

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FRIENDS OF SANTA CRUZ STATE PARKS SEEKS FOOD VENDORS FOR SUMMER 'POPUK PICNICS IN THE PARK'

The lunchtime picnics will be Thursdays, June 15 through Aug. 17 at Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park

MARCH 29, 2017—SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) today announced it is seeking food vendors, caterers or local restaurants to sell food items at its PopUp Picnics in the Park this summer at Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park in downtown Santa Cruz.

During the summer Friends will host 10 PopUp Picnics in the Park every Thursday from June 15 through Aug. 17 from 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m. Self-contained food vendors are sought to sell lunch items to approximately 60-80 visitors each event.

"We are excited to again invite the public to lunch at Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park and hope to offer visitors delicious food options," said Bonny Hawley, executive director of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks. "We are looking for a great partner or partners who appreciate this park and would like to reach a new group of customers."

Food vendors can apply for as many picnic days as they would like. In return, vendors are required to donate 5 percent of their proceeds back to Friends on behalf of the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park. Proceeds will fund education and restoration projects at the park.

The deadline for vendors to reserve space is Monday, May 1. Space can be reserved by contacting Jorge Savala, Community Outreach Director, at Jorge@thatsmypark.org or 831-429-1840 ext. 110.

About Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park

Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, "Your State Park Downtown," 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. The park celebrated its 25th year in 2016.

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks saved Santa Cruz Mission SHP from closure in 2012. Friends funds interpretation services and a portion of park operations, and also runs the Mission ParkStore. In addition, Friends has implemented key improvements at the park, including a remodel of the patio, the opening of new interpretive exhibits, renovated outdoor cooking facilities and new hours of operation to serve local school children. Friends also established several special events at the park, including the annual Mole & Mariachi Festival each September, movie nights, live music and food events. The park is supported by the Mission Committee, members of which include representatives of Friends, State Parks and dedicated community volunteers. For more information about Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, visit www.thatsmypark.org/projects/santa-cruz-mission or www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=548.

About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Established in 1976, 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 provides funding for educational programs, visitor services and capital projects. 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. ParkStore locations include Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Santa Cruz Mission, Seacliff, Wilder Ranch and Online. Learn more at ThatsMyPark.org or via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest.

###