



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2009

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“Cultural Activities and Summer Adventures” (CASA) Summer Camp Seeks to Provide Children from Limited Income Families with a Memorable Summer Camp Experience

*Free summer day camp offers children a unique opportunity to learn about
their community and heritage*

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) is pleased to



CASA Campers at La Purisima Mission State Historic Park with State Park Interpreter Ann Boggess.

present Cultural Activities & Summer Adventures (CASA), a free summer youth camp for children from limited income families in Santa Barbara. Now in its seventh year, SBTHP presents this annual program in partnership with Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara (HACSB). Each summer HACSB recruits approximately thirty children, aged six to twelve, from families enrolled in their affordable housing programs to participate in one of two two-week long day camps. In a community filled with excellent but expensive

summer camps, SBTHP and HACSB are proud to continue to offer this program at no cost to qualified HACSB families.

Each year SBTHP works to secure funding for annual camp operating expenses, including various museum admission fees, worksheets, snacks and supplies. **Facing a particularly difficult economy, the ability to provide both a June and July camp session this year was uncertain. Santa Barbara Bank & Trust's continued investment in the local community and their support for this program was critical to making two-sessions of CASA Camp possible in 2009. SBTHP received additional support from HACSB.**

HACSB is in charge of recruiting participants for the program. Children are selected from 492 public housing units throughout Santa Barbara and provided transportation to and from camp each day. **The mission of CASA Camp is to share Santa Barbara's distinct heritage, including Chumash, Spanish, and Mexican cultural history, as well as the natural history of the local area with children who may not have had the opportunity to visit Santa Barbara's many cultural treasures. "These children are gaining an experience that opens their eyes to new places and ideas as they have fun exploring different state parks and museums throughout Santa Barbara County," added HACSB Youth Services Coordinator Marcus Lopez. "From the moment we pick them up in the morning you can tell they are eager to get started."**



CASA Campers learn about marine life at UCSB's Marine Science Institute.

SBTHP's education department develops curriculum and supervises camp activities which are based at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park. **Karen Schultz Anderson, Director of Education, hopes that CASA Camp will "broaden children's knowledge of local history in a way that is both fun and exciting." Anderson added, "What make this camp so special are all the hands-on learning opportunities." Program sessions include: a visit to El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, featuring a history of the City's beginning as a Spanish fort, adobe brick**

making, ceramics, archaeology and Early California foods; a journey to La Purísima Mission State Historic Park to experience mission life; a trip to Casa de la Guerra for a better understanding of Santa Barbara's Spanish-Mexican heritage; a taste of ranch life at Goleta's Rancho La Patera; Chumash culture as seen at the Chumash Indian Museum in Thousand Oaks; nautical history at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum; and marine life at UCSB's Marine Science Institute and Refugio State Beach. Through these various activities

SBTHP hopes that CASA Camp will help participating children become more caring and thoughtful adults, interested in their community and proud of their heritage. **The second and final camp session for Summer 2009 is scheduled to start Monday, July 13.**

ABOUT—Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara (HACSB) is a local public agency created under state law for the purpose of providing safe, decent, and quality affordable housing and supportive services to eligible persons with limited incomes, through a variety of federal, state, local and private resources. HACSB does more than handle the day-to-day demands of providing affordable housing solutions to lower income families, seniors and the disabled. We strive to craft solutions to our Community's affordable housing dilemma in a holistic manner, and turn them into reality.

ABOUT—Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) Since 1963 SBTHP has worked to encourage the preservation of historic buildings and sites in Santa Barbara County. SBTHP has rebuilt major portions of Santa Barbara's Royal Presidio, which we operate as El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, and recently purchased the building that housed Jimmy's Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara's Asian American community in the Presidio neighborhood. SBTHP has also restored and operates as an historic house museum Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra. We are currently preserving the Santa Inés Mission Mills, the site of a future California State Park. These are but a few of the many projects SBTHP is presently pursuing—learn more at www.sbthp.org.

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