President’s Message

Thank you for your support. With support from donors, members, and volunteers, the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation will continue to make a difference. I wish each and every one of you a wonderful New Year. Hope to see you on the trails in 2017!

--James Rauen

Member and Volunteer Appreciation Event at Portola Redwoods State Park

On November 12th the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation hosted its annual Member and Volunteer Appreciation Event at Portola Redwoods State Park. We had a good turnout, with everyone in attendance enjoying some incredible bar-be-que from Art of BBQ. In addition to the great food, there were door prizes, raffle prizes and updates from Portola and Castle Rock Foundation President James Rauen. After lunch Rose Nelson, Interpretive Specialist I, led a hike for members and volunteers along Coyote Ridge.
Volunteer Training Class for 2017

The Portola and Castle Rock Volunteer Classes for 2017 are still being developed. We will be holding the training classes on Saturdays through the month of April 2017. The program is conducted by Interpretive Specialist I Rose Nelson with input from Portola and Castle Rock Foundation Directors.

State Park Volunteers have done a great job of providing eyes, ears, and boots on the ground in Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks. Park Staff keep the parks operating at reasonable levels of stewardship, but the Parks still need our help. We need more volunteers at Castle Rock, a mainly hiking, rock climbing, and backpacking park, and Portola Redwoods, a mainly camping and hiking park.

Volunteers help Park Staff by being another set of eyes in the park, help visitors by providing useful information and help everyone by staffing the Portola Redwoods Visitor Center Store. Proceeds from the store are used by the Foundation to provide additional interpretive resources for both Parks.

There is always a need for volunteers. For more information about volunteering, please visit our website or email Volunteer@PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org.

Volunteer Events 2017

Portola and Castle Rock Foundation is organizing Earth Day 2017 (April 22nd) events for both Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Park. Send an email to Volunteer@PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org to learn more about how you can volunteer to make a difference!
FREE Guided Hikes on Sunday January 1 2017

Castle Rock State Park (with Mujtaba)
Saratoga Gap First Day Hike
Sunday, January 1 at 9:30 am
Join us for spectacular vistas on this 3 mile moderate hike as we discuss the local flora and history. Please bring water, snacks, layered clothing, and sturdy hiking shoes. Meet at the Castle Rock State Park parking lot, located off Highway 35 in Los Gatos. Event is free. Please no pets. For more information, please call (831) 291-8273. Event made possible by Portola and Castle Rock Foundation, California State Park volunteers, and California State Parks. Visit us on the web at www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org and www.parks.ca.gov.

Castle Rock State Park (With Miles)
Summit Meadow First Day Hike
Sunday, January 1 at 9 am
Join us for a 3.5 mile hike and learn about the natural and cultural history of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Please bring sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection, water, snacks, and layered clothing. Meet at the Sempervirens Point located off Highway 9 in Boulder Creek. Event is free. Please no pets. For more information, please call (831) 291-8273. Event made possible by Portola and Castle Rock Foundation, California State Park volunteers, and California State Parks. Visit us on the web at www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org and www.parks.ca.gov.

Portola Redwoods State Park (With Rose)
Old Tree Trail First Day Hike
Sunday, January 1 at 11 am
How do redwoods grow to become the tallest organisms on earth? How important are banana slugs to the redwood ecosystems? Why are there so few old growth trees left? Answer these questions and more on a 0.5 mile stroll through our old-growth redwood grove. Please bring water, warm clothes, and sturdy walking shoes. Meet at the Portola Redwoods Visitor Center located 3 miles down Alpine Road off Highway 35 in La Honda. Event is free; vehicle day-use fee is $10. Please no pets. For more information, please call (831) 291-8273. Event made possible by Portola and Castle Rock Foundation, California State Park volunteers, and California State Parks. Visit us on the web at www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org and www.parks.ca.gov.

The PCR Foundation is planning additional guided hikes at Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks in 2017. Please be sure to provide your email address to receive notification and information about these hikes. You can send us a note via our website or send an email directly to Info@PotolaAndCastleRockFound.org. Please also check our Facebook page for updates.

Donations
The Portola and Castle Rock Foundation depend on donations from supporters like you. Please consider making a donation now to help us fund future projects.
Membership

Will you support our community’s cherished parks by accepting this invitation to become a Member of the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation? As a member, you will receive hiking and climbing maps for both Parks, a discount at the Visitor Center store, and organized hikes led by experienced docents. You’ll also be invited to our annual Member Appreciation Event, a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of our community with friends and neighbors.

As a neighbor and member of our community, we would love to welcome you to the team that stands up for our two Park jewels. These precious local resources deserve your support. You may join for $35 as an Individual Member or up to $1,000 as a Patron Member. To learn more and join, visit our website at www.PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org.

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Help us to direct Amazon.com’s charitable giving. Use the URL below to shop on Amazon. Same price to you and Amazon will donate 0.5% of each purchase to the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation. Thank you for your support. smile.amazon.com/ch/94-3151586

Portola Redwoods State Park Tiger Lillies
Photo credit to Randy Lloyd

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