

Rancho Cielo





Our Mission

Rancho Cielo invests in all young people facing challenges for success through diploma education, vocational training, counseling and life skills development in a safe and affirming environment.



Located on a 100-acre campus in Salinas, California, we serve over 250 youth annually through programs that integrate vocational training and high school education in partnership with WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges)-accredited John Muir Charter Schools. Our integrated approach goes beyond education, including case management, wraparound services, enrichment and after-school programs. Graduates earn a high school diploma (or equivalent) and industry-recognized certifications, and are prepared to enter college, careers, post-secondary training and internships, and military service (or a combination of these pathways).

Our Programs



Ag Technology & Mechatronics

Introduces students to electrical fundamentals, applications and technologies in agricultural production—smart farming and precision agriculture—irrigation practices, precision ag software skills, GPS and drone technologies, industrial safety and fundamentals of agricultural mechatronics. (16–24 Years)

Certifications: Western Growers, TRUST (The Recreational UAS Safety Test) and preparation for the FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Exam (Drones) and Festo Mechatronics Level 1.



Auto & Diesel Repair

Offers students automotive knowledge with a basic level of training in servicing and maintenance of gas and diesel engine vehicles. FORD ACE (Automotive Career Exploration) Technicians training offered through partnership with Salinas Valley Ford. New career pathways are under development (drone operations and aviation mechanics). (16–24 Years)

Certifications: EETC Principles of Small Engine Technology and Southwest Airlines Professional Communications Certification.



Classic Car Restoration

Prepares students with hands-on skills in restoring vintage vehicles—from tear-down to finished product. Students learn mechanics, welding, bodywork, upholstery work, painting and detailing, using industry-standard tools and techniques. Emphasis is placed on craftsmanship, safety, and preserving automotive heritage, preparing students for entry-level roles or further training in the restoration field. (16–24 Years)

Certification: Rancho Cielo Classic Car Restoration.



Construction & Sustainable Design Academy

A YouthBuild award-winning program offering students stackable certificates in construction via a nationally recognized curriculum and internship training, including building small healthy homes, emphasizing sustainable construction practices. (16–24 Years)



Certifications: NCCER Construction Site Safety Orientation (CSSO), Supervisor (CSSS), and Technician (CSST). OSHA 10 and OSHA 30.

Welding & Fabrication

Provides students with training in various welding methods, machinery and forklift operation, and essential knowledge of OSHA safety protocols, tool identification and blueprint reading specific to welding and forklift operation. (16–24 Years)

Certifications: OSHA 10, 3G/4G Various Metals, and American Welding Society Certified Welder (CW).



Drummond Culinary Academy

A YouthBuild and nationally recognized culinary program offering industry certifications and hands-on learning in our Academy Dining Room, a student -operated micro-enterprise, open to the public on Friday nights. (16–24 Years)

Certifications: National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) Restaurant Ready and ServSafe Food Handler, and California Restaurant Association Customer Service. Drummond Culinary Academy Certificates: Basic Culinary, Advanced Culinary, and Front of the House and Advanced Front of the House.



Silver Star Youth Program

In partnership with the Monterey County's Probation Department and Children's Behavioral Health, and John Muir Charter Schools, Rancho Cielo offers a multitiered program for at-promise youth, intensive educational instruction and services, with small class sizes and tailored learning to meet individual needs. (14–18 Years)



Youth Corps

A crew-based employment and job readiness program designed to prepare young people for full-time employment, while earning as they learn, and maintaining the Rancho Cielo campus. Crew members learn tool identification, construction mathematics, project design, irrigation, basic electrical, landscaping and accountability. (14–18 Years)



After School & Enrichment Programs

Rancho Cielo's After School program offers extended learning, academic tutoring and comprehensive support services to aid student retention, persistence and completion. Enrichment programs include transformative experiences and activities such as beekeeping, bicycle skills and maintenance, horsemanship, gardening, fishing and art, empowering individuals from diverse backgrounds to pursue their passions and build a brighter future.



Direct Services

Rancho Cielo cultivates a goal-oriented atmosphere for students, providing tailored programs and services to meet their unique needs. Each student receives a personalized care plan and the support needed to foster their path to success. Services include:

- Case management, mentorship, mental health counseling
- Transportation, daily healthy meals, clothing, driver's education
- Medical referrals and legal assistance
- Culturally affirming curriculum and programs
- · Career exploration, hands-on and paid work-based learning
- · Dual enrollment programs with local community colleges
- College and career transition support, access to exclusive scholarships
- Enrichment activities, field trips, career experiences
- Special education: Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 Plans



Connect With Us







Your Investment

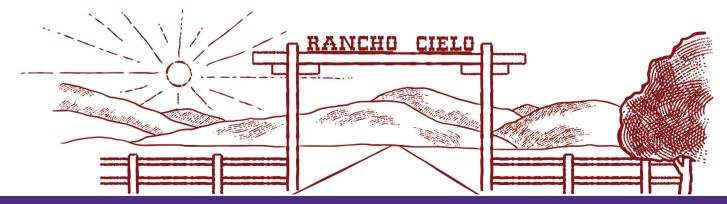
Since Rancho Cielo was established, we have aimed to enrich the lives of all the youth who walk through our gates of opportunity, preparing them with the skills and confidence they need to secure living-wage jobs in Monterey County's top industries: agriculture, culinary/hospitality, construction, and automotive and diesel repair. Families never pay for our programs and services, in order to ensure equal access to our academic and vocational education and alleviate barriers to success.

With your support, we can empower youth to become accountable, productive citizens and professionals—and continue to provide the opportunities they need to build a brighter future for themselves and our community. As a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we are almost entirely privately funded. Your contributions are crucial, whether that is through planned, endowment and legacy giving or by volunteering.

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ranchocieloyc.org



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