

Chapter 6.36 CAMPING

Sections:

- [6.36.010](#) Camping prohibited.
- [6.36.020](#) Camping permitted.
- [6.36.030](#) Permit for camping in city parks.
- [6.36.040](#) Penalty-Single offense.
- [6.36.050](#) Penalty-Subsequent offense within forty-eight hours.
- [6.36.055](#) Citations issued when winter shelter armory is full.
- [6.36.060](#) Public nuisance declared.

6.36.010 CAMPING PROHIBITED.

No person shall camp anywhere in the city of Santa Cruz, whether on public or private property, except as hereinafter expressly permitted. "To camp" means to do any of the following:

- (a) Sleeping -- 11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. To sleep at any time between the hours of 11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. in any of the following places:
 - (1) Outdoors with or without bedding, tent, hammock or other similar protection or equipment;
 - (2) In, on or under any structure not intended for human occupancy, whether with or without bedding, tent, hammock or other similar protection or equipment;
 - (3) In, on or under any parked vehicle, including an automobile, bus, truck, camper, trailer or recreational vehicle.
- (b) Setting-up Bedding -- 11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. To establish or maintain outdoors or in, on or under any structure not intended for human occupancy, at any time between the hours of 11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m., a temporary or permanent place for sleeping, by setting up any bedding, sleeping bag, blanket, mattress, tent, hammock or other sleeping equipment in such a manner as to be immediately usable for sleeping purposes.
- (c) Setting-up Campsite -- Anytime. To establish or maintain outdoors or in, on, or under any structure not intended for human occupancy, at any time during the day or night, a temporary or permanent place for cooking or sleeping, by setting up any bedding, sleeping bag, blanket, mattress, tent, hammock or other sleeping equipment or by setting up any cooking equipment, with the intent to remain in that location overnight.

(Ord. [99-01](#) § 1, 1999; Ord. [78-29](#), § 2, 1978).

6.36.020 CAMPING PERMITTED.

Camping may be permitted in the city of Santa Cruz only under the following circumstances:

- (a) Camping in public areas specifically set aside and clearly marked for public camping purposes;
- (b) Camping events authorized and permitted by the Santa Cruz City parks and recreation department;
- (c) Camping events authorized by the city council pursuant to Section [6.36.030](#);
- (d) Camping:
 - (i) In the yard of a residence with the consent of the owner or occupant of the residence, where the camping is in the rear yard, or in an area of a side yard or front yard that is separated from view from the street by a fence, hedge or other obstruction; or
 - (ii) Inside of a licensed and registered motor vehicle in the parking lot on the site of a religious institution with the written consent of such institution, where the driver/occupant of such vehicle is in possession of a valid driver's license, provided that no more than three vehicles shall be permitted at any one location; or
 - (iii) Inside of a licensed and registered motor vehicle in the parking lot on the site of a business institution in a non-residential district with the written consent of both the business institution and property owner, where the driver/occupant of such vehicle is in possession of a valid driver's license, provided that no more than two vehicles shall be permitted at any one location;
 - (iv) Inside a licensed and registered vehicle in a residential off-street driveway with the written consent of the owner and occupant of the residence, where the driver/occupant of such vehicle is in possession of a valid driver's license, provided that no more than one vehicle shall be permitted at any one location. No particular location shall be used for camping under this provision for more than three days during any one calendar month.

Camping shall not be permitted under this subsection where it is conducted in such a manner as to create noise, inadequate sanitation, or other matters offensive to persons of ordinary sensibility; nor where the camping is of such frequency, intensity or duration as to constitute a use of land prohibited by any provision of Title 24 of this code; nor where the camping activity would be prohibited under any other provision of this code concerning use of mobilehomes; nor where any fee, charge or other monetary consideration is collected for the privilege of camping or for any services or the use of any facilities related thereto; nor where the covenants, conditions and restrictions of a duly organized homeowners association would prohibit the activity in the residential area subject to the covenants, conditions and restrictions.

(Ord. [2002-12](#) § 1, 2002: Ord. [2002-05](#) § 1, 2002: Ord. [99-01](#) § 2, 1999: Ord. [95-22](#), § 1, 1995: Ord. [78-29](#), § 2, 1978).