Introducing the Sandhills Mobile Visitor Center
There’s a Lot More to Henry Cowell Than Just Redwoods

Folks stepping into the center can now interact with exhibits and games as they learn about the Sandhills’ formation, its fossils, the role of fire, and current native plant restoration efforts. They’ll also have the chance to get up close with the plants and animals that call this special ecosystem home — including endemic species like the Santa Cruz kangaroo rat and the Mount Hermon June beetle.

After years in the making, Jodi says that this visitor center not only educates the public about the Sandhills, but also inspires them to become genuine stewards of its conservation, thanks to State Park’s vision and your generous support.

If not for you, our MPF donors, Jodi explains, “We wouldn’t be able to bring experiences like these to the public.”

Come see our new Sandhills Mobile Visitor Center on display every weekend at Henry Cowell campgrounds — and thank you for making the Sandhills come alive!

Docent Profile: Dave Kuty
Helping the Redwoods Speak Their Mysteries

Even after 14 years as a docent at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Dave Kuty still delights in visitors’ wide-eyed looks of amazement as he guides them through the redwoods.

“There is so much more here than our brochures can ever convey. As docents, we get to share all those hidden details with people,” says Dave.

He is particularly proud of the robust partnership between Henry Cowell and local schools.

“During peak times,” he says, “we’ll have 10-12 classrooms visiting the park in a week. Many of the students are local, but know little about the park.”

Dave, and other docents, are helping to change that. But, without the generosity of Mountain Parks Foundation donors, Dave says that providing visitors with the current level of interpretive guidance “would be very difficult.” Your donations not only provide for docent training materials, but also materials for all the rich activities our docents offer on a daily basis — like flashlights for visitors who crowd inside the massive hollow trunk of the Fremont Tree. Your gifts also equip visitors with flyers, trail guides and support educational signage throughout the park.

“In fact,” Dave says, “Mountain Parks Foundation donors are one of our primary sources of funding for interpretive activities.”

Dave can’t do what he does without your support. Please help our docents continue to educate our community’s families and children for years to come by sending in your donation today.
Donor Profile: The Griffins
Park Funders and Community Builders

When it comes to our local parks, Joe and Linda Griffin don’t need to think too much about their reasons for giving.

“These parks are such a great find for our community—it seems like a no-brainer,” says Linda.

Joe agrees, having served on the board of Mountain Parks Foundation for nine years.

“This is our park,” he says. “It’s in our backyard. We feel a sense of ownership. I think the hardest thing for our friends to get their arms around is ‘well it’s a state park, so why isn’t the state doing everything?”’

Joe tells them that if we depended solely on California funding, nothing would be as it is now. He sees it as a "private/public partnership" that gives us things like interpretive exhibits, docent walks and backpacking trips, all of which provide a unique perspective on our natural history.

“That’s what supporting our parks does,” he says. “It helps in numerous ways. It helps preserve the environment, helps our air, our water. Parks are everything.”

We thank Joe and Linda for their incredible generosity and commitment to our natural legacy. Please join them in securing a future for your park.

The Henry Cowell Nature Store
Educational and Artistic Gifts for the Whole Family

Wondering what to get that graduate, newly married couple or maybe you just want a little treasure for your home? It’s all here in our Nature Store where you will find a wide array of interesting and educational gifts from local artisans including artistic prints, note cards, journals, jewelry, walking sticks and useful items made from redwood. While you’re here, you can also enjoy a variety of refreshments and snacks like fresh brewed coffee from Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting and Marianne’s Ice Cream.

Every dollar you spend in the Store helps make your parks something special. So come on in and discover something unique. You’ll be glad you did!

Sign Up!
If you would like to receive an electronic version of our newsletter in your inbox twice a year, send an email to tim@mountainparks.org.