

PRESS RELEASE

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www.supportparks.org

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Annual Bike Ride and Family Social Gathering Returns to Bay Area

Online Registration for the 2009 Tour de Peninsula Now Open

SAN MATEO, CALIF. (May 15, 2009) – Registration for the 2009 Tour de Peninsula (TdP) recreational bike ride and family social gathering, scheduled for August 2 in scenic Coyote Point Park in San Mateo, is now open at www.supportparks.org. A highlight of the Bay Area social calendar for nearly 20 years, the ride returns after a one-year hiatus with a new location, a variety of bicycle routes to suit every type of cyclist and full day of family outdoor activities. Proceeds benefit the San Mateo County Parks Foundation and Bicycle Sunday – car-free biking on Canada Road.

Bicycling

The Tour de Peninsula offers four route options on beautiful courses designed to suit everyone from young children and first time riders to serious cyclists. The rides – kids, beginner, intermediate and advanced – will take riders on popular Peninsula bike routes that visit numerous San Mateo County Parks, with breaks at rest stops and scenic sites along the way. Route options include:

- **Kids/Family Route** – 1-3 miles on bike trail in Coyote Point Park
- **Short Route** for beginner to intermediate cyclists – 20 miles
- **Long Route** for intermediate to experienced cyclists – 31 miles
- **Metric Century** for advanced cyclists – 63 miles

Family Events and Activities

The Tour de Peninsula is more than just a ride – it's an outdoor experience for the whole family. After the rides, participants will gather at Coyote Point's Captain's House Picnic Area, a beautiful location nestled in a shaded eucalyptus grove, for a day of family activities including:

- **The Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education**, open at no charge to all TdP participants and their families. www.coyoteptmuseum.org
- **Magic Mountain**, an award-winning playground with 6 slides and play features for toddlers through teens
- **The Bike Skills Demo Area**, a short course of entry-level bike challenges for kids, provided by San Francisco Urban Riders
- **Live band entertainment**
- **Picnic tables and grills** (bring your own food and beverages, or purchase from concessions on site)
- **Networking and lively conversation** with other Bay Area residents and families

More...

Benefit

Apart from providing a great day out in beautiful scenery, the main purpose of the Tour de Peninsula is to raise funds for the San Mateo County Parks Foundation and Bicycle Sunday – car-free biking on Canada Road. The San Mateo County Parks Foundation funds projects that restore habitat, provide environmental education, improve trails, support volunteer efforts, and encourage recreational use of parks. Since its founding in 1998, the Foundation and its members have provided millions of dollars for San Mateo County parks.

History

The Tour de Peninsula was founded circa 1991 by Mark Simon (ex-Peninsula Times Tribune and SF Chronicle columnist) and Rick Sutton (Sea Otter Classic founder), as a semi-spoof of the Tour de France through the campus of Stanford University. A handful of riders showed up with grease-stained T-shirts and beaten-up old bikes with the simple goal of having fun; people took short cuts and made frequent stops for donuts, taking up to three hours to ride a 15-mile course. Over the years, the ride continued to grow, but the jovial spirit has continued. After taking a break in 2008, the TdP returns at a great new venue, Coyote Point.

Registration

Rates: Kids 12 and under are free. 13-16 year olds are \$20. Adults 17 and over are \$40. Registration includes TdP t-shirt.

Deadline: Participants are encouraged to register online by July 31, by visiting www.supportparks.org, then clicking on the TdP logo. Ride-day registration is also available for an additional \$5, beginning at 6:30 am.

Questions?: Contact tdp@supportparks.org, 650-321-1638

Volunteer

The 2009 Tour de Peninsula needs enthusiastic volunteers to help out. To sign up, complete and submit the form at <http://www.supportparks.org/tourform09.html>. We will send you everything you'll need to prepare for the day including when and where to show up, what to wear and more. Volunteers get lunch, a Tour de Peninsula crew T-shirt and San Mateo County Parks Foundation hat.

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