



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone number: (619) 235-1100
www.sandiego.gov



AS A RECIPIENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS, THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO CANNOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANYONE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR ANCESTRY, RELIGION, PREGNANCY, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, VETERAN STATUS, MARITAL STATUS, MEDICAL CONDITION, GENDER (TRANSEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER), SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER CATEGORY PROTECTED BY FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL LAWS. IF ANYONE BELIEVES HE OR SHE HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, HE OR SHE MAY FILE A COMPLAINT ALLEGING THE DISCRIMINATION WITH EITHER THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT [CONTACT DISTRICT MANAGER (619) 235-1124] OR THE OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240. THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST. PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

“ 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 plan a function at the Serra Museum or loggia, please call the Site Rental Coordinator at **619-232-6203** extension **109**. Website: www.sandiegohistory.org



EVENTS

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.

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



CITY OF SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

PRESIDIO PARK RANGER REPORT

QUARTERLY:

DECEMBER 2009

WHO WAS JUNIPERO SERRA?

Inside this issue

Historical 1

Botanical 2

Things to know...and
other interesting
items 3

Contact info 4

SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST:

(look for answers Inside)

Where is that?

EWAA

Influential city leader and philanthropist, George Marston commissioned this mission-style building in 1929 to commemorate the Spanish heritage, so influential in the latter part of the 1700's in the San Diego region. He named the William Templeton Johnson design the *Serra Museum*, after the Franciscan Monk who claimed this region for "God and Country" in 1769. In this building, the San Diego Historical Society first flourished. But just who was Junipero Serra?

Born Miquel Josep Serra to humble parents in Petra, Majorca in 1713, his name was changed at age 18 after being confirmed as a Monk of the Franciscan Order. His new name sake, derived from an assistant to St. Francis of Assisi: Junipero. Serra was a Lector of Philosophy and earned a Doctor of Theology from Lullian University in Palma as well as occupying the Duns Scotus Chair of Philosophy before teaching at a Franciscan college in Mexico.

Junipero Serra's life seemed to be an antithesis to stagnation. He was always wanting to push forward and accomplish more. His short stature apparently caused some to question his leadership abilities, but his life was filled with self-determined spiritual quest and a long list of successful leadership roles.

His fervent zeal for the mission field overwhelmed him at times. He was often observed pounding his chest with a stone or pressing a lit torch into his chest in an effort to bring proselytes to penance. It was in fact rumored that he felt no fear and worried not about his physical needs. Serving as an example, he is rumored to have said that he knew the secret to staying free of thirst—eat little and speak less.

...CONT WHO WAS JUNIPERO SERRA?

In 1749, he and several colleagues set sail for the New World. He worked at the College of San Fernando in Mexico for 19 years. He was sent to Sur California to replace the Jesuits occupying the Spanish Missions there. By 1767, he had replaced them with his Order, the Franciscans and on May 13th, 1769, he found himself and his company standing atop a large plateau near the present day U.S.-Mexican border. Gazing Northward they saw the large natural harbor of San Diego Bay, with the ships anchored in it that had been sent ahead, except for one.

It was from this large bay that the expedition eventually made its way to the top of a hill overlooking all of the bay to the South, the marsh lands and the Pacific Ocean to the West and the San Diego River Valley to the North stretching East to the Kumeyaay hunting grounds in the Mountains, not so far away.

Father Junipero Serra established here, in Presidio Park, the first permanent European settlement on the West Coast of what is now California in 1769. He was directly responsible for the establishment of no less than eight Missions or Presidios, and indirectly for the remaining thirteen.

FEATURED PLANT: GINKGO BILOBA

A beautiful Chinese species known for its hardiness, resistance to pests and beauty. These wonderful ancient trees, deciduous, dioecious and gymnosperms by botanical classification grow slowly but may live hundreds of years. It is believed that there are no native forests of Ginkgo left in the wild.



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...



Runs, Roads, Roses and a River

CURRENT VOLUNTEERS

Stein Education Centers:

Providing litter abatement several times a week throughout the park, and their help is greatly appreciated.

Two French engineering students worked over the summer on various projects in the Park. They worked hard and did a great job.

Presidio Plant ID. Project:

...having a technological hiccup...

A special thanks to our "core" group.

....stay tuned....

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:(answers)

Where is that?

EWAA

This example of local indigenous habitation, built by Abel Silvas is made from willow branches and when fully completed is covered with reeds.

West Side of the Park near the Bird outlook and the Indian Statue.

Questions—
Comments? Let us know your thoughts.

(619) 235-5935

HELPFUL HINTS

PLEASE BE ADVISED

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