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MOLE & MARIACHI FESTIVAL RETURNS TO SANTA CRUZ MISSION ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK IN SEPTEMBER

MOLE CHEFS ENCOURAGED TO COMPETE; EVENT SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE, WITH PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE PARK

JULY 1, 2014—SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends), a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining the legacy of our local state parks and beaches, today announced its second annual Mole & Mariachi Festival will take place Saturday, Sept. 20, from 11am - 5pm at Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park (144 School St.) in downtown Santa Cruz.

Launched in 2013, the first Mole & Mariachi Festival attracted more than 1,000 attendees. Watch the video [here](#).

Local chefs will prepare *mole* (a traditional Mexican sauce, sometimes made using chocolate). *Mole* sauces will be judged by event attendees and by a panel of local celebrity judges. 2014 Mole & Mariachi Festival guests may purchase great local food, beverages and raffle tickets. Free activities include live music, folklorico, tortilla making, crafts and other children's activities.

The vibrant festival, which is the culminating event in the 2014 Summer Series at the Mission, celebrates Santa Cruz County's cultural heritage and the comeback of Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park, which was scheduled to close in 2012 but was saved by Friends.

Admission to the Mole & Mariachi Festival is free; tasting kits will cost \$10. The event is a benefit for Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks in support of Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park restoration projects, educational programming for school children and community cultural events at the park. Proceeds from last year's festival also funded restoration of the Mission Patio, which provides sweeping views of Downtown Santa Cruz.

There are several ways to get involved in the event, as a mole chef, volunteer or sponsor. Sponsorship levels from \$100 to \$2,500+ are available. Please email Festival@ThatsMyPark.org for more information or go visit <http://www.thatsmypark.org/projects/santa-cruz-mission/mole-and-mariachi-festival>

More about *mole*: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mole_\(sauce\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mole_(sauce))

About Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park

The Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park is home to the oldest building in Santa Cruz County. Built between 1822 and 1824 by local Ohlonean and Yokuts Indians, the park's signature adobe is the only remaining structure from Mission Santa Cruz, founded in 1791. One of just four adobe buildings left in Santa Cruz County—and sometimes confused with the nearby replica mission chapel—it is the only building of its kind preserved as a museum in the State of California. The adobe served as housing for Neophyte families who lived and worked at the Mission, which operated until 1834 when it was secularized. After decades of private ownership, the adobe was sold to the State of California, extensively restored and finally opened in 1991 to the public as the Santa Cruz Mission SHP.

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks saved Santa Cruz Mission Adobe SHP from closure in 2012. Friends' funding for the Mission has supported maintenance and operations at the park, as well as operation of the [Mission ParkStore](#) and a commitment to partner with the community and work with California State Parks to make needed improvements. Key improvements that have already been implemented include the opening of new interpretive exhibits, renovated outdoor cooking facilities and new hours of operation to serve local school children. The park is supported by the Mission Adobe Committee, members of which include representatives of Friends, State Parks and dedicated community volunteers.

About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is an entrepreneurial nonprofit sustaining the legacy of our state parks and beaches. Through an innovative partnership with California State Parks, and by leveraging local community support, Friends has provided millions of dollars of funding for educational programs, visitor services and capital projects. Founded in 1976, Friends is passionately dedicated to the preservation of our spectacular natural environment and rich cultural history. Friends also operates six ParkStores, offering nature- and history-themed merchandise for sale to benefit local parks and beaches. Learn more about Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks at ThatsMyPark.org or via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#).

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