

California State Parks kicks off the New Year with the 3rd Annual First Day Hikes, being held across the state on New Year's Day. This year, there at least forty (40) parks hosting forty-five (45) different hikes, one paddle event and an off-highway vehicle ride. Visitors can enjoy hikes in the redwoods, the deserts and along the coast and beaches. It's an event for the whole family that connects people to their parks through outdoor recreation, and encourages a healthy lifestyle. Visitors can take a paddle on a quiet lagoon or and ride off-road vehicles. Hikers can take in natural wonders, scenic views and learn history about author Jack London, humorist/cowboy Will Rogers or the first all-African American community in California. Below is a list of the First Day Hikes:

California State Parks First Day Hikes List

(Updated December 18, 2014)

Butte County

Lake Oroville SRA – Hike to Sycamore Hill, 9 a.m.

If your New Year's resolution includes getting fit and having fun, then you are invited to start with a refreshing hike at the Lake Oroville. Experienced docents will lead a free five-mile public hike to a remote part of the Lake Oroville Recreation Area to the top of Sycamore Hill and back through the mysterious old train tunnel. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the entrance gate of the Visitor Center and plan to carpool to the designated trailhead for a guided outing that will reveal a mix of discoveries about old history and modern recreational opportunities at Lake Oroville

Bring a day pack with drinking water and snacks or a lunch. The five-mile guided walk will be across hilly, uneven ground. The high point of the walk will be a gradual climb several hundred feet up to the summit of Sycamore Hill. The plan is to return to the cars around 1:00 p.m. Dress for the weather. Bring rain gear if the forecast is for light or widely scattered rains. A steady rain will cancel the outing. Hikers will receive a one-day parks pass for their vehicle. Dogs are not allowed on State Park trails. For more information, call the Lake Oroville Visitor Center, 530-538-2219.

Humboldt County

Humboldt Lagoons State Park – Dry Lagoon to Ryan's Cove, 11 a.m.

California State Parks' Patrick's Point Sector will sponsor a free, guided hike or paddle. **Paddle:** Meet at the Stone Lagoon Visitor Center at 115336 Highway 101, Trinidad with your kayak, stand-up-paddleboard or canoe and gear. You also have the option of renting a sit-on-top kayak from Kayak Zak's at half price for this event. Wetsuits and gear will be available at regular prices. Please call in advance for rental reservations. All participants must wear a properly fitted life jacket. This guided paddling trip will head to the sand spit for a short break. Upon leaving the beach we will head to Ryan's Cove Campground to meet up with the hiking party for lunch and a tour of the campground's

flora and fauna. This paddle is approximately four-miles round-trip. Wear clothing and shoes that can get wet. All ages are encouraged. Difficulty: Easy.

Hike: Meet at the Dry Lagoon Parking Lot. This guided interpretative walk will begin along the beach and then head inland following the trail around the back of Sharp Point to Stone Lagoon. Hikers will meet up with the paddling party for lunch and a tour of the campground's flora and fauna before heading back to Dry Lagoon. This hike is approximately five-miles round-trip and includes some gradient. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. The trail may be damp. Difficulty: Moderate. Heavy wind or rain will cancel these events. All participants should bring layered clothing, lunch and drinking water.

Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area – Taber Trail, 11 a.m.

Meet the docent at the park entrance station, 1.5 miles north of Leggett, California, west of Highway 101. This will be an easy two-mile long hike on the Taber Trail. This trail is wheelchair accessible. Walk through a grove of old-growth redwood trees. Wear layered clothing. Young children are welcome on this hike. Young children should be closely supervised by parent or guardian. Bring water, rain gear, coffee, tea or hot cocoa to help stay warm. No dogs allowed on the trail for this hike. Heavy rain will cancel this hike. For more information call (707)-925-6482.

Kern County

Red Rock Canyon State Park – Nightmare Gulch Trial, 9 a.m.

This nine-mile moderate/strenuous hike is an all day hike into Nightmare Gulch with a side trip into the well hidden "Secret Silent City". Participants will be back by approximately 4 p.m. The strenuous route option begins with a scramble over three ridges to enjoy the fabulous views, with an elevation gain/loss of approximately 3,000 feet. An alternate moderately strenuous route along dirt roads below the ridges is offered, with gain/loss of 1,000 feet. The hike then evens out and is easy to moderate, with mostly cross country, rocky and sandy terrain. Please bring LOTS of water, sun protection; snack and lunch, comfortable hiking shoes, layered clothing. No dogs allowed on hike. Meet at dirt lot on east side of Highway 14, ¾ mile north of Abbot Road in Red Rock Canyon State Park. For cancellation information we will post on our Facebook page www.Facebook.com/RedRockCanyonStatePark.

Lake County

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park - McVicar Trail, 12 p.m.

This leisurely guided walk that will begin a noon and cover about seven miles of mainly flat terrain. The walk should take between three and four hours, and will pass through grasslands, Oak woodlands, willow and cottonwood riparian habitats and the tule marsh habitat of the Anderson Marsh Natural Preserve. We will meet at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, Highway 53, between Lower Lake and Clearlake. Bring water, snacks and binoculars if you have them and wear sturdy shoes and a hat. This hike is suitable for all ages. Rain will cancel the walk.

Los Angeles County

Saddleback Butte State Park – Saddleback Peak Trail, 9 a.m.

This five mile, Moderate to strenuous hike will offer incredible views across Mojave Desert. Layered clothing highly recommended; it can be very windy at the top, because 1000 ft of elevation gain. We will meet at Saddleback Butte State Park Day-Use Area, 17102 East Avenue J, Lancaster (corner of 170th St E and East Avenue J, 19 miles east of Hwy 14, near Lake Los Angeles). Please bring Water, sun protection, comfortable hiking shoes, layered clothing, snack, and optional lunch to enjoy in the park's Picnic Area after returning from the hikes. No dogs on California State Park trails. Cancellation Information www.Facebook.com/SaddlebackButte

Saddleback Butte State Park – Little Butte Trail to Equestrian Trail, 10 a.m.

This 4.3 mile, 1 3/4 hour easy to moderate hike will offer Beautiful high desert views over the Antelope Valley. This is a great winter's hike. We will meet at Saddleback Butte State Park Day-Use Area, 17102 East Avenue J, Lancaster (corner of 170th St E and East Avenue J, 19 miles east of Hwy 14, near Lake Los Angeles). Please bring water, sun protection, comfortable hiking shoes, layered clothing, snack, and optional lunch to enjoy in the park's picnic area after returning from the hikes. No dogs on California State Park trails. Cancellation Information www.Facebook.com/SaddlebackButte

Saddleback Butte State Park – Downen Nature Trail, 11 a.m.

This ½ mile, ranger-lead interpretive tour along the nature trail, is an easy hike and will offer a chance to learn about the unique natural and cultural history of the local area. We will meet at Saddleback Butte State Park Day-Use Area, 17102 East Avenue J, Lancaster (corner of 170th St E and East Avenue J, 19 miles east of Highway 14, near Lake Los Angeles). Please bring: water, sun protection, comfortable hiking shoes, layered clothing, snack, and optional lunch to enjoy in the park's Picnic Area after returning from the hikes. No dogs are allowed on California State Park trails (with the exception of service animals). The tour is paved for wheel chair/stroller accessible Cancellation Information www.Facebook.com/SaddlebackButte

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park - Andora Entrance interpretive trail, 11 a.m.

Begin the New Year rejuvenating and connecting with the outdoors by taking a healthy hike. First Day Hikes offer a great way to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature and welcome the New Year with friends and family. The SSPSHP hike meets at the park's Andora entrance at 9955 Andora Street just south of Lassen Street. California State Parks Volunteers will lead a moderate 2.5-mile hike, – allow two-three hours, we will stay in the lower part of the park. Bring water and wear good shoes. Hats and sunscreen are always a good idea. Well behaved dogs with owners on leash are welcome. Rain cancels the hike. Call the hike leader if you have any questions shortly before the walk at (818) 326-1533.

Marin County

Angel Island State Park – Perimeter Road to Battery Ledyard Overlook, 10 a.m.

This two-mile easy hike (steep climb out of cove for five minutes, then basically level) is a hike for everyone. Stroller friendly and bikes welcome. We will meet at Ayala Cove Dock. Access is only from Tiburon Ferry – See Angel Island-Tiburon Ferry for times at (415) 435 2131 or their website www.angelislandferry.com. Please bring camera, binoculars, water and sense of exploration. If event is cancelled, we will post on website <http://www.angelisland.com/>.

Mount Tamalpais State Park - Rock Springs Trailhead, 9:30 a.m.

Earn your commemorative pin once you've reached East Peak! There will be three different hikes to choose from that day (Easy, Moderate, and Strenuous) all of which will end at East Peak. This 7.5 to 8.5 hike is open to hikers of all ages. Please meet at Rock Springs parking area/trailhead. Things to bring include hiking boots, clothing layers, water, lunch or snacks. There will be snacks and refreshments up at East Peak as part of the celebratory New Year's hike. Cancellation Information Only a severe Pacific storm system will cause the hike to be cancelled otherwise the hike will proceed rain or shine. Call 415-388-2070 or 415-388-3653 if you are unsure about conditions.

Mendocino County

MacKerricher State Park - Laguna Point Trail, 11 a.m.

Meet naturalist Fred Andrews at the visitor center. Drive about three-miles north of Fort Bragg on Highway 1 and turn left at the MacKerricher State Park sign. Learn about the annual gray whale migration and about other marine mammals seen along the Mendocino coast. Binoculars will be available to help visitors study whales and other fascinating wildlife found near MacKerricher's shores. This is a wheelchair accessible hike. After meeting at the MacKerricher visitor center, the group drives to Laguna Point, where you walk out to look for whales. Young children are welcome on this program. Heavy rain will cancel this hike. More information call (707) 961-0471.

Mendocino Headlands State Park

Meet docent Jim Owens at the Ford House Visitor Center in Mendocino at 1:00 p.m. Walk out to the Mendocino Headlands to look for gray whales. Learn about the annual migration of gray whales between Alaska and Baja. This is an easy one-mile hike. Three years old is the minimum age for children on this walk. Rain will cancel this event. Wear layered clothing. Bring binoculars, water and a camera. For more information call (707) 937-5397.

Russian Gulch State Park - Fern Canyon to Falls Loop trails, 12 noon

Meet naturalist Dave Jensen in front of the recreation hall. The park entrance road is located on the west side of Highway 1, three miles north of Mendocino, California. This will be a moderate to strenuous 5.5 mile out and back hike (2.75 miles each way) to the beautiful waterfall at Russian Gulch State Park. You will learn about the park's natural history from Dave Jensen, renowned birder and naturalist. This hike is suggested for

children 10 years and older, and adults. Bring water, snacks, hat and binoculars with you. No dogs allowed on the trail for this hike. For more information call (707) 961-0471.

Spring Ranch/Van Damme State Park – Spring Ranch Bluff trails, 10 a.m.

Meet the docent at Highway 1 and Gordon Lane. The parking lot is about two miles north of Little River, California, on Highway 1. This hike goes downhill through the Spring Ranch property to bluffs overlooking the ocean to look for migrating gray whales. Learn about the annual migration of gray whales between Alaska and Baja. After looking for whales, you will retrace your path uphill to the dirt parking lot. One section of the dirt path is very steep. Bring binoculars, water and a snack. Wear layered clothing. Heavy rain could cancel this hike. For more information call (707) 961-0471.

Monterey County

Asilomar State Beach and Conference Center – Poetry Hike, 10 a.m.

Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds is inviting Monterey Peninsula residents and visitors to join in a unique “Poetry hike.” Led by State Park Staff, Asilomar First Day Hikers will learn about the native Monterey Pine forest, the Asilomar Dunes Preserve, and experience amazing scenic ocean views, bracing salt air, and exult in the dashing waves upon the rocky seashore coves as we walk through the spectacular natural environment. Selected excerpts of nature poetry from a range of writers, will be shared among First Day Hike participants, and will enhance our time together as we reconnect with nature in an artfully healthy way. Meet at the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Social Hall Deck. Plan on wearing comfortable shoes, wear layered clothing, and bring your own water if desired. Young children must be accompanied by Parent/Guardian adults, and be able to walk or ride in strollers over the approximate 1.5-mile trail loop.

Following the hike, participants are invited to purchase lunch at the Asilomar State Beach Conference Grounds Dining Hall or at Phoebe’s Café, located in the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Social Hall. For more information about dining options at Asilomar Conference Grounds please contact the Asilomar Front Desk: 831-372-8016, or log on to <http://www.visitasilomar.com>. To RSVP, or for additional information, contact State Park Interpreter, Lisa Bradford at the Asilomar State Beach Office: 831-646-6443; Asilomar.Interp@parks.ca.gov. This hike will be cancelled in the event of rain.

Orange County

Crystal Cove State Park – Loop Trail, 9 a.m.

This three-mile moderate hike is suitable for adults and children, but the trail is steep in some places and may be challenging for little legs. Meet at Berns Amphitheater (School-State Park entrance, follow signs to the campground). There is a \$15 day use fee. Please bring Water, sun protection, hat, comfortable hiking shoes, layered clothing and snack. Rain will cancel. Park closed the day after rain so if in doubt call (949) 494 3539 or check www.crystalcovestatepark.com.

Riverside County

Mount San Jacinto State Park - Discovery Trail , 11 a.m.

Join Ranger Bill Solylo on what could be California's initial First Day Hike on snow shoes! If there is more than a foot of snow, snowshoes will be needed. This 1.5-mile hike will allow visitors to enjoy the high mountain environment in winter. This hike is moderate in difficulty and takes place at altitudes over 8,000 feet. Wear warm clothing, waterproof boots and snow shoes if snow depths are greater than a foot. Temperatures this time of year can range from the teens to low 30's without the wind chill. Hikers will meet at the Long Valley Ranger Station located near the top of the Palm Springs Ariel Tramway. For information about taking the tram [click here](#).

Lake Perris State Recreation Area – Take a New Year’s Hike, 10 a.m.

California State Parks invites you and your family to start the New Year fresh with a hike at Lake Perris State Recreation Area. On Wednesday, January 1st 2015 at 10:00 AM, staff will be leading a 2 -3 mile hike. This hike is moderate but there will be plenty of rest stops along the way. Bring water, appropriate footwear, and your camera for an awesome way to start the year. Because the hike does involve terrain and is strenuous at times we encourage that if children are brought that they are at least 10 years of age or have previous hiking experience. This event is free with park entrance which will be reduced for participants of the hike at \$5 per vehicle (Normally \$10). Please arrive 20 minutes early and park at the campfire center located on the upper road (Alta Calle) between Moreno Kiosk and the Horse Camp. If you have any questions please call 951-940-5647.

Sacramento County

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area – Sweet Water Creek Trail, 9 a.m.

Come see historic gold rush settlements and follow the water ditch system on the 5 miles round trip moderate hike. Meet at Salmon Falls (Raft take out). Please bring water, sturdy shoes with good footing, because we will be hiking along a narrow trail with uneven surface and a camera. This hike is for participants five-years-old and up. Heavy downpour of rain will cancel this hike.

Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park – Canal Trail, 10 a.m.

Participants will be able following the hike to visit and tour the park unit and receive more information about the early development of electricity on this easy .75 round trip hike. Meet at the Folsom Powerhouse SHP. This hike is for participants of all ages. Things to bring good sturdy walking shoes, layered clothing based on weather. If weather does not permit enjoyable walk then docent will lead visitors into Visitor Center and museum.

San Diego County

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park – Alcoholic Pass, 9 a.m.

Join Volunteer Naturalists Ron and Peg Poitras to experience and discover the prehistory, history, and present-day journey of those who have used this trail for food, water, work, and fun. This is a four-hour excursion into the pass. Meet at the north end of DiGiorgio Road. This is a strenuous but relatively short hike, bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots. Cancelled if heavy rain.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park – Borrego Mountain West Butte, 9 a.m.

Join volunteer naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson for a moderate 3-mile (roundtrip) hike to the top of one of our smaller peaks, but with great views! There will be some walking on narrow ridges and scrambling on rocks toward the summit. Meet just off Highway 78 at the intersection of Buttes Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of Borrego Springs Road. This is a moderately to strenuous hike, bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots. Cancelled if heavy rain.

San Onofre State Beach – San Mateo Campground to Trestles, 11 a.m.

Meet at the San Mateo Campground and hike to the Trestles to take in the views on this moderate four-mile hike. We will also hike on the sand to Church Surf spot to eat a snack and take photos. After our snack return on the inland trails back to San Mateo Campground. This hike is open to all ages, but trail is steep in some places and may be challenging for little legs. Please bring water, hat, sunscreen and stable shoes for hiking. Leashed dogs allowed on paved trails, but not on the beach at the Trestles. Rain will cancel. Call (949) 366-8503 to check for post-rain cancellation.

San Luis Obispo County

Morro Strand State Beach – Morro Rock to North Moro Strand beach walk, 2 p.m.

Stroll along Morro Strand Beach from Morro Rock toward North Moro Strand with State Park Staff and Docents, looking at, and hearing about, the curious and the mundane items found on the beach. Start your New Year off right. Get your family outdoors and make it a resolution to do it more often. Meet at the restrooms in the Morro Rock parking lot. Wear clothing to suit the weather. Strollers and chairs with big wheels for the sand are recommended. Rain will cancel the hike. No pets are allowed please.

Pismo State Beach/Oceano Dunes State Vehicle Recreation Area – Dune Dwellers Hike: Chumash & Dunites, 1:00 pm

A 2 ½ hour, three-mile walk in the Oceano Dunes to visit sites of human habitation both pre-history (Chumash) and modern times (Dunites). The walk can be tiring because we will be walking in the back dunes. There is a creek crossing and the wind picks up in the late afternoon. Warm layering of clothing and water is recommended. Binoculars are optional. Meet at the Nature Center, Oceano Campground. Rain will cancel.

San Mateo County

Año Nuevo State Park - Changes and Challenges: The Future of Our Parks, 10 a.m.

Año Nuevo means “new year;” what better way to start 2015 than with a fresh take on a new (to most people) part of this aptly-named park? Please join interpretive specialist Joseph Carr Ritchie at the Franklin Point trailhead (south of Gazos Creek road, north of Rossi Road) for this easy .6 mile/1 km exploration of the changes and challenges waiting for us over the years to come—and some of the best views on the coast side. The walk will happen, rain or shine—hopefully rain!—so dress for changing weather and walking surfaces, such as shifting sand and slick boardwalks. The hike will take approximately 90 minutes. The hike is recommended for ages 10 and up. For more information, please call (650) 879-2025.

Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park Property – Mills Creek Trail, 9 a.m.

Take a journey back in time along Mills Creek at Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park. This easy walk will be a two-mile, three-hour round trip hike following the course of Mills Creek with only a small gain in elevation. Along the way you will learn about the lives of early pioneers and farming families who first settled here in the 19th century. Meet Docents Ginny Conboy and Rita Jennings at the Burleigh Murray parking lot located on Higgins-Purisima Road 1.5 miles east of Highway 1 near Half Moon Bay, California. Bring water, snacks, and sunscreen. Wear long pants, layered clothing and sturdy shoes. The hike is limited to 20 participants – please contact HMBParksVolunteer@parks.ca.gov or Angie at (650)726-8819 to reserve a space.

Gray Whale Cove State Beach – Hike Montara Mountain, 10 a.m.

Meet at of Gray Whale Cove State Beach parking lot along Highway 1 approximately 18 miles/29 km south of San Francisco. Enjoy a moderate two-mile, two-hour hike along the edge of the California coast. Led by docent Avis Boutell, from the trail you will be able to view etchings into the landscape by the long-gone Ocean Shore Railroad and spot the remnant bunkers left over from the World War II era. Enjoy ocean views, coastal plants, and bird watching on this leisurely hike. Wear long pants, layered clothing and sturdy shoes. The hike is limited to 20 participants – please contact HMBParksVolunteer@parks.ca.gov or Angie at (650)726-8819 to reserve a space.

Santa Barbara County

Gaviota State Park - Gaviota Wind Caves, 10 a.m.

On this two to three-mile round trip hike, we will see naturally formed wind caves and spectacular ocean views. This moderate, semi-strenuous hike is suitable for adults and parent’s discretion on youth. Dress in in layers for changeable weather and temperatures. Bring walking shoes, water, sun protection and snacks. Please leave pets at home, no dogs allowed on the trails. Meet at 10 a.m. at the entrance kiosk at Gaviota State Park. For cancellation information call (805) 968-1033.

Carpinteria State Park – Carpinteria Bluffs and Beach, 1 p.m.

Join us for an approximately five-mile first day moderate hike along the bluffs of Carpinteria to Rincon Point. We will take a brief stop at the Harbor Seal Sanctuary where it's pupping season. Departing a short time before low tide, we will have the luxury of making most of the return trip on the wide beach. We will meet at Carpinteria State Beach Jelly Bowl parking lot. Please bring appropriate clothing for current weather, sun hat, sun screen, water, binoculars & sturdy shoes good for both trail & sand. The event will be canceled in the event of severe weather.

Santa Cruz County

Castle Rocks State Park - The Rockstars of Castle Rock State Park First Day Hike, 1 p.m.

What's the first thing you think of when you think of Castle Rock? Come see the towering, cavernous rock formations called "tafoni." Marvel in their beauty and savor their delicate splendor. You will learn how these radical rock stars were born, and what you can do to keep them rocking out for generations to come. The trail to Castle Rock hike is a .9 mile 90-minute hike of moderate difficulty. Hike meets in the day use parking lot off of Highway 35 (south of the intersection of Highway 35 and Highway 9). No water is available in the park; bring plenty of water and snacks for yourself. The event hike is free. Please wear appropriate footwear for hiking (i.e. no flip-flops, high-heels, or shoes without significant tread). Please direct questions to Audrey.stapleton@parks.ca.gov.

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park - New Year's Day Cathedral Redwoods Hike 12 p.m.

On this four-mile, moderate hike we'll venture to Cathedral Redwoods, a breath-taking and often unvisited location in our park. Taking Rincon Fire Road, we'll follow along the river and make a climb through some of the park's "back-country" on multiple scenic trails. This moderate hike is suitable for adults, and youth who are diligent hikers. Dress in layers for changeable weather and temperatures. Bring walking shoes, water, sun protection and snacks. Please leave pets at home. Meet at 12 noon in front of the Visitor Center at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Heavy rain cancels.

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park - New Year's Day Fall Creek Hike, 2 p.m.

On this 3 to 4-mile hike, we will venture through the Fall Creek unit of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. We will hike along the Fall Creek Trail, exploring the riparian ecosystem of our park. We will also be visiting lime kilns, some of the remnants of a once successful lime processing industry. This moderate hike is suitable for adults, and youth who are diligent hikers. Dress in in layers for changeable weather and temperatures. Bring walking shoes, water, sun protection and snacks. Please leave pets at home. This trail is not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs. Meet at 2 p.m. at the Fall Creek Parking Lot located off Felton Empire Road. Heavy rain cancels.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park - Shadowbrook Stroll, 10:30 a.m.

Join Docent Hal Anjo as he guides you on a less-traveled trail that takes you by Union Creek, to the Sempervirens Falls and back through the redwoods. This is a four-mile,

3.5-hour hike. Bring water and good hiking shoes. This moderate hike is suitable for adults, and youth who are diligent hikers. Dress in layers for changeable weather and temperatures. Meet at Park Headquarters, 21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek, CA, 95006. Heavy rain cancels. For cancellation information call (831) 338-8883.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park - Discover Big Basin Redwoods, 12 p.m.

Explore some of the park's less travelled backcountry with docent naturalist Barry Grimm. This hike will be individually tailored to your group—so distance can vary from two to eight miles, depending on your needs. The pace is always moderate—with occasional short stops to discover the park's unique animals, plants and other natural features. Based on group size, experience level and weather conditions, we will choose from the many trails that explore the park's most scenic areas. Dress in layers for changeable weather and temperatures. Bring sturdy walking shoes, water and trail snacks. Meet at Park Headquarters, 21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek, California, 95006. Heavy rain cancels. For cancellation information call (831) 338-8883.

Big Basin State Park - Redwood Loop Walk, 1 p.m.

How do these grand redwoods grow to be so old? So tall? How are they important to humans? Join us for this fun and informative easy guided half-mile stroll through a magnificent old-growth redwood forest. Meet the famous Mother Tree, the Father of the Forest and the incredible Chimney Tree on this 90-minute walk. The trail is stroller and wheelchair accessible. Meet at park headquarters, 21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek, CA, 95006. Heavy rain cancels. For cancellation information call (831) 338-8883.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park - Coffee Talk and Crafts, 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Come to the Sempervirens Room next to Park Headquarters for free coffee or hot chocolate. This is a great way to start your day in Big Basin. A Big Basin Docent will be happy to answer your questions about the park and help get you going on the right trail. And there's a fun craft activity for the kids! Dress in layers for changeable weather and temperatures. Bring walking shoes, water and snacks. Meet at Park Headquarters, 21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek, California, 95006. For more information call (831) 338-8883.

Wilder Ranch State Park - Coast Nature Walk, 11 a.m.

Step into 2015 at the seashore on this 2.5 mile easy hike along the Old Cove Landing Trail to explore the plants, animals, and geology of the spectacular coastal bluffs. Meet at the Wilder Ranch Interpretive Center for the two-hour guided hike for all ages. Bring a snack, water, binoculars, and wear good walking shoes. Rain cancels. Walk is appropriate for all hikers. Wilder Ranch is located at the northern end of Santa Cruz off Highway 1 at 1401 Coast Rd. For additional information, call (831) 426-0505.

Sonoma County

Jack London Park - Mountain Trail, 10 a.m.

Take a moderately strenuous hike to the summit of the park, where you will be rewarded by beautiful views of the valley floor. Expect a fun and friendly eight-mile round trip hike to start off the New Year. This hike is suitable for adults and youth 12 year old and up. We will meet in the Ranch parking lot. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water, hiking poles and lunch. There is a \$10 fee plus \$10 per vehicle parking fee. No refund for cancellation. See our website for registration and more information www.jacklondonpark.com/firstdayhike.html. For additional information contact Deborah Large at dlarge@jacklondonpark.com.

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park - Bald Mountain Loop, 10 a.m.

This six to seven- mile, two-hour hike offers fantastic views on a clear day. See Napa Valley, Sonoma Valley, San Francisco and the Sierras while enjoying this hike. This is a strenuous 1,500-foot elevation gain hike and is suitable for adults, youth 12-years-old and up. We will meet in the main day use parking lot. Bring wet weather gear and a lunch. For cancellation information we will post on our website www.sugarloafpark.org.

Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve – 10 a.m.

Ring in the New Year: outside. This hike is brought to you by Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and California State Parks. This family-friendly hike will meet at 10 a.m. at the visitor's center and go until 12 p.m. Guests will be treated to a fun and easy walk under the magnificent old growth redwood trees with stops to view the rushing waters of Fife Creek. The hike will be led by experienced docents from the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring a water bottle and snacks. All ages welcome. FREE. Heavy rain cancels. For more information, please contact Pete Bidigare, Volunteer Manager, at 707-869-9177 ext. 1# or pete@stewardscr.org.

Sonoma Coast State Park - Kortum Trail, 1 p.m.

Start the year out right and bring your family on a hike out at the coast. This hike is brought to you by Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and California State Parks. We will meet at 1 p.m. at the Shell Beach parking lot and go until 3 p.m. On this easy walk, the group will meander through rare coastal prairie habitat on the Kortum Trail. Views of the ocean and the nearby boulders make this a magical experience. The hike will be led by experienced Stewards docents. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring a water bottle and snacks. All ages welcome. FREE. Heavy rain cancels. For more information, please contact Pete Bidigare, Volunteer Manager, at 707-869-9177 ext. 1# or pete@stewardscr.org.

Salt Point – Fisk Mill to Stump Beach, 10:30 a.m.

Please meet at the Fisk Mill Trailhead (far northern end) for a moderate four mile (roundtrip) hike for ages 10 and above. Please bring hiking (or rain?) boots, rain gear, layered clothing, hat, binoculars, water & sack lunch. Cancelled if moderate or heavy rain. Call (707) 847-3437 that morning for update. If you'd prefer to hike only one way and need assistance with carpooling, please contact us in advance.