

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FRIENDS OF SANTA CRUZ STATE PARKS ANNOUNCES PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY DAY ON JUNE 3 AT CASTRO ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK

Free Hands-on Science Event Features Research from UC Santa Cruz Archaeology Program

MAY 31, 2017—SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) today announced it will host its first Public Archaeology Day at Castro Adobe State Historic Park on Saturday, June 3 from 10a.m. to 2 p.m. The free event features hands-on science methods and findings, excavation tours, interactive exhibits and science activities from findings at Castro Adobe State Historic Park.

Public Archaeology Day marks the conclusion of an eight-week partnership between Friends, UC Santa Cruz, California State Parks and Albion Environmental, Inc., in which students from the UC Santa Cruz Archaeological Field Methods anthropology class have been working at the Castro Adobe to identify and map buried resources within Castro Adobe State Historic Park using a variety of technologies, techniques and methods.

"This unique partnership is helping us better understand how the people lived on this land through the ages. The information we obtain from the researchers will be added to the interpretive displays created for this new State Historic Park," said Bonny Hawley, executive director of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks. "We are grateful for the students' efforts and excited to share more of this important history with the public."

UCSC students will give tours of the adobe grounds and their excavations, showcase interactive exhibits about archaeological methods and feature the students' archaeological findings. There also will be activities for kids of all ages and a talk about careers in science.

Tacos by Taquitos Gabriel will be available for purchase (cash only).

Castro Adobe State Historic Park is located at 184 Old Adobe Road, Watsonville. Parking is extremely limited and carpooling is encouraged.

About Castro Adobe State Historic Park

Located in Larkin Valley, near Watsonville, the two-story Castro Adobe, built between 1848-49, is one of the finest examples of a rancho hacienda in the Monterey Bay area. The property includes the restored *cocina* (kitchen) and the Potter-Church Garden, a unique outdoor space originally created by then-owners Elizabeth and David Potter (1968-72) in consultation with

noted landscape architect Thomas Church.

Friends is leading a multi-year restoration effort to preserve and interpret the new State Historic Park in partnership with California State Parks. Work is currently being done to complete seismic stabilization, finalize the preservation of the historic adobe and establish a visitor center. It is Santa Cruz County's second state historic park and the first non-beach state park in the Pajaro Valley. To follow progress on the restoration effort, visit www.thatsmypark.org/castro-blog. The Castro Adobe, located at 184 Old Adobe Road, is open on a limited basis for special events, such as Open House Days. Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted.

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.

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