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## SHADOW CLIFFS REGIONAL RECREATION AREA

### Welcome, Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge (KHOC) Teachers!

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Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area is a 266-acre park which includes an 80-acre lake and an arroyo with a chain of smaller lakes and ponds. The arroyo and ponds provide wonderful educational opportunities for KHOC teachers and students to explore and appreciate nature. There is plenty of parking and picnic grounds. There are facilities for persons with disabilities. Swimming, boating, picnicking, birdwatching and fishing are other popular recreational activities that your students can do with their families on return visits to the park!

#### Plants and Wildlife

Shadow Cliffs is home to many species of plants and animals. Many are native to this area such as deer, raccoons and quail. Others were introduced such as red fox, bass, and starlings. All are protected and cannot be taken home! Please see the attached bird list to see how many different species of birds visit the park and call Shadow Cliffs home!

This KHOC Activity Packet contains all that you need for a successful self-guided visit and field trip to the park. Please take the time to cover safety items with your students prior to visiting the park and review them again at the beginning of your field trip.

#### Directions to the park and park information:

<http://www.ebparks.org/parks/shadowcliffs>

[Closest physical address: 2500 Stanley Boulevard, Pleasanton, CA 94566](#)

**Where to Meet:** Check in at the entrance kiosk upon arriving at the park. You will be given an activity kit, complete with supplies and materials. Please check these against the inventory list and return them to the kiosk attendant at the end of the day.

The kiosk attendant will direct you to the Lakeside Picnic Area where you will begin your KHOC activities. Amenities there include; picnic tables, restrooms and drinking water

The activities listed below should be done in the order as shown. There will be a map inside your kit with activity locations.

1. **Oh Deer! Game** – Do activity on lawn area near Lakeside picnic site
2. **Bird Buffet** – Do activity on lawn area near Lakeside picnic site
3. **Bird ID Booklet** – Look for birds on Levee trail to Heron Rookery. Use the binoculars and Spotting Scopes; you may be lucky and spot a great blue heron or maybe even a bald eagle!
4. **Tree Leaf Rubbings/Dichotomous Key** – Collect leaves on Arroyo trail – return to Lakeside Picnic site to do rubbings.



## REMINDERS:

- Come prepared.
- DRESS APPROPRIATELY.
- SHOES: Wear sturdy close-toed shoes that can get dirty or wet. No sandals.
- CLOTHING: Wear play clothes that can get dirty or wet. Weather is variable. Be sure you have jackets and raingear if necessary.
- Discuss safety items with your group before and at the start of your trip.
- Bring a lunch and please practice *Leave No Trace*. Remember to “Take only memories, leave only footprints.”

## Background Information about the Park

Shadow Cliffs was formerly a gravel quarry, and was donated by Kaiser Industries to EBRPD. It opened as a park in 1971. The lake at Shadow Cliffs is part of an area called the Chain of Lakes. The water in the lake is from Lake Del Valle upstream and from seasonal rains. Plans are to eventually turn the other gravel pits into lakes which will be used to help preventing flooding.

## Remillard Brick Company

In 1861, brothers Peter, Hiaire and Edward Remillard came from Montreal, Canada to Oakland, California, to establish a brickyard.

In 1882 they purchased the Black and Cory brick works in Pleasanton, CA. This property was located inside what is today Shadow Cliffs Regional Park. The original property contained 30 acres of clay deposits and field kilns. The clay that was mined there on the bank of Arroyo del Valle was sand loam and was 25 feet thick. Common bricks were made here and were shipped to Oakland by the Southern Pacific Railroad, which built a spur line to the brick plant at Remillard. In its heyday there were three kilns and 65 men were employed.

We hope you and your students enjoy your time in the park. For further information about the natural and cultural history of Shadow Cliffs and its surrounding area please contact the naturalist staff at Sunol Regional Wilderness at [svisit@ebparks.org](mailto:svisit@ebparks.org), or contact your KHOC coordinator.

