

Henry Cowell Observation Deck Loop



Region: Santa Cruz County

Length: 5.3 miles round trip

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

Elevation Gain: 698 feet

Girls bring: Backpack, 1 liter of water, snack, hat, jacket, sunscreen, face mask. Adults add: Map/Info sheet, Required paperwork, first aid kit, phone, TP & ziploc (pack it out). If hiking after ~3pm add: headlamp, space blanket

When to go: Year round, sunrise to sunset, but at the observation deck there is no shade on the trail, so on warm days, hike in the early morning or evening only or wear sun protection.

Getting There and Parking: Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park charges a fee to park at the day-use and campground areas. There are varying fees depending on if you enter by vehicle, motorcycle, foot, horse, or bike. Please visit https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=546.

Bathrooms: Bathrooms are located at the start and end of the trail. No bathrooms on trail.

Safety Considerations: There is poison oak if you go off trail. Walking the sandhills near the Observation Deck is similar to walking on the beach.

Helpful Links:

<https://www.alltrails.com>

Route Description:

The trail starts at the Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Visitors Center. Grab a map in the center, as your hike has you turning onto a few different trails to get to the observation deck.

Start on the Redwood Grove Trail which will branch off to Pipeline Road trail. Wandering amongst stunning redwoods, you will eventually



turn left onto Eagle Creek Trail. This section is singletrack, so be aware of mountain bikers. Your next turn is a right onto Pine Trail. If you reach the campground, you have gone too far and need to turn around to find Pine. Once on that trail, you'll end up at the observation deck. When you leave the observation deck, continue on Pine Trail until you reach Powder Mill Trail Fire Road and make a right. Stay on the fire road until you reach the Pipeline Trail junction. Make a right turn onto Pipeline Trail and follow this trail all the way back to the parking lot.

How to Get Your Charm:

Take a photo of you with you on the observation deck or the observation deck in the background. Email the photo and the names of the registered Girl Scouts in the photo to programs@girlscoutseccc.org with the subject line "Henry Cowell Observation Deck." You'll get an embroidered charm to hang on your patch loop.



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