



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

The City of San Diego  
Balboa Park Administration Building  
2125 Park Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone number: (619) 235-1100  
[www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)



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“ We enrich lives through quality parks and programs ”

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### SERRA MUSEUM

The Serra Museum has been managed by the San Diego Historical Society since opening its doors in 1929.

For general information about the Serra Museum and programs, please call (619) 297-3258.

To arrange private functions at the Serra Museum or loggia, please call the Site Rental Coordinator at 619-232-6203 extension 109.  
Website: [www.sandiegohistory.org](http://www.sandiegohistory.org)



2727 Presidio Drive

#### Open to the public:

Mon. - Fri: 11am-3pm

Sat. & Sun:

10am-4:30pm

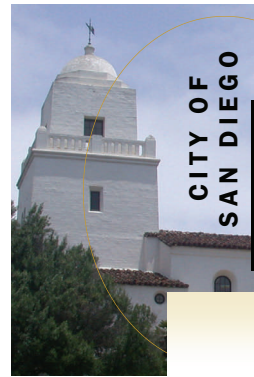
### EVENTS

If you are interested in having a special event or an outdoor wedding in Presidio Park, please call the **Permit Center** at (619) 235-1169.

You can also visit the following website to view availability and options:

[www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/bestsites.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/bestsites.shtml)

Questions or inquiries about special group tours? Please contact **Park Rangers** at (619) 235-5935.



CITY OF SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

## PRESIDIO PARK RANGER REPORT

QUARTERLY: OCTOBER – DECEMBER FALL 2007

### HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT: THE INDIAN AND THE FRIAR

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

(look for answers inside)

#### Where is that?

The Friar

The Indian



Presidio Park has two gentlemen quietly standing by while we stroll the grounds, hurry about our business or zoom through the park. Sometimes these two are noticed and appreciated, sometimes they are seen but not noticed.

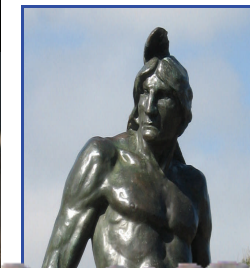
Both are located very near the Serra Museum, but are often missed. These two men are actually bronze sculptures created by Arthur Putnam.

In 1903, Arthur Putman (1873-1930) sculpted “The Indian” and “The Friar” under commission from the newspaper mogul Edward W. Scripps, when Putman was only 23 years old. Mr. Scripps had requested five larger-than-life figures depicting life of the earliest occupants of Southern California. Unfortunately only three of these were ever created. And two of them are right here in Presidio Park.

These magnificent sculptures came to Presidio Park from their original home on the Scripps property in 1933, and have stood watch here ever since.

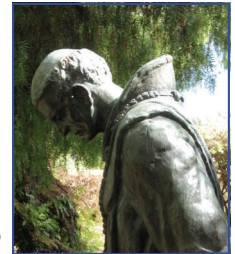
Arthur Putnam was born in Mississippi but moved with his widowed mother to San Diego as a young

man to help with the lemon farm she had purchased in what is now La Mesa. He



had many jobs including as a surveyor for the local Mesa Dam. A love of academics never developed in young Arthur, but a love of the outdoors did.

He spent most of his time outside watching and observing the natural world, especially wildlife. Later, he lived in San Francisco learning from local and international artists, including Auguste Rodin.



Much of his work is indeed depictions of wildlife. However, he is famous for other fascinating characters also. For example, his “Mermaid” dominated a main plaza in the San Francisco Worlds Fair of 1915 for millions to see.

In fact, his time in San Francisco has been described as his Bohemian era. But in spite of the creative time spent in San Francisco, he certainly missed his home town of San Diego and his friends there. He once wrote in a poem,

*I'm tired and sore  
of old town  
no face so good to see,  
as the faces I left  
so far away  
in a little town  
by the sea.*

It seems only appropriate that two of his major works would stand guard, in Presidio Park, in that little town by the sea.

FEATURED ANIMAL: COYOTE

Presidio Park is filled with wild animals. Here you can find the protective Red-Tailed Hawk, the brave Alligator Lizard, the sly Gopher Snake, the purposeful Tarantula, and the elusive Coyote. Coyotes can be found here, and that certainly surprises some people. However, the truth is that coyotes are more adaptable to human activities than the wolf and are far more capable in the wild than the domesticated dog.



coyotes under the cover of night or covertly making their way down city streets near their canyon homes.

Coyotes range almost the entire North-American continent into Mexico and parts of Central America.

Coyote's might reside in Presidio Park. The Ranger has made several sightings over several years, but they're gone quick and wont be studied easily. Will you see one?

The coyote's adaptability to human behavior is why they flourish in the urban environment. They can be seen rummaging through trash

FEATURED PLANT: CANARY ISLAND PINE

This Canary Island native is a towering example of grandeur. As a native to the West African Island chain it flourishes well in Southern California. Why? Because the climates are



so similar. Here in Presidio Park, these magnificent pines tower above the grassy lawns. Most have reached heights nearing 100 feet making them about 80 years old.

previous to the European settlements of North America, was instrumental to European commerce, due to the vast quantity of timber as well as the resin found within the tree. Interestingly, today in the Canary Islands, the needles are used to pack bananas, which are grown commercially. These Pines in Presidio should be respected and appreciated. You can find many of them lining Cosoy Way at the "top" of the park. They date back to the park's founding.

It is probable that Kate Sessions, the "mother of Balboa Park" herself, was instrumental in bringing these pines to Presidio Park in the 1920's.

Historically, the Canary Island Pine,

PRESIDIO PARK RANGER-LED TOURS

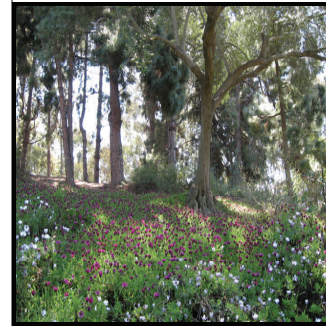
Join a Park Ranger every second Sunday of the month for a free tour of Presidio Park. The Ranger will discuss the history of Presidio Park and its relevance to the area, horticulture, archeology and more. All designed to

give you a greater understanding and appreciation of this beautiful park. Please meet outside the entrance of the Serra Museum at 1pm.

OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS...

Photography: The Scenery

Presidio Park must be one of the loveliest places in the City. Filled with beautiful vistas and colorful scenes.



Academy of Our Lady of Peace



Young ladies of the Academy of Our Lady of Peace pose for a group photo after their hard work (Palm Canyon).

CURRENT VOLUNTEERS

Stein Education Centers:

This volunteer group provides litter abatement 4 times a week throughout the park and their help is greatly appreciated.

Presidio Plant ID. Project:

The project continues to move forward...having just passed one year's worth of work. Much has been accomplished yet there is much to do. A special thanks to our "core" group!....stay tuned.....

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

Please call the Park Rangers Office at:

(619) 235-5935

HELPFUL HINTS

PLEASE BE ADVISED

- Smoking is not permitted in any of San Diego's parks or beaches.
- Please keep your park clean.
- Do not stake anything into the ground. No metal detectors.
- Please do not feed the wildlife or chase them (i.e. Squirrels).
- Camping in the park is not allowed.
- Please stay on designated trails. People and pets are prohibited off trail. Staying on the trail preserves the park.
- Jump-for-Joys are not permitted.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:(answers)

Where is that?

The Friar

Look to the ocean from the Serra, near the Cross of Ruins—avoid the cars

The Indian

Watching you enter on Presidio Drive, his back to the river—NNW from the Friar



Artists capturing Presidio Park's beauty.