Coe Ranch Campground
at Henry W. Coe State Park
9000 East Dunne Avenue • Morgan Hill, CA 95037 • (408) 779-2728

Henry W. Coe State Park is the largest state park in Northern California, with over 87,000 acres of wild open spaces. The Coe Ranch Campground consists of 20 drive-in sites, located on top of Pine Ridge at 2,600 feet. Some campsites offer many beautiful panoramic views; others are beneath shady oaks. Sites not located beneath trees have shade ramadas. Reservations are strongly advised on weekends.

CAMPING: The narrow and winding road to the park may not be suitable for large motor vehicles. About half of the Coe Ranch Campground will accommodate motor homes up to 25 feet long and trailers up to 20 feet long. Considered primitive, the campground has piped water and nearby vault toilets, but no showers or hookups.

PARK FEES are due and payable upon entry into the park. Use the self-registration system if the visitor center is closed.

OCCUPANCY: Eight people are allowed per family campsite. Reservation fees include one vehicle and one legally towed-in vehicle. Extra vehicles will be charged a fee.

VEHICLE PARKING: Vehicles may only be parked in the assigned campsite. They must remain on the pavement and must not extend into the roadway beyond the campsite number or limit line. Standard campsites that can accommodate an RV can fit more than one car per site. Tent-only sites can fit only one car. Please register all vehicles for your campsite at the entrance station before parking.

CAMPSPITES: Ropes or lines may not be attached to any plant, fence or park structure. Tents and other equipment must be confined to the space assigned. Tents are not allowed on paved areas.

CHECK-OUT TIME is noon. Please vacate your site by that time. Check-in is 2 p.m.

QUIET HOURS are from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. To ensure an enjoyable experience for everyone, please do not disturb other campers.

GENERATORS may only be operated between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

NOISE: Radios and other sound-producing devices must not be audible beyond the immediate campsite, regardless of day or night. All amplified music must be off by 10 p.m.

CAMPERS UNDER 18 must be accompanied by an adult or have written permission from a parent or guardian to camp overnight.

FIRES are allowed in the fire rings provided. During fire season, wood campfires and charcoal may be banned—check with park staff. You may use your own barbecue, but dump the ashes into a fire ring. Due to the fire danger, fires are prohibited in the backcountry. Gathering wood in the park is not allowed. Purchase firewood at the visitor center.

DOGS must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and under supervision at all times. They are not allowed on the dirt roads and backcountry trails, except for the Live Oak Trail, which starts at the visitor center and ends .4 miles away at the overflow entrance parking lot. Dogs are allowed within the campground and along paved roads. Please clean up after your pets. They must be confined to a vehicle or tent at night.

PROTECTION OF NATURAL FEATURES: All plants, animals, rocks and other natural features are protected and must not be collected, defaced or damaged.

FISHING is permitted in accordance with state regulations, and a fishing information handout is available at the visitor center.

MOTOR VEHICLES are restricted to the entry roads and parking areas. The park’s dirt roads and trails are closed to motor vehicles.

HIKING: Most people come to Henry W. Coe State Park to hike over 250 miles of dirt roads and trails. The steep roads and trails can test the endurance of even experienced hikers, so be sure to pack plenty of water and food, and carry a map with you. If you hike alone, let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

BICYCLING: Bikes are not allowed in the wilderness area, and cross-country bicycling is prohibited. Many roads and trails are extremely steep and dangerous for bike riders. Some trails are closed to bikes. You should be in top physical condition and expect to walk your bike in many areas. Few trails are suitable for beginners. Bikes are not allowed in the Orestimba Wilderness Area.

HAZARDS TO RECOGNIZE AND AVOID

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Certain designated trails close to headquarters are also off limits to bikes. Bicyclists should yield the right of way to hikers and horseback riders. The speed limit is 15 mph. Slow down on narrow trails as safety requires. The park has about 64,000 acres open to mountain bikes and is one of the most bike-friendly parks in the Bay Area. Please keep it that way and ride your bike in a responsible, safe manner.

SWIMMING: You will have to hike at least five miles to reach areas suitable for swimming. The best swimming holes are in the creeks in the spring. By summer, most of the creeks are dry, except for a few year-round water holes. The most popular swimming spot is China Hole, but the hike there and back is a very strenuous 10-mile trip with 1,500 feet of elevation gain. Diving is prohibited in California State Parks.

HAZARDS: Be aware and prepared for hazards in the park such as ticks, poison oak, rattlesnakes, wild pigs, mountain lions, winter storms and physical exhaustion.

Ticks can carry Lyme disease. To prevent Lyme disease, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants, and tuck in your clothing. Apply a tick repellent to clothing. Check for ticks periodically and remove ticks before they bite.

Poison Oak is common in some areas of the park. Avoid poison oak by hiking on the wide backcountry roads rather than on the trails. Learn to identify and avoid poison oak in all its forms.

Rattlesnakes are not aggressive—if you do not bother them, they will not bother you! Do not attempt to pick up a rattlesnake. All wildlife in the park, including rattlesnakes, belong to the natural environment and are protected by law.

Wild pigs are seen occasionally in the park, but are not usually aggressive and will avoid humans. If you encounter a group of wild pigs, make your presence known by yelling and waving your hands.

Mountain lions live in the park but are rarely seen. Be aware of your surroundings. If you encounter a mountain lion, stand—don’t run—and make yourself look big. The lion will probably run away. Keep children close to camp and under supervision.

Winter storms can cause creeks to swell and become impassable. Carry extra food, and be prepared to be stuck on the wrong side of a creek after a storm. Creeks have no bridges.

Exhaustion is the most common problem that hikers encounter in the park. The terrain in the park can be challenging. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are very real dangers. Carry lots of water, carefully choose your route, know your physical limits and use common sense to avoid exhaustion.