

KIWANIS SPECIAL GAMES XLII

2022

- West Valley College, Saratoga
- Friday, May 13, 2022
- 8:00 am to 1:30 pm

For all Kids with Special Challenges

Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Division 1234 Special Games

www.kiwanisspecialgames.org (v 3/13/22)

Kiwanis Special Games

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Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Division 1234 Special Games

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Kiwanis Special Games Community Volunteers

Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Division 1234 Special Games

Thank you for volunteering for the Kiwanis Special Games!

This is the cover letter to the "Community Volunteer" packet. The packet, all its individual documents, the SG video, and much more available for download at the SG website:

www.k-sg.org

THIS PACKET contains everything you need to make the Kiwanis Special Games an especially memorable occasion. Please download a fresh copy just before Game Day, as several of the documents are frequently updated, especially the Track Map.

TIME & PLACE. Arrive at 9 AM at the **West Valley College** Stadium. Allow 15 minutes for parking (Lot "5"). From the website you can download everything you need. The Games will wind up about 1:00 PM, and if you can help with cleanup, you should be done by about 1:30 PM.

SIGN UP. Let us know you are coming! Contact us at www.kiwanisspecialgames.org/contact-us with your name, contact information, and number of individuals you expect to be volunteering at the Games.

T-SHIRT. If you've worked the Games before, and you still have your yellow T-shirt, wear it.

COMFORT. Hat, sun block, shades

REGISTRATION. All volunteers must sign in on the "Community Volunteers" sign-in sheet at the Volunteer Registration Table, located near the main entrance. Pick up your yellow T-shirt (if needed) and receive (or confirm) your assignment.

BRING The Track Map.

Registration is by the main entrance.

Kiwanis Special Games **EMERGENCY!**

Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Division 1234 Special Games

WANDERERS -- Unaccompanied athletes are never OK. Keep alert for wanderers, especially if you are working an event near the perimeter. Intercept, and call Athlete Services. All athletes have sticky labels on their shirts identifying their group and school. Athlete Services and Volunteer Registration have an index of who should be where. Athletes can always be brought to the Medical Center or Athlete Services for help resolving problems.

INJURY? -- Go to the Medical Station

LOST AN ATHLETE? – Go To Announcer Stand

FOUND AN ATHLETE? -- Go To Announcer Stand

NEED TO LOCATE AN ATHLETE? -- Go To Announcer Stand

ANY OTHER EMERGENCY – Dial 9-1-1

RAIN! -- Head for the sheltered walkways surrounding the athletic buildings!

If it starts raining listen for announcements. If it's raining really hard, and there's nothing coming out of the PA system, it's probably shorted out. Use common sense. When it's time to go, it will be obvious. Carefully, but as rapidly as possible, get yourself, and all those in your charge to the sheltered walkways surrounding the athletic buildings. Depending on circumstances, we may wait it out, or we may decide to recall the buses. But we will be out of the driving rain.

Take responsibility for the care and comfort of those around you.

Kiwanis Special Games What Do Volunteers DO?

Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Division 1234 Special Games

Thank you for volunteering for the Kiwanis Special Games! West Valley College, 14000 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga 95070

This description is included in the "Community Volunteer" packet. The packet, all its individual documents, the SG video, and much more are available for download at the SG website: www.kiwanisspecialgames.org

START TIME – Arrive by 9:00 AM, the date of the event can be found on the cover sheet of this packet.

REGISTRATION -- The Registration table at the front entrance is the nerve center of the Games. Check in, identify who you are, and pick up and wear your yellow shirt if you are a first time volunteer. All specific tasks are assigned at the registration desk, and with a few exceptions, they are done dynamically, so you won't know for sure what your job will be till you get there.

There are two general areas ...

EVENT MANAGEMENT -- Helping to run one of the 18 Events on the field: greeting arriving athletes; getting them organized to compete; coaching and running the contests; organizing equipment; handling the awards process after each contest; packing and cleaning up after the Games.

GROUP LEADERSHIP -- Being assigned (along with other responsible adults) a Group of (usually) about 5 or 6 athletes to conduct around the field to the several events they will visit. Keeping track of all Group members; deciding where to go next; reassuring and coaching athletes before and through the Event; leading the Group in cheering on competing members; adding weight, formality and importance to the awards ceremony & congratulating every athlete after every contest; bathroom runs; trips to the nurse's station if necessary; keeping everyone hydrated.

ALSO -- Before the Games get started there is a huge amount of setup going on all over the field. If you arrive and get checked in early look around at the teams working on obvious projects, and offer help where it's needed.

VERY IMPORTANT -- Before the games begin, in addition to your formal assignment, all volunteers are engaged in the Parade of Athletes (see the program). We line both sides of the track with yellow shirted volunteers, cheering the athletes on as they proudly parade past, grouped by their schools.

FINALLY -- Everybody please help clean up. Both the field and the "campground" where the schools set up their base camps. We are guests of the College, and we want to leave it spotless.

Have fun, carry a Track Map & wear a hat!

Kiwanis Special Games

Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Division 1234 Special Games

The Kiwanis Special Games were created to address the physical and emotional needs of the substantial number of extremely challenged children in the schools of our region. More broadly known programs like the Special Olympics presume a much higher level of function. The Special Games exclude no one. The Games were first organized in 1979 by two Adaptive PE teachers and Los Altos Kiwanian Walter Chronert. Under Walt's leadership, spanning more than 25 years, the Games flourished from modest beginnings involving just the Los Altos Kiwanis Club to the regional event they are today.

Special Games About 150 buses will deliver approximately 950 K–12 athletes from 60 schools to the West Valley College stadium. The Games will be run by over 600 Kiwanis members from 30 Kiwanis Clubs, 6 college Circle K Clubs, 21 high school Key Clubs, and a middle school Builders Club. They will be assisted by about 1,500 friends, family, schoolmates, teachers and caregivers who accompany the 950 athletes.

How the Games Work

The Games begin with a Parade of Athletes and formal opening ceremonies.

Groups. Each athlete is placed in a group with half a dozen others with similar abilities. Events, appropriate to those abilities, are chosen for each of the 150 groups so that each child competes on a level field with their peers. The events are tailored to fit the limitations of the athletes, ranging from the 100 yard dash, to dropping a bean bag on a target by signaling a volunteer who actually drops the bag. The athletes in a group stay together the whole morning, and compete, within the group, in the same events. Their age, mobility, and athletic abilities are similar, so competition within the group will always be fair. Every athlete is presented a T-shirt and a participant ribbon, and each event contestant is awarded a first, second, third or "best effort" (no "losers" at the Games) place ribbon. About 5,000 ribbons are given out. After the games, all athletes reassemble with their schools, and relive the adventures of the morning, while eating a picnic lunch.

Pushing the envelope. We are told repeatedly that the Special Games is the most important day of the year in the lives of many of these determined athletes. This is the one day when they are validated, rather than excused, for their physical capabilities. It's obvious from the joy on their happy faces that these kids are having FUN, but the value of the experience goes far beyond mere play. The conduct of the Games is formal and official and competitive. The value is not just going through the motions of the event, the value is in trying your hardest, and WINNING that ribbon as a recognition of your determination and success in a demanding physical endeavor. Teachers report that in the days and weeks after the Games, many of the athletes are trying new things, being more confident, pushing themselves harder.

The Process. Groups spend two hours competing in as many athletic events, appropriate to their abilities, as time and energy permit. All groups and events are led and managed by Kiwanis volunteers.

The Events. There are 18 events laid out within the college stadium, covering a wide range of skill levels. Arriving groups are formally and officially greeted, staged, coached, and recognized with an awards ceremony after each contest.



Remembering Walt Chronert, 1919-2007 Founder of the Games

The Special Games Team -- sginfo@losaltoskiwanis.org.

I Had No Idea...

This is the piece that Key Clubber Hannah Lee wrote about her experience at the special Games in 2004.

I Had No Idea...

We arrived at De Anza, at their football field, 7:30 in the morning. It was pretty cold and we were hopping around waiting for the volunteer to give us our bright yellow shirts that read "Kiwanis Special Games." We were given instructions to sit on the bleachers and wait for the participants to arrive. I asked, "What are we supposed to do once they get here?" 'Lead your group and keep track of them' was the answer. My friend, Blaine Kim and I looked at each other and shrugged, 'looks like we won't be doing much' I thought to myself. I had no idea.

They had underestimated our role. I also thought that our job stopped after 'leading and keeping track.' We were given a roster of names, and our group was the largest, 23 kids. When the kids arrived and moved towards their group, we began taking role. That in itself was harder than I thought. You couldn't simply call out names and hope for a 'present' or 'here!.' So Blaine and I went to each individual kid in the area and asked them what their name was. Some responded, but most did not. I relied on the parents and guardians for help. From that moment, you could see the personality of each participant. One just stared right into my eyes. Another gave me a hug and told me how excited she was. One child asked me how many 1st place ribbons I had because according to him, he would win them all, since he had come 'To win a lot! But I want to have fun, that's the most important right?' he said.

After that, we proceeded to the first game. Organizing them was one of the hardest things I have ever done. It was confusing enough to get them into rows and sections, and then different heats,

and also keeping them in the right places. Then we had to worry about exactly who threw the farthest, who threw the 2nd farthest... and the 3rd... in each section of each heat. This was hard because we hadn't memorized the names of the kids yet. But their intense enthusiasm and cheers for each other when receiving their prizes made me want to try harder. The next event was little easier to control, and the next was even easier. Blaine and I found that by the 2nd event, we knew everyone's name by heart. Although learning names usually takes me a while, it was so easy to match their names with their personalities and their grins.

We had to take role every couple of minutes, just in case a child tried to run away. We knew one; his name was Eric, who continuously ran away. We learned to show him that we cared about him and wanted to talk to him, so he would stay. Another, whom I will never forget, was a girl named Kristie. After each event, regardless of the turnout, she hugged me and Blaine. She even gave me a kiss! After the event, she pronounced that it was the 'funnest ever.'

I learned so much that day. I learned what appreciation is really about. The things we take for granted like walking, looking straight, making a decision of whether to drive or walk, and breathing on our own to others they are constant battles. I also learned another thing. In a way, I felt more incapable that anyone else there that day. I could never find the joy that Kristie found after throwing 3 softballs. I never clapped as hard as she did or smiled as big for her fellow friends, when they crossed the finish line at the zig-zag race. And she could never learn as much from me as I did from her in 2 hours. I thank Kristie, because really, I HAD NO IDEA.

Author Hannah Lee

Kiwanis Special Games **How the Games Work**

Presented by the Kiwanis Club Division 1234 Special Games

THE CORE PRINCIPLE. We are told repeatedly that the Special Games is the most important day in the lives of these determined athletes. The reason is that this is the one day when they are validated, rather than excused, for their physical capabilities. It is essential that the conduct of the Games be formal and official, and above all competitive. The value is not just going through the motions of the Event, the value is in trying your hardest, and WINNING that ribbon as a recognition of your determination and success in a demanding physical endeavor.

THE ATHLETES -- GROUPS. About 900 athletes, K-12, from about 60 schools are divided in 150 Groups of ideally 6 each. The athletes in a Group are of similar age, mobility, and athletic ability. The Group stays together the whole day, and athletes compete only within their group. To ensure fair competition, contests with athletes from other groups should NEVER be permitted.

THE PROCESS -- EVENTS. Groups spend two hours competing in as many of the 18 athletic Events, appropriate to their abilities, as time and energy permit. All Groups and Events are led and managed by Kiwanis volunteers.

THE EVENTS. There are 18 Events laid out on the college playing fields, covering a wide range of skill level.

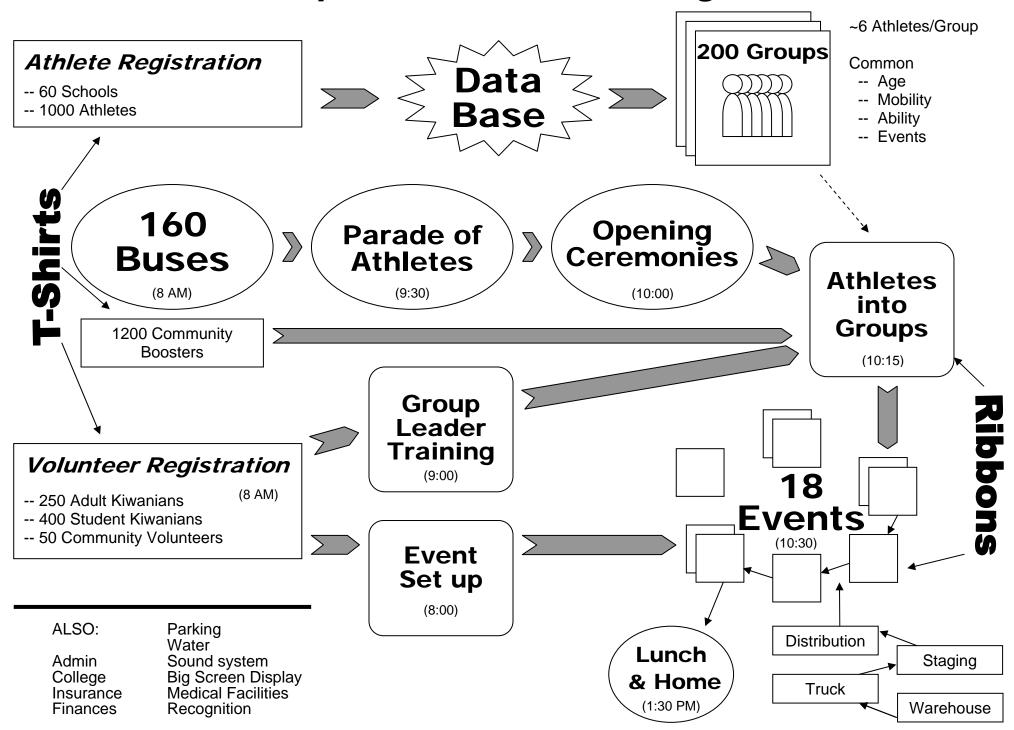
COMPETITION. The Athletes love that the Games are competitive. Fair competition can only be ensured if competing athletes are of similar ability. **Never mix athletes** from 2 Groups in a single Contest. Whether you are assigned to work with a Group or an Event, the big challenge, and the big payoff, is a smooth flow of athletes through the Event.

THE CORRAL. Every Event has a dedicated staging area, the CORRAL, where Event and Group leaders work together to organize the flow of athletes through the Event.

MORE! Lots of information on the download page of the SG website.

www.kiwanisspecialgames.org

Special-Games-on-a-Page



Kiwanis Special Games ~~ Program ~~

Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Division 1234 Special Games

8:00 -- Volunteer Registration & Pick up materials, set up Events

9:00 -- Group Leader Training

Opening Ceremony

9:15 -- Call to Order

9:20 -- Parade of Schools - Official Parade Starter
Torch Bearer -- Special Games Athlete
Flag Bearer -- Special Games Athlete
The Special Games Banner -- Special Games Athletes
Kiwanis Banner -- Special Games Athletes

10:00

Welcome Athletes
Welcome to the whole Kiwanis Community
Gov. CalNevHa District, Kiwanis International or Designee
Welcome Volunteers - Lt. Gov. Div. 12 & Lt. Gov. Div. 34
Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
Special Games Oath -- Special Games Athlete
Games Declared Open

The Games

10:15 Athletes Assemble in Groups

10:30 Games Begin

12:00 Games End

12:30 Clean Up/Truck Load

Closing

12:00 Closing Remarks

12:35 Lunch with School Groups

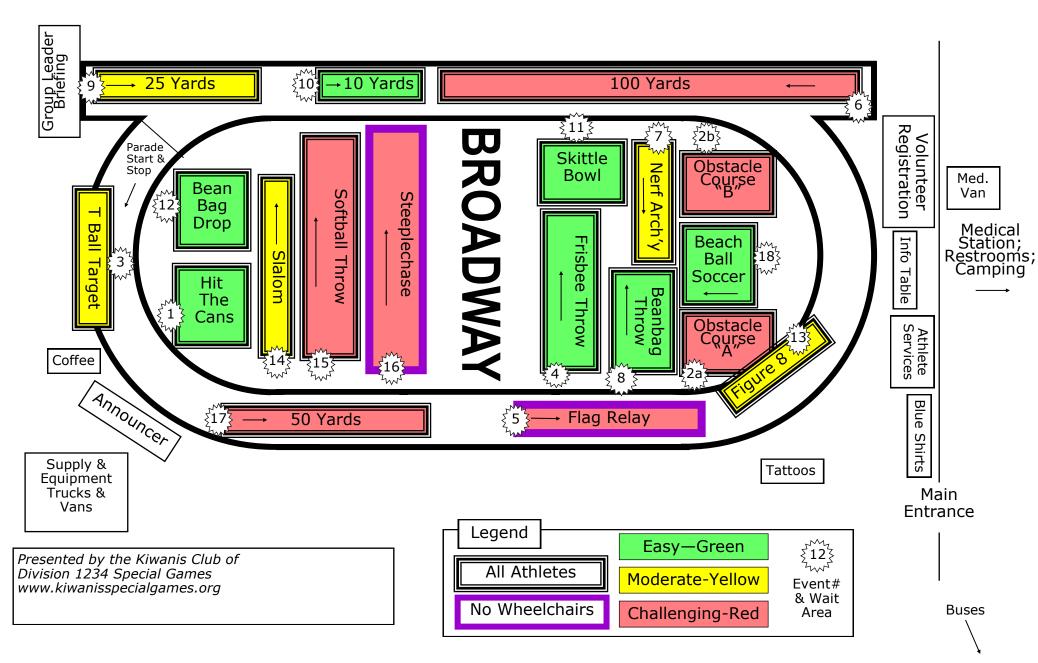
2:00 Campground Closes

Kiwanis Special Games — West Valley

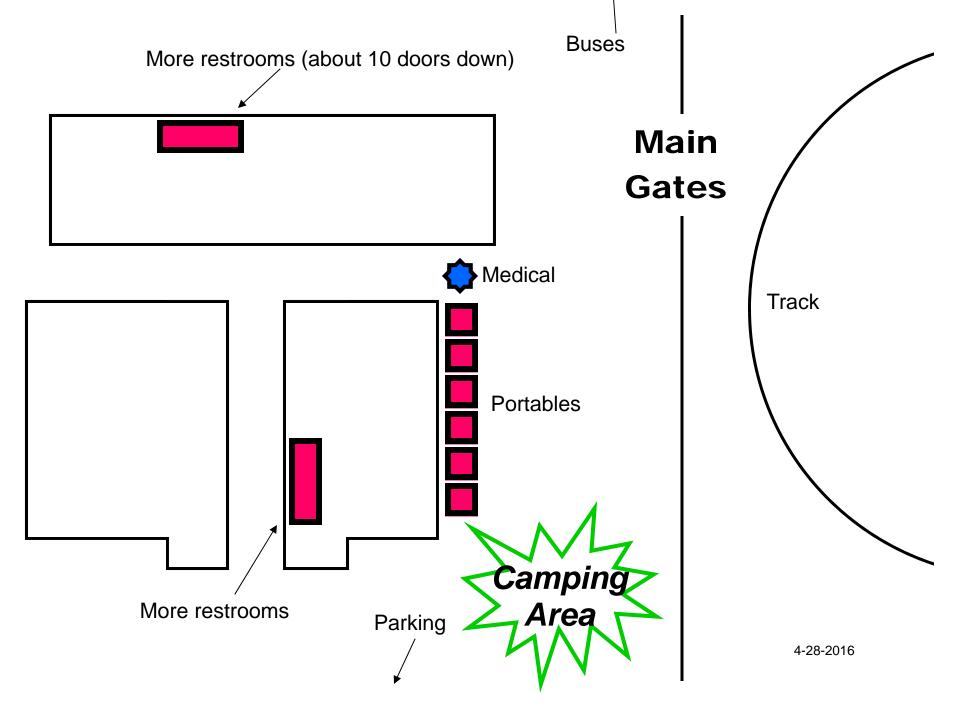
The TRACK MAP!

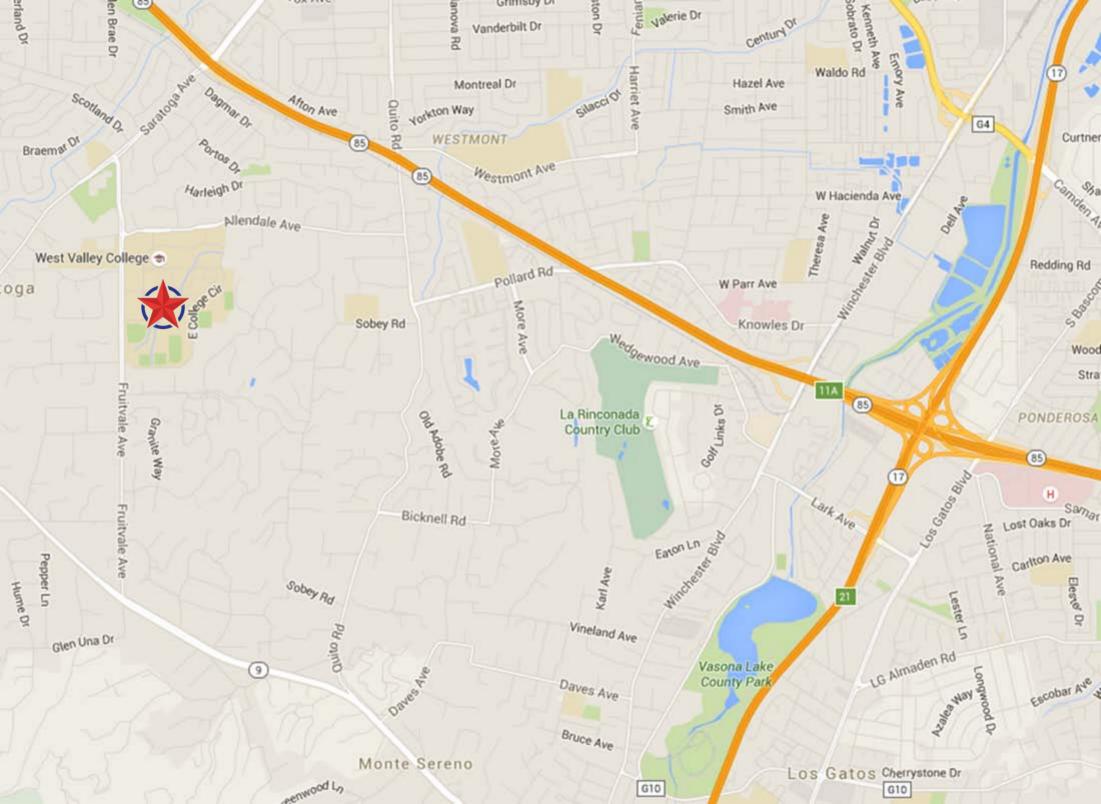


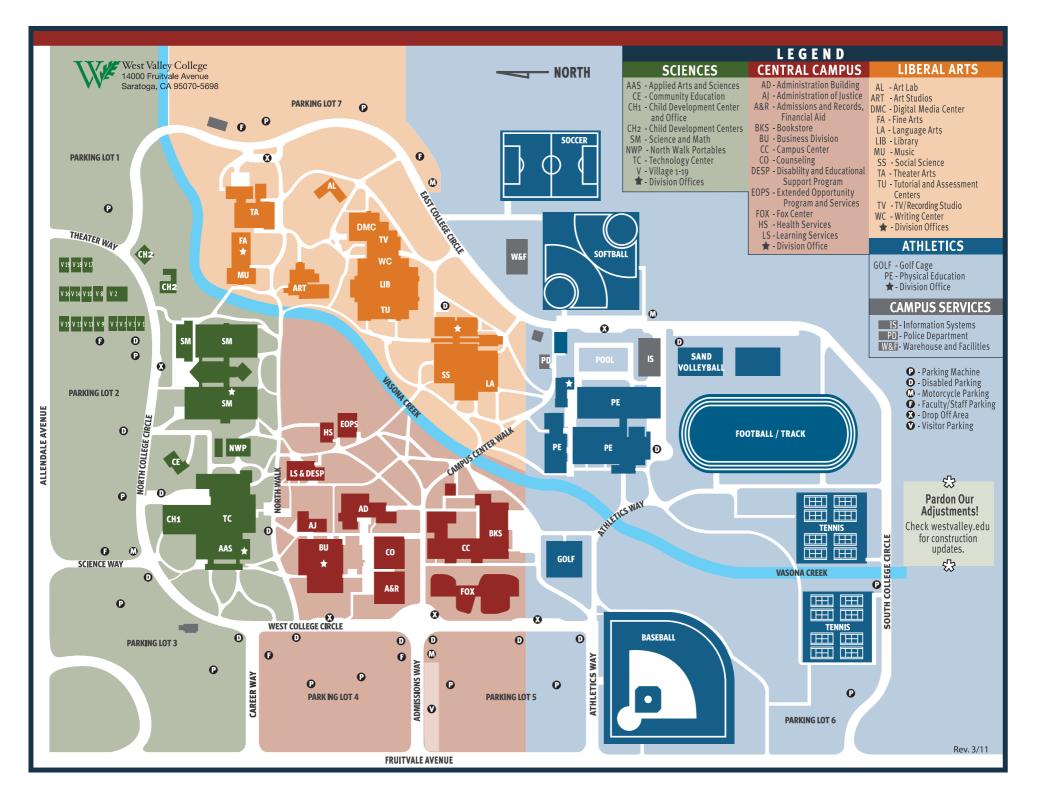
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RESTROOM & CAMPING MAP







Kiwanis Special Games

West Valley College

Parking Instructions

Look at the attached campus and regional maps -- (also available here):

http://lakc.netfirms.com/sg/DL/WV.PDF http://lakc.netfirms.com/sg/DL/2WV.PDF

Most commonly, you will be going South on Fruitvale (bottom of the campus map, left to right).

Be in the left of the 2 lanes after you pass Allendale, and look for the blue text "Special Games Parking" signs and parking officials that will direct you into one of the left turns into campus parking.

Park tight and fill every slot.

Leave the Parking Pass on your dashboard.

The path from the corner of Lot 5 at the intersection of Athletics Way and West College Circle leads down to the track.

Please Carpool -- Parking is tight

Lots 4 & 5 -- athletes & all volunteers

KIWANIS SPECIAL GAMES

West Valley Parking Permit

Place on dashboard

Thanks for Volunteering - You make the Special Games work!

Lots 4 & 5 -- athletes & all volunteers

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