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SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AT ORANGE COUNTY'S ONLY MISSION

San Juan Capistrano, CA—May 4, 2010—Mission San Juan Capistrano plans days and nights of memorable summer fun for the whole family; kids can enjoy a host of free daily summer activities and special after hours camping too.

From June 22-Aug. 26 free weekly activities with child admission include (ages 6-12 recommended):

Craft Day: Tuesday's from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Children will learn how to make their own jump rope or lasso, mini adobe house, or cornhusk doll.

Kids Garden Day: Wednesday's 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Kids explore the Mission's produce gardens, talk with the Mission's Gardening Angel volunteers, taste fresh vegetables of the day, and decorate and take home a pot with seeds.

Toy Day: Thursday's from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Children can decorate and take home their own whirly-gig, as well as explore and play with a wide variety of other old fashion toys.

Panning for Gold: Every Saturday from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Parents and children can try their luck at mining the gold in the Mission's custom-designed trough. We'll supply the pan and the "gold" – you roll up your sleeves and pan your way to riches, just as the early miners did!

Sign the kids up for affordable and fun summer learning through the Mission's summer camp programs (ages 6-12 recommended):

Ceramics Clay Camp: Student will learn how to make pinched pots, coiled pots, decorative tiles, primitive statues, throwing on wheels, as well as how to glaze their work. Join the fun and play with clay and instructor Melissa Thompson. Sign up for one of three, two week sessions:

- Session I
June 21, 2010 – July 2, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Session II
July 6, 2010 – July 16, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Session III
July 19, 2010 – July 30, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Indian Summer Camp: One week only (June 21-June 25 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.), Journey's to the Past educator and Achejemen indian, Ms. Jacque Nunez presents a camp that celebrates culture, diversity, and California's heritage. Imagine journeying back in time when people lived in harmony with Mother Earth and learning about Native American cultures and lifestyles from early California.

Children will learn to be the "Keepers of the Earth" through sound environmental practices and learn skills the California Indians used before the Spanish influx like weaving a basket, making an arrowhead, drilling a shell with a pump drill, pounding yucca for string and making a gourd bowl. During the Mission Era Juaneno Indians learned how to make adobe bricks, so campers will stomp mud and brand a piece of wood. The Gold Rush came and all of California was affected. Campers will pan for gold, shave like a miner and view the beauty of different Native Americans along this Western Ho movement. The week will be complete with Native American dancers and fry bread. Join the fun and have a blast to the past with Miss Jacque.

Night at the Mission Camping: July 16-17 from 6 p.m.-8:30 a.m. Mission San Juan Capistrano is pleased to offer an adventurous sleepover of camping overnight on Mission grounds for kids with their parents. The sleepover includes dinner, activities and breakfast the following morning.

For camp programs and a night at the Mission camping all participants must be pre-registered using the

summer camp form which can be found on the Mission's website at www.missionsjc.com or by calling (949) 234-1306.

About Mission San Juan Capistrano:

Known as the "Jewel of the Missions," Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.

The site itself serves as a living outdoor museum with original buildings constructed by Native Americans in the 18th century including the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres' quarters of the South Wing.

The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain, and is Orange County's only mission. Every year, over 50,000 students visit the Mission and engage in an inspirational learning experience via the Mission Matters programming, as part of their State required California history studies.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County's only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and charges admission funds as a means of providing public access.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Open Daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Good Friday afternoon. Admission is \$9 adults; \$8 seniors (60 years or over); \$5 children (ages 4 to 11); and children ages 3 and under are admitted free. Free audio guide with senior and adult admission. For more information, call (949) 234-1300 or visit www.missionsjc.com.

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