

Chico Campout for Compassion Invites Community to Join November Homelessness Awareness Activities

November 14 community event connects local conversations with national awareness efforts and encourages optional food drives throughout November.

CHICO, Calif. ... On Saturday, November 14, 2026, Chico residents are invited to participate in Chico Campout for Compassion, a communitywide educational awareness event encouraging understanding, challenging assumptions, and changing the conversation about homelessness.

Inspired by Covenant House's Sleep Out, the Chico initiative is not a single gathering. Individuals, families, churches, schools, neighborhood groups, and community organizations can organize activities at locations where they have permission to gather. Camping is optional. People can participate from home.

Activities may include community conversations, first-person stories from people who have experienced homelessness, educational videos, discussions about housing affordability, and age-appropriate learning activities.

"Too often, the conversation about homelessness begins and ends with what people see on the streets," said organizer Scotty Franzysen. "But behind every person experiencing homelessness is a story, and behind those stories are questions we need to be asking about housing, affordability, opportunity, and the way we treat one another. I'm not asking everyone to agree. I'm asking everyone to have a conversation."

A local event during a national month of awareness

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month and is also recognized in California as Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month. Chico Campout takes place just before National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, November 15–21. These independently organized observances provide opportunities to connect local experiences with broader conversations across the country.

Food drives and simple ways to take part

Throughout November, residents, classrooms, businesses, churches, and neighborhoods are invited to support local food programs through optional food or basic-needs drives, volunteering, or direct donations. Groups should check with each recipient organization first about what is needed. No Campout attendance or donation is required. The event is an independent awareness initiative, not a fundraiser; it does not operate a central donation collection.

One night outdoors cannot reproduce the experience of homelessness. The Campout aims instead to create opportunities to learn, listen, and discuss with dignity, including among people with different perspectives.

Saturday, November 14, 2026 | Chico locations and from home | Free | Camping optional

Information, free learning resources, and participation: www.sfranzysen.org/campout/

About the event: Chico Campout for Compassion is an independent, community-led awareness initiative inspired by Covenant House's Sleep Out. No national sponsorship, partnership, or endorsement is implied.

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