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7th ANNUAL MOLE & MARIACHI FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 7 FEATURES ALL-DAY LINE-UP OF MUSIC, FOOD & FUN

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks' Free Community Celebration of Mole Sauce & Mariachi Music Raises Funds for Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park

(AUGUST 29, 2019) SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) today announced the official line-up for its seventh annual Mole & Mariachi Festival, which will be held Saturday, September, 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park (144 School St.) in downtown Santa Cruz.

This year's mole tasting competitors, reflecting a wide variety of styles of the traditional Mexican sauce, include Margaritaville, El Jardin, De La Colmena, La Cabaña, Moles & Oaxacan Cuisine, Taquitos Gabriel's, Sason Mexicano and Tacos Don Beto.

Mole tasting kits will be available for purchase and include six tasting tickets for \$10. Attendees wishing to sample additional mole may purchase single tasting tickets for \$2 each. Mole sauces will be judged by event attendees who will cast their vote for a People's Choice Award, and by a panel of local celebrity judges who will select a Judge's Choice Award. People's Choice Voting will take place at a ballot box stationed at each mole chef's table.

Entertainers will include headliner all-female mariachi band Mariachi Feminil Orgullo Mexicano, Mariachi California de Javier Vargas, Mariachi Infantil Alma de Mexico, Estrellas de Esperanza, Los Diablos del Llano de Tecomates, Monos de Calenda and Senderos.

Festival attendees can also purchase a wide variety of mole-inspired food items from local food vendors who will be selling tamales, tacos and more. Beer from Discretion Brewing, wine by Santa Cruz Mountain Vineyard, chavelas (a drink made with beer, tomato juice and spices) and aguas frescas will be available for purchase.

Attendees are encouraged to stop by the raffle table, which will feature numerous prize packages featuring travel, wine, adventure and more. Free children's activities include piñatas every hour, paper crafts and face painting.

All proceeds benefit Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, and will go toward improving flooring and visitor access in the adobe.

Admission to the solar-powered, zero-waste community event is free and attendees are encouraged

to bring refillable water bottles for free water. Transportation options include free bike valet and free shuttle from downtown Santa Cruz (stops to include Locust Street Garage and Del Mar Theater

Event sponsors include:

Platinum Level: Good Times, Santa Cruz Mountain Vineyard, Santa Cruz City Arts.

Gold Level: Arts Council Santa Cruz County, Bonny Hawley, Discretion Brewing, Delphina & Jennifer Sanchez, Defib This Emergency Response Training, John & Georgann Scally, KAZU, Lighthouse Bank, Miller Maxfield, Inc., Mission Printers, Santa Cruz County Bank, Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, Taco Works, The Zenith and The Leonard Building, Edward Newman, Dueño.

For more information about how to get involved in the Mole & Mariachi Festival, as a sponsor or volunteer, visit www.thatsmypark.org/events/mole-and-mariachi. For more about mole, visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mole_\(sauce\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mole_(sauce)).

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.

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 worked with State Parks to implement key improvements at the park, including plaster repair and whitewash on the exterior and interior of the Mission, reconstruction of an adobe brick floor, French drain repair, and installation of new water-saving toilets and a bike rack. Friends also established several special events at the park, including the annual Mole & Mariachi Festival each September, live music and the popular PopUp Picnics in the Park. For more information about Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, visit www.thatsmypark.org/projects/santa-cruz-mission.

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 www.ThatsMyPark.org or via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest.

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