



# CIRCLE V RANCH CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

EST. 1945

## NEWS

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[www.CircleVRanchCamp.org](http://www.CircleVRanchCamp.org) and <https://svdpla.org/donate/rebuild-camp/>

## **Circle V Ranch Camp Director Ray Lopez and USFS David Dahlberg Share Their Whittier Wildfire Rescue Experiences at Los Olivos Rotary Club Meeting**



**CAPTION:** Left to right: Circle V Ranch Camp Director Ray Lopez, Rotarian, and U.S. Forest Service Technician David Dahlberg were welcomed by Los Olivos Rotary Club President Inge-Lise Pedersen. On February 15, 2018, at the Los Olivos Rotary Club meeting, Rotarian Ray Lopez and special guest David Dahlberg shared their experiences rescuing 88 campers and 36 staff at Circle V Ranch Camp during the Whittier Wildfire. Dahlberg's U.S. Forest Service vehicle was the first to arrive at Camp during the rescue on July 8, 2017. Dahlberg was recently honored during the State of the Union address in Washington, DC. (Hi-res JPG photos available, please request from [laura@mariahmarketing.com](mailto:laura@mariahmarketing.com))

**Santa Barbara County, California**—St. Vincent de Paul Circle V (Vee) Ranch Camp Director Ray Lopez, Rotarian, with his special guest U.S. Forest Service Technician David Dahlberg, were featured speakers at the [Los Olivos Rotary Club](#) meeting on February 15, 2018. Lopez and Dahlberg shared their very personal experiences of the Whittier wildfire that burned through the Camp on July 8, 2017. Dahlberg's U.S. Forest Service Patrol 37 vehicle was the first of the first responders to arrive at Camp to help coordinate the intense fire fighting and safety efforts with other firefighters, staff and volunteers. All 88 campers and 36 staff members in residence at the time were safely evacuated. Recently, Dahlberg was honored for his heroism at Circle V Ranch Camp during the 2018 State of the Union address in Washington, D.C.

During the Whittier wildfire, Circle V Ranch Camp's Craft Lodge and Health Lodge burned to the ground, and the water treatment facility and pipes were seriously damaged requiring months of repairs. With no water, all remaining 2017 summer camp sessions were cancelled for 1,000 campers and group retreat rentals were canceled until further notice. Circle V is in the process of rebuilding; donations are needed and welcomed at <https://svdpla.org/donate/rebuild-camp/>

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### **More About St. Vincent de Paul Circle V Ranch Camp**

Circle V Ranch Camp & Retreat Center was founded in 1945 by St. Vincent de Paul Los Angeles and has been located on its current site on 30 acres in the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County since 1990. Each Circle V Ranch Camp summer session is six days and five nights of traditional supervised fun for boys and girls ages 7 to 13 and campers

in leadership training from ages 14-17. Campers enjoy activities including archery, arts & crafts, hiking, swimming in the pool, learning about nature, reading skills, painting, photography, playing baseball, basketball, ping pong, foosball, soccer, miniature golf and of course, campfires, skits and singing. There is no TV, radio or internet access to affect the experience. Campers stay in wood cabins or traditional canvas tents. Three nutritious daily meals served family-style in the Dining Lodge are not only for food but also for camaraderie and fellowship. In summer 2016, the camp hosted more than 1,000 children for this time-honored experience. During autumn, winter and spring, Circle V is available for rental to other non-profit groups and organizations. However, the Whittier Wildfire began on July 8, 2017, burning throughout Circle V Ranch Camp and surrounding areas—and the Craft Lodge and Health Lodge cabins burned to the ground, and the water treatment facility and pipes were seriously damaged requiring months of repairs. Circle V is in the process of rebuilding; donations are needed and welcomed at <https://svdpla.org/donate/rebuild-camp/>  
**For general information visit [www.CircleVRanchCamp.org](http://www.CircleVRanchCamp.org)**