



April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

Santa Cruz County organizations partner to raise awareness

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Overview: April 1 marks the beginning of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This year, Monarch Services is partnering with local organizations including the [Santa Cruz City Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women \(CPVAW\)](#), [Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office](#), [Sexual Assault Response Team \(SART\)](#) and [Kidpower](#) to host and promote community awareness events. All events will be virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are listed below.

- **April 6- SAAM Day of Action** – <https://bit.ly/3sg3IHP> - Wear teal in solidarity with survivors.
- **April 14- Sexual Assault, Consent and Bystander Intervention** - <https://bit.ly/2P7HdpA>
Presented by Monarch Services
- **April 16-22 -Virtual Documentary Screening of “The Bystander Moment: Transforming Rape Culture at its Roots”** - <https://bit.ly/3r0SBRA>
 - Available for online viewing from April 16 - April 22, 2021- No Registration Required
 - Presented by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
 - Supported by the Santa Cruz Commission for Prevention of Violence Against Women
- **April 20- "The Bystander Moment" Virtual Conversation** - <https://bit.ly/30Wqc4x>
 - Presented by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
 - Supported by the Santa Cruz Commission for Prevention of Violence Against Women
- **April 28 - Denim Day** - <https://bit.ly/31uN23r>
- **April 29- Protecting Kids from Sexual Abuse Without Scaring Them**- <https://bit.ly/3tzutXR>
Presented by Santa Cruz Commission for Prevention of Violence Against Women, Kidpower and Monarch Services

According to the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetimes. In 2020, Monarch Services served 520 sexual assault survivors. April is a chance for community members to proactively discuss sexual assault, demonstrate support for survivors, raise awareness and brainstorm prevention techniques. Sexual assault prevention requires the collective voice and power of individuals, families and institutions.

Actions you can take to address sexual assault:

- Promote social norms that protect against sexual violence - end [rape culture](#)
- Be an active bystander when you see a potentially violent situation
- Create a culture of consent in your home and social circles
- Use social media to raise awareness among your peers
- Listen to and validate survivors of trauma

About Monarch Services: *Monarch Services has a 43-year history in Santa Cruz County of providing advocacy and resources to community members affected by violence. Services include court accompaniments, restraining order assistance, counseling, emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis line, outreach, education and support groups. Monarch Services is the only rape crisis and human trafficking center in Santa Cruz County and includes an emergency response team. All services are available in Spanish and English and are free or low cost.*