



The Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake

Located within Cachuma Lake Recreation Area - 2265 Hwy. #154, Santa Barbara, CA 93105
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Trout Derby Hotline: (805) 693-8381

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Come Join Us for a Great Fishing Event *Nature Center Fish Derby* *At Cachuma Lake*

Fish are Biting!

12,000 pounds of Trout already planted!

4,000 pounds more scheduled before the Derby!

The Neal Taylor Nature Center 28th Annual Fish Derby:

- **At Cachuma Lake**
- **April 26th & 27th**
- **Rain or Shine**
- **\$5000.00 plus in cash prizes**
- **Thousands more in merchandise prizes**
- **Registration:**
 - **\$40.00 -Postmark after April 12, 2025**
 - **\$45.00-On-site Fri. 4/25 to Sun. 4/27/25**
 - **Ages 4-15 years old always - \$10.00**

The derby is the annual fundraiser.

for the Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization.

For more information, call the Trout Derby Hotline at (805) 693-8381.

The Neal Taylor Nature Center's **28th Annual Fish Derby**

28th Annual Fish Derby April 26th & 27th

The Fish Derby is the major fundraiser for The Neal Taylor Nature at Cachuma Lake which is a non-profit organization.

There is good news for all types of anglers! This year's Fish Derby will again include prize categories for multiple types of fish such as crappie, bass, catfish, trout, and carp. The prize pool has been increased this year which means everyone has a chance to win great cash prizes, fishing gear, and more!

Anglers of all ages are encouraged to enter the Nature Center's 28th Annual Fish Derby on April 26th and 27th.

Registration fee for adults is 40.00 -Postmark after April 12, 2025, and \$45.00-On-site Fri. 4/25 to Sun. 4/27/25 and Youth Registration for ages 4 – 15 years old is always \$10. Registration forms are available at Cachuma Lake Park entry gate, store, marina, Nature Center, and local businesses. To receive information and a registration form in the mail, leave your name and address on the **hotline (805) 693-8381 or visit www.TROUTDERBY.org**

Cash prizes amounting to more than \$5,000 plus thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise prizes will be awarded in many categories and to anglers of all ages. Certain prizes are designated for children and for teens.

All anglers 16 years and older must have a fishing license which may be purchased at the marina.

Free arts and crafts activities will be offered to children Saturday afternoon of Derby weekend and the Nature Center will also host a special Books & Treasure Sale on Saturday.

The Derby fishing **begins at 6 a.m. on Saturday, April 26 and ends at 12 noon on April 27, 2025.** Contestants must fish in Cachuma Lake during the tournament hours and may fish from shore at any time during the Derby, including Saturday night. A flare will be fired at the harbor to start the Derby on Saturday and to end the Derby on Sunday.

ATTENTION

Due to the threat of quagga mussels, Cachuma Lake has a 30-day quarantine and inspection of all boats except those with a Cachuma Lake Tag and kayaks/canoes.

Please check for updates to the inspection protocol at www.sbparks.org

OTHER FISH DERBY ACTIVITIES

Visit the Neal Taylor Nature Center:

Thursday through Saturday; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. & Sunday 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Admission: Donations Welcomed.

Children's Activities will be on the lawn in front of the Nature Center from 1 - 3 p.m. on Saturday. Donations Welcomed.

Purchase Raffle tickets (open to general public) for valuable prizes starting 12 noon on Fri. April 25, 2025, and throughout the Fish Derby. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Sunday Awards Program which begins at 1:00 pm at the Fireside Theater. **You need not be present to win the raffle.**

Books and Treasures Sale: At the Nature Center from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Awards Program at the Fireside Theater on Sunday, April 27th at 1:00 p.m.

To make reservations for cabins, yurts, individual camp sites or full hook-up sites go to: www.sbparks.org/reservations or call (805) 686-5050. For other camping information call (805) 686-5054.

More about the Derby:

The Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake will hold the 28th Annual Fish Derby on April 26th and 27th, 2025.

The derby is the major fund-raising event for the Center that was founded by the late Neal Taylor in 1988.

Over \$5,000 in cash prizes in various fish categories will be awarded (see Prize schedule below) Registered individuals must be 4 years or older to participate. A registered angler is eligible for door prizes to be given away at the Awards Program on Sunday at 1:00 pm at Fireside Theater. Door prize winners must be present; cash prizes will be mailed if the winner is not present.

Entry fees are:

\$40.00 -Postmark after April 12, 2025

\$45.00-On-site Fri. 4/25 to Sun. 4/27/25

Ages 4-15 years old always - \$10.00

Children's activities will be organized on the lawn in front of the Nature Center on Saturday from 1 to 3 pm. This event is well attended with children having a wonderful time working on arts and crafts projects. Lots of laughing and fun activities; parents have a great time too! Admission is free, donations are welcomed.

Folks are encouraged to visit the Nature Center during the children's activities or at other hours during the weekend. Knowledgeable docents and volunteers will gladly show visitors the exhibits on plants, animals, and other topics. There are many hands-on objects for children to experience.

A books and treasures sale will be held at the Nature Center Saturday from 10am until 2pm. This is also a fund-raising event for the Nature Center and visitors are encouraged to browse and buy the hundreds of books and other special items.

Visitors may purchase raffle tickets for valuable prizes beginning at noon on Friday, April 25 and continued through the weekend until Sunday noon. Winning tickets will be drawn at the Sunday Awards Program, beginning at 1:00 at Fireside Theater. Winners do not need to be present.

Folks may call the Fish Derby Hotline for up-to-date information (805) 693-8381 or visit us at www.TroutDerby.org.

For additional information and/or to receive a registration in the mail, leave your name and address on the hotline (805) 693-8381 or register online or download a registration by visiting www.TroutDerby.org

Fish Derby Cash Prizes

\$599 Heaviest Trout Caught

\$300 2nd Heaviest Trout Caught

\$599 Heaviest Bass Caught

\$300 2nd Heaviest Bass Caught

\$599 Heaviest Crappie Caught

\$300 2nd Heaviest Crappie Caught

\$599 Heaviest Catfish Caught

\$300 2nd Heaviest Catfish Caught

\$300 Heaviest Carp Caught

\$150 2nd Heaviest Carp Caught

\$125 Heaviest Fish caught by Girl 11-15 yrs.

\$100 2nd Heaviest Fish caught by Girl 11-15 yrs.

\$50 3rd Heaviest Fish caught by Girl 11-15 yrs.

\$25 4th Heaviest Fish caught by Girl 11-15 yrs.

\$125 Heaviest Fish caught by Boy 11-15 yrs.

\$100 2nd Heaviest Fish caught by Boy 11-15 yrs.

\$50 3rd Heaviest Fish caught by Boy 11-15 yrs.

\$25 4th Heaviest Fish caught by Boy 11-15 yrs.

\$125 The Dutch Wilson Prize (the fish caught by the oldest angler)

\$250 for \$25 each to first 10 kids 10 yrs. & under to catch a fish! (1 \$25 prize & 1 rod per child)

About Neal Taylor:

The Nature Center was founded in 1988 when the dream of naturalist, Neal Taylor, became a reality. Neal Taylor began fishing as a child in the Eastern Sierras with his father. As a teenager, Neal began entering fly fishing tournaments and started his own fly-tying business, Taylor Ties Flies. This business grew to have over a dozen employees. Neal fished all over the world and conducted fly fishing instructional camps throughout the Western United States. He taught fly fishing to several celebrities and to three United States Presidents. Neal Taylor is the author of "Fly Fishing" which is available in the Nature Center Gift Shop. Neal also taught various college level courses and was a frequent and popular speaker for business, professional, service, and recreational organizations. Neal served as Naturalist for the Santa Barbara County Parks Department for over 18 years before retiring.

Neal was a favorite of youth groups of all ages and his legendary storytelling skills and humor added vitality and excitement to all the walks and talks he once led. Neal, until his passing in Feb. 2011 continued to be very active as a Nature Center Board member and was a lead participant in the various fishing workshops held at the Nature Center, including the widely attended annual Trout Derby. With Neal's passing in Feb. 2011, it was proposed to rename the Cachuma Lake Nature Center in his honor to The Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake.

About The Neal Taylor Nature Center at Cachuma Lake

The Neal Taylor Nature Center (NTNC), a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, is located within Cachuma Recreational Area in a picturesque old ranch house. Developed and operated by a corps of committed volunteers, it offers exhibits on the local valley and mountain environment for all ages, emphasizing hands-on exhibits for children of all ages. There is also a Native Garden behind the Nature Center.

Nature Center & Gift Store Hours

Thursday thru Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sundays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Admission to the Nature Center: Donations appreciated.