



Portola and Castle Rock Foundation

Inspiring the Protection of Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks Through Quality Educational Experiences and Infrastructure Improvements

Our mission is to inspire the protection of Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks. We do that with quality education experiences and infrastructure improvements. Spring is here, the Parks are open, the flowers are in bloom, the trails are ready. Make plans today to visit our Parks!

Mujtaba Ghouse, PCRF President

Exceptional Volunteer, Linda Zanville Achieves 2,000 Service Hours

The PCRF congratulates and thanks a long-time Castle Rock Volunteer Linda Zanville, as she recently completed 2,000 hours of service on the trails. Based on her experience in the park, she also created the “Castle Rock Popular Hikes” map which is handed out at the Castle Rock kiosk and has been added to the updated Castle Rock Brochure on sale at the kiosk. Linda relates the origin of her relationship to and love of the park.

‘Growing up in New York City I always felt like a stranger in a strange land. When I moved to the Santa Cruz Mountains 46 years ago, I felt like I was finally home. I traded in skyscrapers for redwood trees and never looked back. My husband and I raised our two daughters, without TV, in a cabin on the San Lorenzo River. Adventuring out into the forest was how we had fun, connecting with each other and with nature. Now my two granddaughters get to experience the joy of visiting our home in the redwoods.’



Volunteers Clean Up the Campgrounds at Portola Redwoods

We asked and you answered. More than a dozen people showed up for a weekday workday at Portola Redwoods. Volunteers raked, swept and cleaned up around the campgrounds. The Parks maintenance team was very appreciative of the help. PCRF provided lunch for the enthusiastic group. We will be organizing future volunteer events. If you would like to receive invitations to volunteer events, or would like to learn more about the State Parks volunteer program or the Portola Trail Crew, drop us a note at Volunteer@PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org.

Your Donations At Work

It rained in December. Oh how it rained. It rained so hard that a very large Douglas Fir came down. Alas, a structure stood between the tree and the ground. The tree won. Thanks to generous donors, PCRF was able to modify our 2023 budget to cover \$15,000 of the estimated \$21,225 to remove the tree and rebuild the bathroom known as the Point Circle Comfort Station. The repair work is nearing completion!



Park Maintenance Request for Funding

The picnic tables at the Portola group camping areas are in bad shape and need to be replaced. PCRFB is requesting donations to help fund this \$10,000 project. Please help us fund this project by donating today.

To support this project, please donate today, indicating “Picnic Tables” in the memo field. Send us a check, visit our website (<https://portolaandcastlerockfound.org/donations/>) or use the PayPal Giving Fund (<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/110027>). We also accept donations at both Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks.

Portola Redwoods Visitor Center Store Highlight ... There’s a Hair in My Dirt

There’s a Hair in My Dirt, written by Gary Larson, is a cult-classic for true nature lovers and science geeks alike who enjoy colorful cartoons full of irony, bad dad jokes, and 1990s snark. Gary Larson uses a family of worms to tell a story about the interconnectedness of nature and how clueless people with good intentions can do more harm than good but not without offering some useful advice in the process:

“Kissing outside of your species is not recommended, but you if you have to do it, always chose a gastropod over an amphibian”

This book is clever and humorous with an unexpected twist at the end that will be sure to please and get a good chuckle out of even the most serious reader. I liked all the little hidden side stories that poke fun at us humans (I challenge you to spot the plotting eager crayfish, the forbidden omelet or the Field Guide to Humans...). Good choice for adults or older children to explore ecosystem concepts and the interconnectedness of our world in a funny approachable way and maybe even pick up some new science vocabulary.

Pick up your copy today from the Portola Redwoods Visitor Center Store!



Membership

Help us do great things! Become a member of Portola Castle Rock Foundation today and we will provide you with free detailed hiking maps of both Portola Redwoods and Castle Rock State parks. Other Membership benefits include a 20% discount at Portola Redwoods Visitor Center Store and an invitation to our annual membership and volunteer appreciation event.

Learn more: portolaandcastlerockfound.org/become-a-member

Hidden Waterfall

Remember that Atmospheric River we received in December? How fortunate we were that Chris Pereira and his crew were able to clear out a lot of debris on the Old Tree Trail at Portola Redwoods State Park.

The benefit of those two events had the creek running again along the Old Tree Trail. (When was the last time any of you had seen water running along that trail?) The bonus was a waterfall into Peters Creek that was visible from the bridge. The waterfall only lasted until the end of January but Dan King, one of the park aides was able to capture it on his camera.

Although the waterfall is now gone, that rain and the subsequent sunshine has brought an early Spring to Portola. Now the wildflowers are beginning to bloom. Come enjoy them while they last.



Donations Welcome

Our State Parks needs are many. Please help us do more by donating to Portola and Castle Rock Foundation.

Send us a check, visit our website (<https://portolaandcastlerockfound.org/donations/>) or the PayPal Giving Fund (<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/110027>)