

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jennifer Squires, 831-515-2802

## **STATE PARKS ANNUAL PASSES AVAILABLE AT SANTA CRUZ MISSION ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK**

*FRIENDS OF SANTA CRUZ STATE PARKS NOW SELLING PASSES THREE DAYS A  
WEEK AT THE PARK, IN DOWNTOWN SANTA CRUZ*

JANUARY 22, 2014—SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks today announced State Parks annual passes in five versions will be available for purchase at the Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park, "Your State Park Downtown." A portion of sales of the passes benefits local state parks and beaches.

Staff from Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks will be working the front window at the Park Office from 8-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to provide the passes to customers.

The five parks passes to be sold at the Mission include:

- California Explorer (\$195): honored at most parks throughout the state that are operated by California State Parks and charge a vehicle day use fee. Valid for 12 months.
- Golden Poppy (\$125): similar to last year's Commemorative 150th Anniversary Pass and includes many of the premiere "destination" parks in the redwood region, and most of the state reservoirs. Parks like Julia Pfeiffer Burns and Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park on the Monterey coast are included. Valid for 12 months.
- Disabled Discount Pass (\$3.50): for persons with permanent disabilities, this pass entitles the bearer to a 50% discount for vehicle day use, family camping, and boat use fees at California State Park operated units. It is a lifetime pass.
- Golden Bear Pass (\$5): offered to anyone receiving Supplemental Security Income, some CalWORKS Program recipients and anyone 62 or older with income limitations. Application required. Valid for 2015 only.
- Limited Golden Bear Pass (\$20): offered to people 62 or older and is valid during non-peak season at parks where vehicle day-use fees are collected. Valid for 2015 only.

Passes also are available in other locations across Santa Cruz County and online. The California Explorer Pass and the Golden Poppy Pass are sold in the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks online ParkStore ([www.thatsmypark.org/store](http://www.thatsmypark.org/store)) and at State Parks entrance kiosks. The Disabled Discount Pass, the Golden Bear Pass and Limited Golden Bear Pass are sold at the Public Safety Office at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park in Felton.

In the fall, the Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park increased its hours of operation to five days a week. The Mission is now open on Mondays and Thursday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 12-4 p.m. Admission is free; donations are accepted and all funds go to support the park. The new hours are now in effect. The enhancement was possible thanks to the overwhelming success of the second annual Mole & Mariachi Festival, held in September 2014.

To schedule a school field trip, call 831-425-5849. There are only a few dates still available for 2015.

This year's Mole & Mariachi Festival drew record crowds to the Mission Adobe. Approximately 3,000 people attended the one-day event, up from more than 1,000 at the inaugural 2013 festival. Proceeds from the event benefit the Mission Adobe. In 2013, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks funded improvements to the Mission patio from event proceeds.

### **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.

Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park is located at 144 School St., near downtown Santa Cruz.

### **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](http://ThatsMyPark.org) or via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#).

###