



Mission San Juan Capistrano Announces New Student Education Program and Audio Tour

San Juan Capistrano, Calif., (July 24, 2023) — For the first time in over a decade, Mission San Juan Capistrano proudly launches a new student education program ***Remember the Builders: Mission San Juan Capistrano Student Education Program*** in conjunction with the 2023-2024 school year. The newly branded program features a new self-guided audio tour experience ***If These Walls Could Talk*** designed especially for students working on their Mission studies.

Mission San Juan Capistrano Executive Director Mechelle Lawrence Adams said, “The new name reflects our effort to focus on sharing the many facets of history and ensures that we are remembering the contributions of our indigenous builders and celebrating Saint Serra. We are always proud that our education programs continue to meet, or exceed, the State of California’s curriculum standards for learning about history, social sciences, and some science.”

The student and youth audio tour will take an estimated nine thousand students to 23 stations, each sharing details about the Mission’s 246-year history. It features the “Grandmotherly Mission Wall” that introduces listeners to indigenous builders, soldiers, padres and other historic figures.

Under development for the past year, the audio tour features professional voice artists, students, and Acjachemen resident Nathan Banda. The script was co-written by Mission San Juan’s Executive Director Mechelle Lawrence Adams and Caroline Figiel, accomplished author of numerous award-winning museum and landmark audio tours. The tour is set to a musical composition by *Wreck it Ralph!* arranger, musician and vocalist Danny Jones.

While ongoing support of the Mission’s Adopt-A-Class Scholarship Program is provided by The Nicholas Endowment, additional funding is sought to provide scholarships for at least 150

students per day during the 2023-2024 school year. This funding will ensure that students and youth can experience the new audio tour and take part in the Mission Matters Adobe Brick Making class. Every student⁸⁷ will also receive a special ***Remember the Builders*** commemorative bracelet as a memento of their visit.

The ***If These Walls Could Talk*** audio tour will be available in late August during the Mission's regular operating hours and is recommended for students, children and families. For more information, visit <https://www.missionsjc.com/>.

About Mission San Juan Capistrano

Known as the "Jewel of the Missions," Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that features exhibits, five-language audio tour, festivals and public programming. As Orange County's only mission, the site is home to Serra Chapel, the Ruins of The Great Stone Church (circa 1796) and original padres' quarters.

Founded on November 1, 1776, by Saint Junipero Serra as the seventh of 21 California missions established by Spain, Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and receives no church or state funding. The Mission Preservation Foundation, comprised of business and community leaders, is its fundraising entity committed to ensuring education, preservation and its long-term historic and religious significance.

Media Contact:

Barbara Kimler PR
(949) 521-4962
bkimler1@gmail.com

###