

Crab Cove Visitor Center | East Bay Regional Park District



Dear parent or guardian:

Depending on our availability, we generally offer nature parties on Saturdays & Sundays from 10:30-11:30am. Please visit ebparks.org and search for the term "NATURE PARTY" to view availability and to register.



Crab Cove Nature Parties

FEE

- \$100 flat rate (paid online)
- Covers up to 15 children (including siblings)
- 15 children MAXIMUM may attend

LOCATION

- Crab Cove Visitor Center, 1252 McKay Avenue, Alameda 94501
- Have guests meet you in or near our visitor center a few minutes before your party is to begin
- Public restrooms are located outside at the end of our building
- The visitor center opens at 10am

PARKING

- Parking is limited in the Crab Cove lot and on McKay Avenue on weekends
- More parking available at the Otis Lot on 8th/Westline and Otis Drive (see enclosed map)
- Advise drivers that parking is \$5 per vehicle on weekends April thru September when the kiosk is staffed

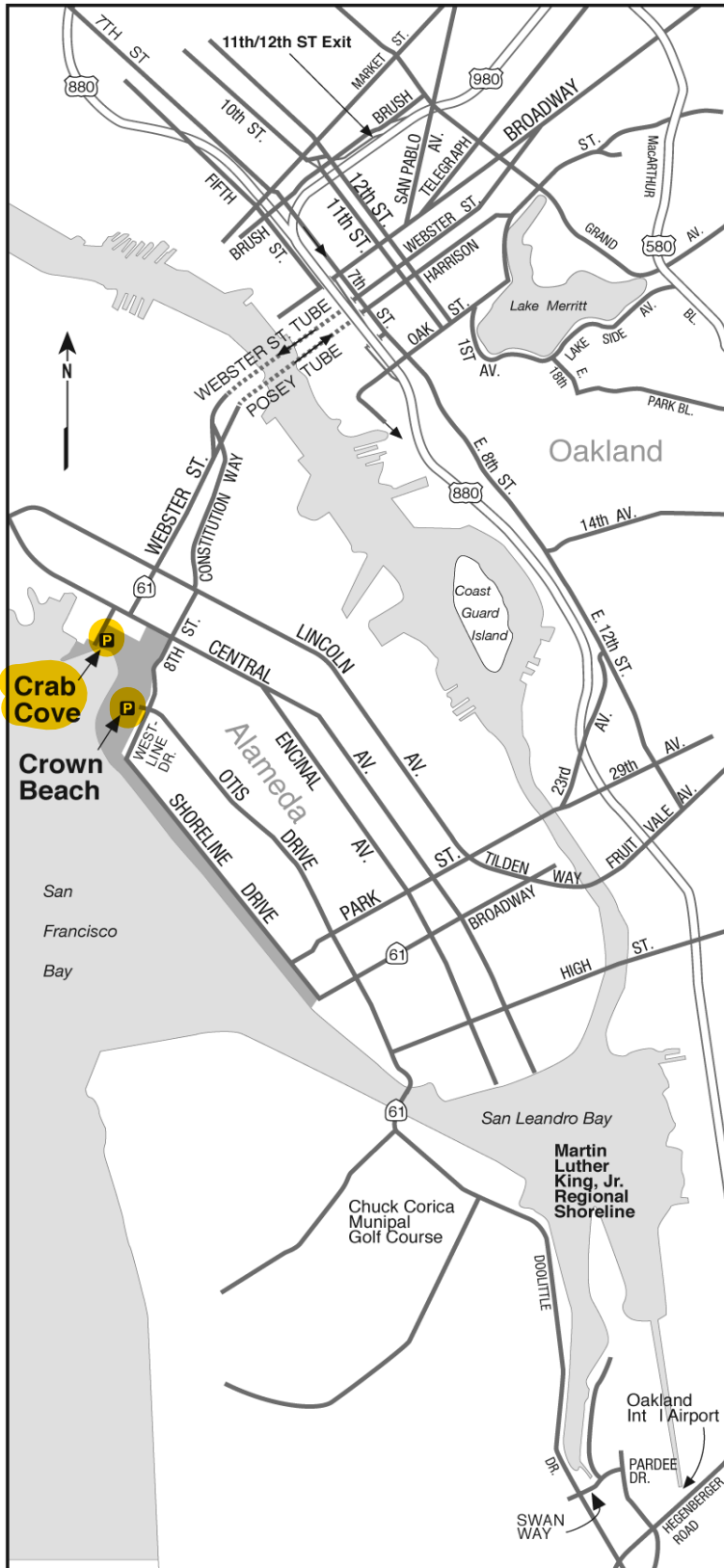
WHAT WE PROVIDE

- 1-hour thematic program, from 10:30-11:30am, based on your choice of either **Bay Critters** or **Reptiles**
- Both themes usually include:
 - ✓ Nature introduction in our Old Wharf Classroom
 - ✓ Guided outdoor exploration* and/or nature game
 - ✓ Creative craft activity
- *Our tide is always changing and may affect exploration
- We DO NOT provide favor bags. A list is included below for tips on creating your own eco-friendly favors

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Parent supervision **REQUIRED**: 1 adult for every 3 children ages 3-7 years old
1 adult for every 5 children ages 8-12 years old
- Picnic Areas: No food is allowed inside the visitor center. Some of the outdoor picnic tables are available on a first-come-first-serve basis while others can be reserved by calling 1-888-327-2757 (opt 2). Reserve early, the last day to reserve a picnic area the upcoming weekend is Wednesday at 4:30pm. More info at www.ebparks.org/activities/picnics
- Balloons: NOT allowed due to the hazard they pose to wildlife and the ocean
- Attire: Advise attendees to dress in play clothes and layers for comfort
Those participating in low-tide exploration may want to bring an extra pair of shoes & socks

Driving directions to Crab Cove:



From Cities to the North, take I-80 West to I-880 South and take the Broadway exit. Turn right at the light onto 5th St. Stay on 5th St. following the signs to Alameda. Go through the Webster St. Tunnel (Tube) to Alameda. See below for ***In Alameda**

From cities to the South, take I-880 North. Exit at Broadway in Oakland. Turn right on Broadway, right on 7th Street, and right on Webster. Go through the Webster Street Tunnel (Tube) to Alameda. See below for ***In Alameda**.

From Walnut Creek, take Highway 24 West to I-980, towards downtown Oakland. Exit at 12th/11th Streets. Continue on Brush Street to 5th Street. Turn left on 5th Street and stay in the left lanes, following the signs to Alameda. Go through the Webster St. Tunnel (Tube) to Alameda. See below for ***In Alameda**

***In Alameda,** continue on Webster St. across town. Turn right on Central Ave., go one block, and turn left onto McKay Ave. (at Neptune's restaurant). Crab Cove is at the end of McKay on the left.

9 Environmentally Sound Party Favor Ideas

Throwing a party and staying environmentally conscious can be a difficult task. Enter any party store and you will see rows upon rows of paper and plastic products designed for one time, disposable use. So what's an eco-friendly party host to do? Save money, time, and resources with these 10 environmentally sound party favor ideas:

1. Growing things

Invite guests to grow their own plants with homemade seed bombs or seed packets! Or invite guests to plant their own seeds in recycled toilet paper roll seed pots to take home. No time to make anything? Purchase seed bombs made from recycled paper in a variety of colors. Need an eco-friendly packaging option? Try seeded gift boxes you can plant!

2. Jump ropes & sidewalk chalk

Repurpose old plastic bags and save them from the landfill by weaving them into a child's jump rope. Make your own sidewalk chalk using recycled toilet paper tubes for jump rope challenges.

3. Homemade goodies

You can't go wrong by filling a goodie bag full of delicious and healthy snacks like raw vegan chocolates, rosemary lemon sandwich cookies, hazelnut chocolate snowballs, or peanut butter and jelly shortbread! Yum!

4. Painted t-shirts or bags

Provide T shirts or cloth bags from responsible and eco conscious companies and then invite guests to paint them with eco-friendly paints or DIY vegetable dyes.

5. Homemade playdough

Chocolate play dough is a sure winner in a gift bag, but you can also sneak in some extra nutrients with juice dyed play dough! Kids love dough they can play with *and* eat!

6. Barrettes, bracelets, & crowns

Recycled jewelry can be fun, easy and very popular with party goers. Run old wool sweaters through the wash to felt, or recycled old fabrics to make adorable cloth barrettes, or woven bracelets or use recycled paper to make these folded paper bracelets. Save popsicle sticks to make cute stick bracelets. Use up scrap fabric and old cardboard to make these sweet pins.

7. Handmade magnets

Still got the phone book? Before putting it into the recycling or cutting it up for recycled paper projects, check to see if the book contains any advertising magnets! These are great to cover with stickers, images from magazines or children's art and cut to desired shape for custom magnet gifts.

8. Soap

You can melt pre-made natural soaps and then pour them into molds for custom shapes, or you can purchase organic eco-conscious brands and custom wrap them to suit your party theme.

9. Recycled paper, pencils, & crayons

Make adorable mini notebooks by recycling old computer paper and attach pencils made from recycled newspapers or recycled tires. Give old broken crayons new life and a new home by melting and molding them into cute shapes like these adorable crayon cars or hearts. Not interested in melted wax, but love the recycled crayon idea? You can purchase recycled crayons too!