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### **MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO TO SET RECORD WITH 'HANDS AROUND THE MISSION'**

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (Sept. 2, 2014) -- Let's hug it out.

As part of the celebration marking Orange County's 125th birthday, Mission San Juan Capistrano plans to set a world record for "largest hug around a California mission" with its Hands Around the Mission event on Saturday, Sept. 13.

The Mission is looking for approximately 1,000 volunteers that will combine to hold hands around the perimeter of the Mission San Juan Capistrano grounds, which measures about 11 acres.

Those interested in being a part of history can sign up by going to [missionsjc.com](http://missionsjc.com) and clicking on the Hands Around the Mission link. Participants are asked to show up at their designated spots at 10 a.m. Hands will be joined at 10:45 a.m. and held for 10 minutes to set the record, which will be documented via aerial photography.

All participants will receive an official certificate of participation.

The Mission also is offering free admission to all Orange County residents, with proof of residency, on Sept. 13.

Mission San Juan Capistrano, recognized as the birthplace of Orange County and the county's most

historic landmark, is the primary donor for San Juan Capistrano's celebration throughout the city.

There will be plenty of activities throughout the city during the day's celebration, taking place at the San Juan Capistrano Library, the Los Rios District and the Historic Town Center Park.

***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 18<sup>th</sup> 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); \$6 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](http://www.missionsjc.com).*