



SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY | SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK JPA

Top Stories



Starting Now: Year 9 of the Coast to Crest Trail Challenge

And so it begins: Year 9 of the Coast to Crest Trail Challenge. It is with great excitement that we unveil the five hikes for this year's series:

1. [San Dieguito Lagoon \(3 mi, easy\)](#)
2. [Santa Ysabel East \(4 mi, moderate\)](#)
3. [San Pasqual Valley \(5 mi, moderate\)](#)
4. [Volcan Mountain Five Oaks Trail \(4.5 mi, strenuous\)](#)
5. [Mule Hill \(2.5 mi, easy\)](#)

Details, in a nutshell:

- Finish the five hikes in any order before July 1, 2026;
- Hikers can go solo or explore the trails with spouses, sweethearts, besties, kids, dogs or any combination of the above;
- During each hike, shoot a fun selfie anywhere along the trail that inspiration strikes. Feel free to ham it up and get creative!
- For verification, email five selfies—one from each hike—as full-size JPG or PNG files to sdrvc@sdrvc.org. Include names of everyone shown in the photos, including dogs;
- If you post your selfies, tag us @sdrvc; and
- When submitting selfies, include your mailing address so we can send you a finisher's

See you on the trail!



Horsepark Trail Reopens

By Shawna Anderson

We are thrilled to announce the reopening of this popular stretch of Coast to Crest Trail! The Horsepark trail has been greatly missed as a vital connection from El Camino Real to the San Dieguito Lagoon trail. Thank you to all our trail users for their patience and understanding as we worked with our partners, the 22nd District Agricultural Association and HITS, to resolve the repairs.

The reopened trail includes a short detour around a trail bridge. Please be aware that the detour is narrow. We ask that you slow down, watch for others and be mindful of our equestrian neighbor. The detour is temporary and necessary as the JPA works on a solution to repair/replace the bridge.

Shawna Anderson is Executive Director of the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority.



Making Friends at the Fair

Kids were riveted as Rowan and Sophia explained the workings of the watershed.

So far, the duo has greeted hundreds of visitors to the EcoHut at the San Diego County Fair, which runs through July 6.

Come say hi!



Hiker Sends Fine Photos

Coast to Crest Challenger Isaac Hellman found plenty to shoot as he completed the 2024-25 hikes.



We are delighted by the landscapes he framed with his camera.

Thanks, Isaac!



EcoLogik Students Address Committee

During a June meeting of the River Park JPA's Citizen Advisory Committee, youth participants from EcoLogik presented results from water quality testing of the San Dieguito River. Their findings highlighted the importance of community science.

Spaces Filling up for ESP and 2026 Kilimanjaro Challenge

Spaces are filling up fast for two unique San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy programs, one near home and one in Africa.

Close to home, Exploring Our Sense of Place (ESP) returns for 2025-26 with a series of eight excursions that dives deeply into the watershed's natural history.

A second program, the Mt. Kilimanjaro Challenge, will bring participants to the top of Africa's tallest peak in summer 2026 while raising funds for the Conservancy.

[Open Full Story](#)



Thanks to You



Programming for All

Thanks to you, we are able to offer programming for all.

For some activities, we charge a modest fee. But most of them are free and open to everybody. Isn't that how nature should be?

Your gifts make Conservation, Education and Recreation possible.

Thank you!

[Donate](#)

Upstream



July 6, 12 and 20: Yoga at the Birdwing

Yoga at the Birdwing. It's om-aaaaaaa-zing! This month, find your flow with us 10 a.m. July 6, 12 and 20.

[Register](#)



July 8: Trails and Ales in Del Mar

Just a few tickets are left for our final Trails and Ales hike of the year. Come and explore the coastal chapparal and Torrey pine trees of Crest Canyon before caravanning to Viewpoint Brewing Co. for a cold one. Meet at 4 p.m. July 8 at the trailhead on the west end of Lozana Road.

[Register](#)

Downstream



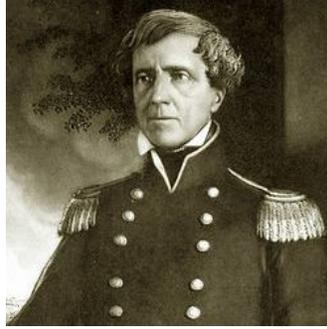
Mule Hill Walk-N-Talk

Our Walk-N-Talk outing June 27 took us to Mule Hill.

The low hill in the San Pasqual Valley was the site of a battle in 1846 during the Mexican-American War.

Amid the fighting, the troops of Gen. Stephen Kearny ran short of food and were forced to eat mule meat, which inspired the name of the hill.

[Mule Hill on Wikipedia](#)



Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



Mireade McCallen, Melissa Barnard, Sally Frost and Dale

Year 8: That's a Wrap!

To the many dozens of hearty hikers who crushed this year's challenge, we salute you!

If you didn't finish all of the hikes, let's give you the time you need. (We can keep it between us)). Finish the hikes. Send the selfies. We'll send you the patch.

In fact, visit the Past C2C Challenges webpage for details on every year's series. Take those hikes, send those selfies and we'll send those patches if any are left.

What matters to us is that you're getting onto the trails and connecting with nature in the San Dieguito River Park.

And what can we say? Your selfies make us smile. Keep 'em coming!

[Past C2C Challenges](#)



From left: Isaac Hellman; Michelle Nguyen and Nabi Habib; Mirko Raner; Paulette Sottak.



From left: Shannon Liska and Crisette Ocampo; Sheila Speirs; Brian Skinner; Chuck and Sandra Berry.



From left: Dave and Theresa Milder; Donna Nasielski; Fran Wilkinson; Janae Tynes.



From left: Jenny and Bruce Vandavelde; Alan and Judy Kiraly; Mark Stabb and Theresa Nguyen; Scott Sweeney.



From left: Teri Lee and friends; Tim Gackstetter and friends; Barbara and Terry Weeks; Daniel and Michele Monroe.



From left: Mary Hannify, Rod Swank and friends; Melissa Lee; Teresa and Dave Sweeney; Ted, Mariam and Betty Sue Foster.



From left: Emily Dayton; Joanna Sun and Forest; Tina Stirling and family; 2024-25 patch.

Volunteering



Monthly Trail Maintenance

Work with rangers to improve trails and restore habitat from 9 a.m. to noon July 13 near Lake Hodges. Meet at the staging area across from Hernandez Hideaway, 19320 Lake Drive, Escondido.

We'll provide tools, training and work gloves. Please bring drinking water, sun protection and wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes. We can't wait to see you!

Contact: calei@sdrp.org



Weekly Gardening at Sikes Adobe

The Friends of Sikes Gardeners meet every month from 9 to 11 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sunday and 2nd and 4th Monday to work in the gardens at the historic Sikes Adobe.

Contact: calei@sdrp.org

Donate



Your support is the wind beneath our wings. Thank you! Photo: John Weare

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Stay in Touch!



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