alert other trail users of your presence and pass carefully.

EQUESTRIANS

- Some visitors may be intimidated by horses. When you meet other trail users, inform them of the safest way to pass.
- You are responsible for maintaining control over your horse at all times. If your horse is high-spirited, please warn other trail users.
- Ride only on trails designated for equestrian use. Off-trail use is strictly prohibited.

TRAIL USERS WITH DOGS

- Dogs are currently allowed on all trails at the following open space preserves: Coal Creek, Foothills, Fremont Older, Pulgas Ridge, including an off-leash area, Sierra Azul (Kennedy-Limekiln Area), St. Joseph's Hill, and Thornewood, as well as designated trails at Windy Hill and Long Ridge Open Space Preserves. Contact the District or visit the District's Web site at www.openspace.org for maps and further information on preserves accessible to dogs.
- Dogs must be on a leash not to exceed 6 feet, or on a self-retracting leash with a maximum extended length of 25 feet. The self-retracting leash must have the capability of being retracted and locked in a position not to exceed 6 feet. Please clean up after your dog.
- Some trail users are frightened by dogs; communicate with others and always keep your dog under control.
- Because some dogs are unpredictable, step to one side of the trail with your dog to allow enough room for other trail users to pass.



A SIMPLE REMINDER

Please respect the environment and be considerate of others. Thank you for doing your part.

THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

The District is an independent special district created in 1972 by the voters of northwestern Santa Clara County. Southern San Mateo County joined the District in 1976. Recently, the District received certification of its Coastsides Protection Program, which extends its boundaries from south of Pacifica to the Santa Cruz County line to include San Mateo Coastsides lands.

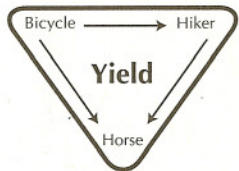
The District has preserved nearly 50,000 acres of public land and manages 25 open space preserves within its boundaries from San Carlos to Los Gatos. The District's purpose is to create a regional greenbelt of unspoiled public open space lands in order to permanently protect the area's natural resources and to provide for public use and enjoyment.


Public lands managed by the District include wetlands, redwood forests, mountain vista points, creekside trails, historic sites, and more. Funding is provided by a small share of the annual total property tax revenues collected within District boundaries.

All preserves are open free of charge to the public every day of the year, from sunrise to one half-hour after sunset. The preserves provide permanently protected wildlife habitats and plant communities, and are a respite for visitors seeking refuge from the pressures of urban life.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the open space preserves, please call, write, or visit us: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022-1404. Our telephone number is 650-691-1200, and electronic mail may be sent to <info@openspace.org>. Our Web site is <www.openspace.org>.



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Cover photo by Sharon Hall.

Help the District prevent waste by passing this publication on to a friend or recycling it when you're through. Thank you.

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Phone: 650-691-1200 • Fax: 650-691-0485
E-mail: info@openspace.org
Web site: www.openspace.org

SHARING THE TRAILS

Guidelines For
**Bicyclists
Runners
Hikers
Equestrians
Trail Users With Dogs**

**Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District**

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