

# San Diego County Parks Society

Spring 2021

## Generosity Abounds in San Dieguito County Park

The holidays are the season of giving, and the San Diego County Parks Society ended 2020 with two generous donations from supporters of San Dieguito County Park.

The Native School is an outdoor school offering preschool and kindergarten classes in natural spaces, including San Dieguito.

In November, students of the Native School held a fundraiser to give back to the park that serves as their classroom.

They performed acts of kindness, including writing thank-you letters to troops and picking up trash in their neighborhoods.

These acts of kindness were supported with donations from friends and family. Altogether, the students



*Students from the Native School raised \$3,809 for the San Diego County Parks Society by performing acts of kindness.*

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The students showed that one good turn deserves another—a lesson that Harvey Karten would certainly agree with.

Karten is a frequent visitor to the horse trail across Linea del

Cielo, but he thought it was missing one thing: a bench.

When he crossed paths with senior park ranger Ketsela Mengistu, he shared his suggestion and even pointed out a suitable spot for it.

Mengistu agreed and asked a staff handyman to build the bench.

When Mengitsu emailed Karten a few weeks later, he was surprised that the bench got built so quickly.

In fact, Karten was so happy that he donated \$500 to the San Diego County Parks Society.

We are grateful to all of our donors. It is only through your generosity that we can continue to support San Diego County Parks and Recreation goals, activities, and programs for all to enjoy.



*Harvey Karten was surprised by a new bench just weeks after he suggested it to senior park ranger Ketsela Mengistu.*



## Rancho Guajome Adobe Hosts Día de los Muertos Online

*Día de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican holiday for celebrating the lives of deceased friends and family members.

Since 2011, Rancho Guajome Adobe has hosted a popular Día de los Muertos event. Wanting to keep the tradition going, but unable to hold it in person, San Diego County Parks and Recreation presented a two-hour virtual celebration on YouTube.

Kids could enjoy bilingual story time and instructions for making *papel picado* (perforated paper) and tissue paper marigolds. Marigolds are associated with Día de los Muertos because their bright colors and strong scents are believed to attract souls to *ofrendas* (altars).

The event also featured 14 *folklórico* dance performances, representing different Mexican states and regions.

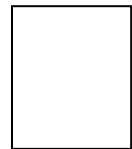
Rangers led a virtual tour of Rancho Guajome Adobe, a 22-room 1850s hacienda featuring period-appropriate furnishings.

If you missed the celebration, the video is still available on the SDCountyParks YouTube channel.

The San Diego County Parks Society provided craft supplies, decorations, and codes to stream the Disney film *The Book of Life* for free.



San Diego County Parks Society  
P.O. Box 927300  
San Diego, CA 92192-7300



Name  
Address Line 1  
Address Line 2  
City, State ZIP