

Santa Rosa Island Research Station

Policies and Rules



- A. Introduction:** The Santa Rosa Island Research Station (SRIRS) is open to use for qualified research, educational, and outreach purposes. All use must be approved by and coordinated with the SRIRS Director. It is imperative that all station users adhere to the safety and access rules. Information below includes details on liability waivers, submitting applications for research or class use, facilities and resources available, user responsibilities, safety tips, and potential hazards.
- B. Visitor Responsibilities:** All group leaders or individual users are responsible for making sure that each participant is aware of, complies with station policies, and rules described in this document. **All users should have submitted an [online application](#) for approval from SRIRS.** All individuals must sign a CSUCI Waiver prior to or upon entering the station. The goal of the station, to provide a forum for the discovery and rich exchange of information, is dependent upon your consideration for and receptivity of fellow station users.
- C. Recommended and Prohibited Items**
- 1. Recommended Items:** **Medications**, sunscreen, sleeping bag, towels and toiletries, pillow, camera, rain gear (weather dependent), windbreaker, layers of clothing, swimwear, feminine hygiene products, allergy kits, shoes (sandals alone are not adequate; should have some type of closed-toe shoes), hat, flashlight or headlamp, and signed liability waiver.
 - 2. Prohibited Items:**
 - a. Plastic grocery bags** (single-use carryout bags) are prohibited on the island because if accidentally released they can pose health and environmental risks to threatened and endangered marine species.
 - b. Firearms** or other **weapons** and **fireworks**.
 - c. Non-Native Species.** Non-native, invasive species threaten endangered animals and plants on the Channel Islands and are costly to control. The following regulations and guidelines can help prevent the introduction and spread of non-native species before they become a problem. **To prevent the introduction of non-native species the following items shall not be transported or delivered to the island:** pets or any animal (including insects), service animals (except by permit from park superintendent), live or potted plants, soil, cut flowers, firewood or any untreated, unfinished wood (including hiking sticks), **corrugated cardboard boxes**, tools or equipment with attached soil or vegetative materials, motorized vehicles, and bicycles. Less restrictive measures would have the potential for introduction of non-native species that could adversely affect many species and/or endanger the island ecosystems.
 - d. Weapons of any sort are prohibited:** this include knives, firearms, or anything that could be used as a weapon
- Please inspect your personal gear (e.g. packs, shoes, etc.) and clean off dirt, seeds, and insects before departing from the mainland.**
- D. Rules and Regulations:**
- 1. Everything is protected.** Do not feed, collect, disturb, or harm park wildlife, plant life, or other natural or cultural resources.
 - 2. No fishing within marine reserves.** It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource within the marine protected areas.
 - 3. No jumping off the pier.**
 - 4. No pets.** Pets are not allowed on the island. Domestic pets can carry diseases that could harm animals unique to the island; endemic island species can conversely carry diseases harmful to domestic animals. Service animals require a permit from the park superintendent in advance of your trip.
 - 5. No campfires, charcoal fires, or beach fires.** Due to extreme fire danger, no campfires are permitted anywhere on the islands.

6. **No Smoking.** No smoking is permitted at or around the research station (including vaporizers). Smoking is only permitted on the beach. Please take cigarette butts off island.
7. **Closed Areas.** To protect wildlife, the beaches at Sandy Point are closed year-round. From March 1st to September 15th, Skunk Point beaches and sand dunes are closed. Please remain on the wet sand (below mean high tide) or the road through this area.
8. **Conserve Energy and Water.** The research station is powered primarily by solar photovoltaic energy; thus, it is extremely important that you conserve power. We ask that you go over the unique needs of this system and eliminate any waste of electricity or water (which uses power to pump and to filter).
9. **Alcohol Prohibited at all Undergraduate Trips.** The consumption and possession of alcohol is prohibited on all undergraduate trips to, from, and while on SRI. This includes during travel via Island Packers.
10. **Remove all Personal Items.** No item(s) brought to the SRIRS or Channel Islands National Park can be left behind, including (but not limited to) food, unless prior arrangements have been made with the station director or other SRIRS staff.

E. Application Procedure: Visitors are asked to use our **on-line registration system** and **calendar** to apply for access to the facility and describe their intended use. After completing your application and reservation, please contact the SRIRS Director Robyn Shea to discuss your request to use the SRIRS (805) 437-1653, robyn.shea@csuci.edu



You must file a separate [application](#) for each of the following purposes:

1. **Education.** Each student visiting the station must sign a CSUCI liability waiver. The parent or legal guardian must sign liability waivers for minors. It is the responsibility of the group leader (the person who signs the application) to be sure that the necessary waiver forms for their group are signed and delivered to the station director/coordinator, who meets you upon your arrival to the island. Visitors must listen to an orientation talk upon arrival, agree to adhere to the station rules outlined in this document, and acknowledge that they have reviewed and understand the safety related information (see the “Safety and Emergency” section of this document). Please review our user rates and fees.
2. **Public.** Each visitor to the station must sign a CSUCI liability waiver. The parent or legal guardian must sign liability waivers for minors. It is the responsibility of the group leader (the person who signs the application) to be sure that the necessary waiver forms for their group are signed and delivered to the station staff who meets you upon your arrival to the island. Visitors must listen to an orientation talk upon arrival, agree to adhere to the station rules outlined in this document, and acknowledge that they have reviewed and understand the safety related information (see the “Safety and Emergency” section of this document). Please review our user rates and fees.
3. **Research.** Each researcher at the station must sign a CSUCI liability waiver. If you have more than one research project, a separate SRI Research Station application must be filed for each project. Please refer to the scientific research application procedures to obtain approval for your proposed research (also see the “research” section of this document).
4. **Group Leaders.** Each visitor to the station must sign a CSUCI liability waiver. The group leader is also responsible for making sure each participant is aware of the Research Station policies and guidelines and safety related information.

F. Transportation: Please check with the SRIRS Director, Robyn Shea, before arranging for transportation to make sure your application to visit the SRIRS has been approved and the requested dates confirmed. Reservations for air and boat transportation will need to be made well in advance of the trip, so please initiate contact as early as possible. Please be aware of the weather forecast and contact your transportation courier if there is any reason to suspect a delay or cancellation.

1. **Island Packers Boat Charter** (805-642-1393, <http://www.islandpackers.com/>): Regularly scheduled trips out of Ventura Harbor from March through November. Days and times vary so be sure to confirm with the charter service when making your reservation. Round-trip for day visitors is \$89 and round trip for overnight visitors is \$126.

G. Arrival and Departure: The research station staff will give you a brief (20-30 minute) orientation upon

arrival and let your group settle into the bunkhouse.

Please sign in and out of the research station upon arrival and departure for all activities during your stay (located next to the entrance door).

We ask that you keep the research station clean during your stay and leave it in as good (or better) condition as you found it. Basic cleaning supplies (broom, spray bottle) are in the laundry room. To uphold and support our request, the group leader will be given a **cleaning checklist** to follow for cleaning that facility both during the visit and before departure. We will charge you \$50 per hour if cleanup by the research station staff is required following your departure.

If the research station staff is unable to be on island during your scheduled trip please refer to the **check-in and checkout list** to turn on and off the water, propane, kitchen stove/oven, and hot water heater.

H. Facilities and Equipment:

1. **Bunkhouse:** The SRI bunkhouse has sleeping accommodations for up to 36 persons. The bunkhouse consists of eight bedrooms and three bathrooms. There are 22 beds in the facility and overflow in Tent Cabins is available for an additional 14 visitors. Guests need to bring their own sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, etc. The research station is dark at night so remember to bring a flashlight or headlamp.
 - a. The **kitchen** is equipped with standard large and small appliances, cookware, dishes, silverware, cleaning supplies, etc. All cooking is done at the facility; individual cooking stoves are prohibited, due to increased fire hazard. We recommend bringing an extra day's supply of food as you can sometimes be detained on the island due to bad weather.
 - b. **Hot and cold running water** and flushing **toilets** are furnished. Electricity and water are limited, so please make every effort to conserve power and water (which uses power to pump and filter). Showers are only available for trips lasting longer than 5 days, to help conserve island resources.
 - c. A propane grill is available for use. **Do not leave grill unattended due to the high fire hazard and animals. No open fires or fire pits are permitted. There is no 'fire department' on island.**
2. **Storage Sheds:** Storage space is available for research, lab, or personal items. Please review our user rates and fees for the annual rates.
3. **Communications:** Currently, cell phone service is not available at the SRIRS. In the case of an emergency a satellite phone and park radios are available from SRIRS Staff. **Internet service is available at the SRIRS-with restrictions – for more details contact the Director of the SRIRS.**

We make no guarantees that any of the services provided, including but not limited to, housing, water, electricity, and internet, will be available or will be fully functional.

- I. **Rates and Fees:** Daily use and overnight stays are charged per person by the day. We cannot bill users individually. Payment is due 4 weeks in advance of your stay with a signed Facility Use Agreement. A list of current station fees and rates is posted on our website. All user fees go directly toward operation of the station.
- J. **Emergencies, Safety, and Hazards**
 1. **Emergencies:** There are no medical facilities on the island. If you have specific medical needs, **make sure to bring a supply of your medication.** Anyone with allergies, to anything such as yellow jackets, or anyone with an asthmatic condition must always bring medication with them and keep it on them during their entire visit and. Please notify the station staff of any medical concerns for you or anyone in your group. If you have any medical concerns, **check with your doctor** before coming to the island

Emergency Contact Information

Less than Life-Threatening Emergencies
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Robyn Shea (SRIRS Director): Radio call sign – 950, (805) 437-1653 (campus office), (805) 377-3486 (work cell)2. Juliana Perez (SRIRS Coordinator): Radio call sign 952, (805) 437-3785 (campus office)3. Bryce Carpenter (SRI Law Enforcement Ranger): Radio call sign 2514. Tim Jones (SRI Park Maintenance): Radio call sign – 3515. Matt Hirni (SRI Park Maintenance): Radio call sign – 3506. Sequoia Dispatch: “Sequoia Dispatch” then say your radio # or “CSUCI Research Station”, once they respond, say the island you’re on, repeater you’re using, or call (559) 565-3195, 24/7
Life Threatening and Severe Emergencies
FIRST CONTACT! Sequoia National Park Dispatch (SEKI): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Sequoia Dispatch” then say your radio # or “CSUCI Research Station”, once they respond, say the island you’re on, repeater you’re using, or call (559) 565-3195, 24/7• 7 days/week, 24 hrs. /day, 365 day/yr. United States Coast Guard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radio Channel 16 ADDITIONAL CONTACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robyn Shea (SRIRS Director): Radio call sign 950, (805) 437-1653 (campus office), (805) 377-3486 (cell)• Juliana Perez (SRIRS Coordinator): Radio call sign 952, (805) 437-3785 (campus office)• Bryce Carpenter (SRI Law Enforcement Ranger): Radio call sign 251• Tim Jones (SRI Park Maintenance): Radio call sign – 351• Matt Hirni (SRI Park Maintenance): Radio call sign – 350• Santa Barbara Co. Sheriff’s Dept. SAR Air Unit: primary ALS responder, 805-693-9674 – SEKI initiates• Ventura County Sheriff SAR Paramedics – back up ALS responder, 805-388-4212; direct line – (Flight Crew), 805-654-9521 (after hours – 6pm)• Mercy Air: backup ALS responder, 800-683-2724• Coast Guard Rescue SAR (BLS): VHF Channel 16, 800-221-8724, 310-521-3815

If there is an emergency, contact one of the individuals/agencies below and ask them to get hold of the SRI Research Station Director, Russ Bradley, Radio call sign – **950**, SRI Research Station Assistant Director, Robyn Shea, Radio call sign – **951**, or a SRI Research Station Coordinator, Juliana Perez, Radio call Sign – **952**. There will always be at least one SRIRS staff member on island with you, so **contact them first**.

Emergency Communication with Individuals at the Santa Rosa Island Research Station
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Robyn Shea (SRIRS Director): Radio call sign- 950, (805) 377-3486 cell2. Sequoia Dispatch: (805) 658-5700 X 5620 (available 24/7)
For Questions Regarding Trip Logistics and Return Times
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Juliana Perez: (805) 437-3785 (office, M-F only), juliana.perez432@csuci.edu,2. Island Packers: (805) 642-1393

2. **Safety & Hazards:** Santa Rosa Island is a wild natural area, and your visit may involve some risks. You can avoid problems through awareness of potentially risky situations, and using good judgment:
 - a. **Hiking:** Hikers need to assume individual responsibility for planning their trips and hiking safely. There are hiking guides and maps available in the bunkhouse, as well as backcountry safety awareness information. If possible, familiarize yourself with the safety procedures and routes before you head out. Hikers should **never hike alone – use the buddy system**. This allows someone to go for help if you encounter trouble. There is also a Sign-out sheet posted in the bunkhouse dining room; **all hikers are required to record their outings prior to departure**. This is a safety system that is only effective if used consistently, so **please use this sheet**.
 - b. **Rugged Terrain:** There are downed logs, unstable rocks, steep slopes, cliffs, steep and narrow roads, and

many other potential hazards on Santa Rosa Island. Cliff edges should always be avoided since they tend to be crumbly and unstable. Stay well back. Be aware of **poison oak**, **“jumping” cholla cactus**, **ticks**, and **scorpions**. Use caution and good judgment.

- c. **Dehydration:** Dehydration can lead to life threatening conditions; Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke. Drink and carry plenty of water. If you wait until you are thirsty, you already have a negative water balance. A useful rule of thumb for avoiding dehydration in hot environments or during strenuous activity involves monitoring the frequency and character of urination. If one develops a full bladder at least every 3-5 hours and the urine is only lightly colored or colorless, chances are that dehydration is not occurring; if urine is deeply colored, or urination occurs only after many hours or not at all, water intake may not be adequate to maintain proper hydration.
- d. **Swimming:** Ocean conditions are highly variable and sometimes dangerous. Many beaches on the islands have steep, dangerous shore breaks. The wind and swell generally come from the northwest and become stronger as the day continues. Please be aware of the following suggestions and risks prior to entering the water:
 - **There are no lifeguards on duty**, so all water sports are at your own risk.
 - Snorkelers, divers, and swimmers should **always use the buddy system**.
 - **Rip currents can be killers.** Rip currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from the shore that quickly pull swimmers out to sea. The most important thing to remember if you are caught in a rip current is: **Do not swim against the current**. Instead, swim across the current, parallel to the shore, slowly working your way back to the beach at an angle. Remain calm and signal if you need help.
 - **Watch the weather.** Storms and squalls come up quickly.
 - Due to cold water conditions (55° to 70° F). Wetsuits and hoods recommended.
- e. **Poison Oak:** Common in riparian areas and shaded north facing slopes. May be avoided. "Leaves of three let them be." For more information on Poison Oak see: <http://poisonivy.aesir.com/>
- f. **Ticks and Lyme disease:** Ticks on the island may carry Lyme disease. Routine body-checks for ticks are advised. If bitten, monitor symptoms and consult with a physician. For more information on Lyme disease see: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Pages/LymeDisease.aspx>
 - *Signs and Symptoms of Lyme Disease:* Lyme disease is acquired through the bite of an infected tick. Not all patients with Lyme disease will have all the symptoms, and many of the symptoms can occur with other diseases as well. Symptoms include a red rash (especially surrounding the tick bite), flu-like symptoms (fatigue, chills, fever, and headache), or joint pains in the first month following any tick bite.
 - *Proper Personal Protection Equipment (PPE):* Long sleeved shirts, tuck shirt into pants, and tuck pants into boots. Not wearing the same clothes every day may increase protection as will laundering and using the high heat cycle in a clothes dryer. Conduct a full body check for ticks every day you are in the field.
 - *Tick Removal:* Grasp the tick near the surface of the skin with tweezers and gently but firmly pull away from the skin until the tick pulls out. The tick will not let go easily, but it will release by slowly increasing outward pressure. After the tick is removed, you should wash the bite area and apply antiseptic cream. If pieces of the tick remain imbedded, seek medical attention and have those parts removed.
- g. **Fire:** If you smell/see fire/smoke, please inform station or park staff immediately.
- h. **Hantavirus:** This is a potentially fatal disease caused by a virus carried by deer mice. Hantavirus is transmitted through the body fluids of the mouse and can become airborne when large masses of feces and urine are disturbed. Short visits to the station present low risk. Most cases of Hantavirus infections have occurred because of occupation of buildings that have been inhabited by rodents for many years. Do not handle live or dead rodents or their feces or urine. Contact the SRIRS Director if any of those items are discovered. For more information on Hanta virus see below
Alternatively: <http://ehs.ucdavis.edu/animal/health/hantavirus.cfm>
- *Signs and Symptoms of Hantavirus:* Mild flu-like symptoms (muscle ache, slight fever, and lethargy), usually two to six weeks after exposure to the virus. Acute respiratory distress may follow. If you experience flu-like symptoms and believe you may have had contact with the rodents within the last 30 days, contact your physician immediately and tell him/her specifically that you believe that you have been exposed to

Hantavirus.

- **CSUCI Prevention:** CSUCI is making every effort to reduce and avoid contact between station users and mice. We are actively: 1) reducing mouse ingress, egress, and access to the buildings and 2) reducing mouse populations in the building by trapping. Your help is appreciated with this.
- **User Prevention:** Do not feed wild animals, keep food and drink in rodent proof containers, keep cooking and dining areas as clean as possible, and report any signs of rodent infestations to the SRIRS staff. All building doors should always be closed.

K. Education

1. **K-12:** CHIS has developed a multi-tiered curriculum for various age groups. CSUCI is currently in the process of developing interdisciplinary curriculum that addresses the common core standards (brief description at: <http://www.corestandards.org/>). Proposed activities include but are not limited to field trip destination, high school STEM research, distance learning, and an environmental science summer field camp.
2. **Undergraduate:** The SRIRS promotes a multiple scale strategy to engage undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds in interdisciplinary field-based undergraduate research and education. Proposed activities include and are not limited to college orientations, retreats, course field trips, semester/year-long programs, field-camps, and independent research projects.

A. Research

1. **Research Approval:** All research performed on Santa Rosa Island is reviewed and approved. Scientists and students wishing to initiate new experimental protocols and/or observational methods must submit an online [application](#).



SRIRS Application
Portal



SRIRS Website

2. **Archaeological and Paleontological Discoveries:** Santa Rosa Island contains significant natural and cultural resources, which include threatened and endangered plants and animals, fragile and irreplaceable archeological resources (including burials), and important geological and paleontological specimens. Individuals planning research projects must be aware of these and ensure that they consult with the appropriate persons in their project planning in order to avoid damage or injury to these resources. Please review the Channel Islands National park protocols for archaeological and paleontological discoveries.
3. **Research Permit:** The Director of the Station will determine in partnership with NPS staff if the proposed activities require an NPS Research Permit. Please refer to the SRIRS scientific research application procedures for more details.
4. **Choosing Research Sites:** Scientists establishing new sites must do three things: choose sites that do not conflict with ongoing research, obtain the necessary approval and permits, and keep the SRIRS Director informed of new sites. When choosing new sites for yourself or your students, check the research map at the bunkhouse or on the GIS computers. If another researcher is working nearby, please take the initiative to contact that researcher to prevent conflicts. Please coordinate with the SRIRS Director as questions arise.
5. **Research Site Markers:** Research in a National Park requires special permission and documentation. It is not permissible to put up flags or markers on Santa Rosa Island without express permission. It is especially important that research on SRI, once it is approved, is off the trail by 50 meters, if possible, and is as invisible as possible. The National Park takes pride in protecting a wild experience for all visitors to the island. Highly visible research markers and gear are thought to detract from that visitor experience. If any station user notices highly visible flags or markers on SRI, please contact the Station Director.

6. Researcher Responsibilities:

a. **Submit an Investigator Annual Report (IAR) via RPRS and/or an Annual Report to the SRIRS**

Director: If the researcher obtained an NPS Research Permit, they must submit their IAR before submitting a new application (even for a different study) or by March 31, whichever is earlier. The IAR is submitted directly via the RPRS website. Researchers receive an email from RPRS coordinator with instructions, usually in January. For all approved SRIRS scientific research a copy of the IAR or an annual summary must also be emailed to the SRIRS Director (robyn.shea@csuci.edu). The annual summary must be submitted by June 30th of each year and include the following:

- M. A summary of research accomplishments, including the title of the project, a list of all participants on the project with their affiliations.
- N. A list of your current publications based on research done at the SRIRS (complete references).
- O. Source of funding for your project, dates of funding, and the funding amount.
 - b. **Submit Spatial Data:** All research sites must be mapped with SRIRS GPS units and appropriate metadata must be submitted. This allows us to track where you work, prevent conflicts, and obtain

proper permits for your research. Please contact the Research Station Director to set up a training session with the SRIRS GPS units. Researchers who fail to provide this information will not be approved for future permits or renewals. Name your file with the following information:

Lastname_year_InstallationType/CollectionType (e.g., Hanna_2014_Datalogger)

- *Installation Types*: Animal tags/collar, camera, computer, datalogger, enclosure, exclosure, flagging, plot markers, probes, traps, telephone, tree tags, water samplers, weather station, well, etc.
- *Collection types*: animal sign (tracks, hair, etc.), data, ground water, invertebrates, listed species, nonvascular plants, other biota, photographs, rocks/minerals, surface water, vascular plants- collected, vascular plants-tagged, vertebrates-collected, vertebrates-tagged, etc.
- c. **Submission of Metadata**: Whenever you create a dataset from work you do at the SRI Research Station, you must fill out a metadata form that describes your dataset, including: your contact information (name, mailing address, and email address), an abstract (500 words maximum), keywords, temporal/spatial coverage of you data, and a description of each variable. Please email the completed metadata form to the SRIRS Director (robyn.shea@csuci.edu). If your work involves ongoing, multiyear studies, please submit your metadata database entry at the end of the second year of your investigations and, once again, when you complete the study. Failure to deposit metadata information as requested may lead to automatic denial of future use applications.
- d. **Submission of Bibliographic Data**: You must provide the SRI Research Station with the full bibliographic citation - whether you did a report, thesis, book, research paper, conference proceedings, or other publication. You must do this within six months of publication. Failure to deposit bibliographic information as requested may lead to automatic denial of future use applications.
- e. **Submit Final Report/Publication for Each Study**: CHIS and the SRIRS want to know the results of your research. Please email an electronic version (PDF file) of all published materials and final reports to the primary CHIS contact (Ken_Convery@nps.gov) and the SRIRS Director (robyn.shea@csuci.edu). Please acknowledge the CSUCI Santa Rosa Island Research Station and Channel Island National Park in any publication resulting from use of SRIRS. This step is critical to demonstrate the benefit of research to resource management and science. In certain cases, NPS will ask for detailed information about research results (i.e., raw and/or analyzed data) that pertain to an important management issue. Please provide these data in a timely fashion.

- **Research Station Contacts**

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