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REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 20 FOR KIDS2PARKS 20/21 SCHOOL YEAR, A FIELD TRIP PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FRIENDS OF SANTA CRUZ STATE PARKS AND CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Program will offer field trips next year for elementary school students in Santa Cruz, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties

APRIL 7, 2020—SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) today announced that registration for Kids2Parks, an innovative park-equity program to bring students from Title 1 schools on State Park field trips, will open Monday, April 20 at 10 a.m. at www.thatsmypark.org/k2p.

Registration will run April 20 to May 22 for field trips that are planned for the 2020/21 academic year.

Kids2Parks offers free educational field trips in local State Parks to select Title 1 elementary schools in Santa Cruz, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Teachers apply online for the free field trips and will be informed in June if their application was selected. Title 1 is a designation by the US Department of Education that primarily indicates a high percentage of students from low-income families.

The program, a partnership between California State Parks and nonprofit Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, was field-tested in 2016 and 2017, and successfully rolled out in 2018. Kids2Parks increases the number of students who have visited a state park or beach by reducing barriers to access. Teachers can apply at www.thatsmypark.org/k2p.

“While teachers and students continue to work through the current shelter-in-place and distance learning challenges, we are excited to look forward to welcoming school groups into our state parks and beaches for the next school year,” Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks Executive Director Bonny Hawley said. “Increasing access to state parks and beaches has long-term positive impacts for students, their families and the community.”

“Kids to Parks has grown each year and we are so happy to see the joy on the students’ faces when they see the beauty of the state parks, from the redwood trees to the beaches and the historic sites. It is wonderful to see so many students in the state parks.” State Parks Interpreter Linda Hitchcock said.

Kids2Parks is funded through grants and donations. Donations to the program are gratefully accepted at www.thatsmypark.org/donate/support-a-project.

COVID-19 Update

Most state parks and beaches remain open. California State Parks has instituted walk and bike-in access only for all parks and beaches by closing day-use parking lots to protect public health and the safety of park visitors, volunteers and staff during the coronavirus outbreak. Please practice social distancing and remain at least 6 feet apart from other visitors.

Butano State Park and Portola Redwoods State Park, as well as Friends' ParkStores, are closed during this time.

About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Established in 1976, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) is a vital partner with California State Parks, creatively working to ensure our cherished local parks and beaches are thriving and available to all. Friends' innovative and collaborative community partnership provides support and investment for education, equity and inclusion, conservation, facilities improvements, historic preservation and cultural events. 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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