

2012 Year of the Ranchos - Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site Calendar of Events
Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site 4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach, CA 90807
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VISIT RANCHO LOS CERRITOS' RESTORED ARROYO AND NEW ADOBE VISITOR CENTER

Celebrate the Rancho's restored arroyo and new adobe visitor center with its exhibits and video! Join us for these fun and exciting events during the "Year of the Ranchos!"

- May 9: Lecture: "Rancho Life, Rancho Lives" with Dr. William Deverell. 7 p.m.; \$5/\$3 members
May 10: Open late for candlelight tours, 5-7 p.m.; free
May 11: "Visitors from the Past" performance and reception, 7 p.m.; \$12. Call for tickets
May 12: Grand Opening Festival: living history, historic fashion show, live music, storytelling. Free; 12:30-4:30 p.m.
May 13: Mother's Day Brunch at 10:30 a.m.; call for information and reservations
May 13: Free public concert at 5:30 p.m.
June 3: Gala fundraiser; call for information and reservations.

FOR KIDS

"Stories with the Padre," March 17

Learn from the legendary Spanish missionary, Father Junipero Serra, about his life and work in Spanish-era Alta California. 1:30 & 3 p.m. Free, reservations required. In collaboration with Long Beach Reads One Book Week.

Creation Station

Nurture your imagination as you explore the adobe house and peaceful gardens through engaging crafts and activities! Free family program; drop-in between 1-5 p.m.

- February 4: Crazy with Hearts
March 3: Play with Clay
April 7: Surprise with Color
May 5: Fun with Nature

Rancho Adventure Tours

Thursday afternoons, 4:15-5:45 p.m. A fast-paced tour of the site's 1844 adobe house and gardens, followed by historic chores and games. Ideal for scouts, home schoolers, after school clubs and other youth groups. \$3/person; reservations required.

Summer Adventures Day Camps

Children learn about life in Old California through historic crafts, hands-on activities, games and stories at these weeklong day camps. Historically themed programs focus on daily life at the rancho. Three weeklong sessions, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: July 16-20; July 23-27; July 30-August 3. Call for information.

FOR FAMILIES

Concerts May 13, June 24, July 22 and August 26

Pack a picnic dinner and grab some friends for a free concert on the historic grounds. Open for picnicking after 5 p.m. Concerts from 5:30-7 p.m. Groups TBA

Mud Mania: A Celebration of Adobe, August 19

Learn about our local adobe soil and its many uses throughout history; explore archaeology; make a clay pot; and enjoy mud-related games and crafts. 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.; \$6/\$4

Old Time Christmas Festival, December 9

Explore the adobe home, decorated with Victorian greenery for the season, and discover 19th century Mexican and American holiday traditions. Children can participate in crafts and activities from the California frontier, enjoy holiday stories, and visit with Santa. Refreshments and live music. 1-4 p.m.; suggested donation \$3 per person

Christmas Candlelight Tours, December 15 & 16

Celebrate a Victorian-style Christmas as experienced by the Bixbys, their guests and ranch workers on this active sheep ranch in the 19th c. Tour the decorated adobe home by candlelight with costumed living history characters, and eavesdrop on theatrical vignettes for the latest gossip on social activities, business, and recent events in the Los Angeles area several years before the founding of Long Beach. Enjoy light refreshments and music in the gardens. \$12; reservations required.

FOR ADULTS

Winter Lecture Series

Explore California's Native American, Spanish and Mexican history. 7 p.m.; \$5/\$3 students.

February 8: "The Joy of Gardening with California Natives," by Lili Singer

March 7: "California's Ranchos: Building the Hispanic Legacy," by Dr. Miroslava Chavez-Garcia

April 11: "Living off the Land: then and Now Through the Eyes of the Tongva," by Craig Torrez

May 9: "Rancho Life, Rancho Lives," by Dr. William Deverell

Rancho Society In History And Memory, March 20

A look at how the rancho period is traditionally taught in the 4th grade, exploring the romanticized version of rancho life and contrasting it with the everyday reality on local ranchos. Free, reservations required. Ideal for teachers! 4-6 p.m. Offered in conjunction with Long Beach Reads One Book Week.

An Evening With Zorro, March 23

Explore Zorro's origins and escapades through mini-lectures and memorabilia, and examine his portrayal in movies and publications. Program offered in conjunction with Long Beach Reads One Book Week. Free, reservations required.

Workshops

October 20: California native plants; call for information and reservations.

November 17: Holiday décor; call for information and reservations.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 16 + UP

Interested in living history, gardening, historical research, helping maintain a 168-year-old building, and more? RSVP for a free Volunteer Opportunities Coffee on September 8 and learn how you can become involved at Long Beach's only National and State Historic Landmark!

Living History Docent Training begins January 28

Garden Docent Training begins February 24

School Docent Training begins September 12

Teen Volunteer Opportunities Open Houses: June 27 & October 18

Teen Docent Training begins October 25