



Breaking News

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS / SANTA CLARITA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
SERVING THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SINCE 1969
SPRING 2012

College a Favored Filming Location

Even if you've never actually visited the College of the Canyons Valencia campus, chances are you've probably still seen it – on TV and the silver screen.

Averaging more than 70 filming days a year, the college's Valencia campus has become an extremely popular filming location within the film and television industry's famed "30-mile zone."

Multiple film crews use the campus weekly to shoot a variety of TV shows, feature films and commercials that are broadcast to viewers across the nation and around the world.

Over the last several months, the college has served as the scene of a Kansas City courtroom, CIA office, a Team USA gymnastics training center, and even a Navy SEAL landing zone.

In years past, campus locations have also depicted FBI headquarters, a White House press room, corporate office buildings, crime scenes, airport terminals, hotels, college dormitories, and various high schools and college campuses located in different regions of the country.

In fact, it's not uncommon for multiple productions to be set up on campus on the same day, as was the case this April when college officials had three productions occupying different corners of the campus.

Featuring 154 acres, a wide range of buildings with varying architecture, state-of-the-art athletic facilities including Cougar Stadium, well-maintained grounds, and an inviting location and climate, the Valencia campus provides an authentic cinematic backdrop for nearly any type of scene.

With major television productions like "CSI," "Switched at Birth" and "NCIS: Los Angeles" frequently filming at the college, the presence of actors, directors and cameramen roaming about has become routine for staff and students alike.

In the process, the college has built a reputation within studio circles as being an extremely filming friendly campus, making on-campus filming a major part of the business at College of the Canyons.

"While we make a concerted effort to attract and accommodate film and television productions to the campus, we do not do so just because it's fun for our students and staff to walk through a live set on their way to class," College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. "We do so because we value the economic benefits that filming brings to our campus and the community."

In 2011 alone, the City of Santa Clarita issued 359 film permits, which created 901 filming days at locations throughout the Santa Clarita Valley. Film crews shooting at College of the Canyons accounted for roughly 8 percent of that total.

The location fees those productions pay are a helpful source of revenue to the college, which helps to fund campus operations and provide the community with the very best in educational opportunities, workforce training and lifelong learning programs – especially in a time when the state continues to hit community colleges with deep budget cuts.

The film-friendly attitude of College of the Canyons, the City of Santa Clarita and the various businesses, organizations and community members that have embraced the industry's presence here, helped to generate an estimated economic impact of nearly \$20 million in 2012.

With visiting production crews routinely purchasing food, gasoline, lumber, building materials and much more while shooting in the Santa Clarita Valley, a wide range of local businesses have been able to see their sales increase, while the sales tax revenue generated from such spending allows the city to provide programs and services that benefit the entire community.

In addition, it's estimated that of the roughly 140,000 well-paying jobs the Southern California film industry supports, nearly 7,000 of those positions are filled by local residents. By working to help attract film productions to shoot in the Santa Clarita Valley, the college is supporting an industry that is essential to the economic vitality of the community.

To help accommodate the large number of production crews looking to film on campus, Robin Williams, the college's civic center director, and his staff are always on hand to work with location managers to handle scheduling conflicts, solve parking issues, allow the use of college utilities, and recommend other potential shooting locations within the community.

It's because of the college's hands-on approach to working with the film community that nearly 80 percent of the productions that shoot at College of the Canyons return as repeat customers.

"We send a lot of shows to College of the Canyons, and every show we've ever sent there comes back. And that's because of Robin Williams and his staff," said Mike DeLorenzo, president of Santa Clarita Studios "Everyone thanks me for sending them to COC."



A film crew shoots a scene outside the Student Center (above), while actor Mark Harmon (below) signs an autograph for a fan during the recent filming of "NCIS" on campus.

