

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita adopted its City Seal on January 4, 2001.

Some of the area's history includes:

The Shoshonean Native Americans called Acgchemen were the first residents of the Rancho Santa Margarita area. In the early to mid-1800's Juan Forster purchased a vast amount of land here, which was sold after his death to James C. Flood and Richard O'Neill, Sr.

O'Neill's heirs later incorporated the land into developed communities, including Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita.

Rancho Santa Margarita remained one of Orange County's remote areas until the mid-1980's, when the planned community called Rancho Santa Margarita sold its first homes.

Rancho Santa Margarita was planned to be an Urban Village and continues to offer the atmosphere of a small city with an extraordinary selection of amenities and a high-quality way of life.

Rancho Santa Margarita incorporated on January 1, 2000, becoming the 33rd city in the County of Orange, California. Since incorporation, the City continues to provide an unparalleled standard of living for its residents, and quality amenities for residents and visitors alike.

The City welcomes its residents and visitors to attend City Council Meetings. You can also visit us online at [www.cityofrsm.org](http://www.cityofrsm.org).



## City Seal

Rancho Santa Margarita City Hall  
22112 El Paseo  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
949.635.1800 | [www.cityofrsm.org](http://www.cityofrsm.org)



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The City Seal for Rancho Santa Margarita was developed through a citywide contest. Community entries were submitted to the City Seal Design Committee for review. After numerous versions were developed by the City's graphic designer and discussed by the selection committee, the Seal you see now was approved and adopted.

The City Seal contains symbolism rich in the area's history and incorporates many different and interesting elements in its design. These elements are explained in further detail below:

The seal is oval seal with a gold rope border, which symbolizes the Trabuco Mesa's rancho history.

Rancho Santa Margarita, with January 1, 2000, representing the date of incorporation, surmounts the main outer ring. The full date, while not appearing on all city seals, is important to us as it makes the City unique as being the first to be incorporated in Orange County at the dawn of the new, third millennium.

Left space in the outer ring between City and Year contains the Rafter M Brand, colored gold and outlined in the same burgundy as the type. This brand represents the Rancho Mission Viejo of which present-day Rancho Santa Margarita was a part.

Right space between City and Year contains a cluster of three gold keys, symbolizing, historically speaking, the three chests of valuables said to have been buried on the mesa for safekeeping against plunder by Argentine privateer Hipolito Bouchard in 1818.

Moving further toward the center of the seal, one finds a smaller inner ring, which contains 33 gold stars, as Rancho Santa Margarita is the 33<sup>rd</sup> City to be incorporated in the County of Orange.

The interior space of the seal is dominated in the left centerground by a panoramic depiction of the bell tower entrance of the Beach Club at Lago Santa Margarita in present-day Rancho Santa Margarita; a centrally-located, well-known and popular community meeting place. The bell tower is also a recurring architectural theme of the Spanish-style buildings throughout the City.

A jacaranda tree, representing some of the more dominant landscaping used in the City, rises in front of the tower building. The bell tower along with Saddleback Mountain were the two most suggested elements for the seal in the citywide contest.

The background of the inner scene features Saddleback Mountain rising up from lower foothills beyond the lake.

The foreground interior scene contains a clump of bougainvillea on the left, balanced on the right by a patch of shamrocks, both of which are vehicles used to represent the general flora and beauty of the City. In addition, there is a historical reason for their inclusion: The bougainvillea for a connection to the original name of the old rancho (Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores) in the nineteenth century, while the shamrocks symbolize the area's continued development as a ranch by Irish immigrants Richard O'Neill and James Flood following the death of Don Juan Forster in 1882. The shamrocks also symbolize good luck for Rancho Santa Margarita.

The final element of the seal shows a branch of the native sycamore tree in the upper foreground, which, together with the bougainvillea and shamrocks breaking the two rings containing the stars, helps to give the seal a more three-dimensional feel.

