

OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE THROUGH THE MANY SPECIAL EVENTS, INCLUDING AN 1800S JULY 4TH, WISE, WICKED, AND WONDERFUL WOMEN OF OLD TOWN, STAGE COACH DAYS, AND FIESTA NAVIDAD.



Historic games, activities, and crafts are popular with the young visitors and provide interactive family experiences.

Volunteers are a critical component to the implementation of the Old Town San Diego SHP Strategic Plan for Interpretation. They play an important



role in bringing Old Town to life by participating in special events, demonstrations, tours, and assisting with operations.

Historic laundry programs bring early California to life for the visitors, provide valuable historical information on how people lived, and demonstrate the hardships they faced every day in their struggle to survive.



The public tours are becoming more popular with the introduction of new ideas, techniques, humor, and public spectacle. The once quiet town of San Diego is now bursting with energy and excitement as staff acts out historical events, bring emotion to history, and even hold a historic political rally in the plaza.



Park staff, dressed in period attire, interact with the public, lead guided tours, and perform historically based live action vignettes that highlight life in the diverse community of early San Diego.

Greeters interact with the public as they enter Old Town San Diego SHP, providing a welcome, directions, outlining the programs, tours, and events happening in the park on a daily basis.



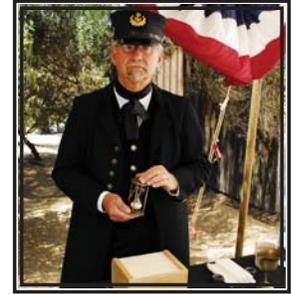
The animal program brings a new dimension to San Diego and helps recreate the historic fabric of the community. It also provides an opportunity for the staff to discuss transportation methods of the time.



Parades are a key component to special events and allow the public to experience historical celebrations, see how people dressed, and participate in the festivities.

way for the public to connect with the past as they take a short narrated wagon tour around the park. In addition, the wagon creates the ambiance of the historic town, complete with sighs, sounds, and the smell of horses.

The ship's purser interacts with the public to help them connect to San Diego's maritime history. Using charts, compasses, and other historic objects he is able to provide a detailed account of life in the early port of San Diego.



The blacksmith shop provides an opportunity to watch as staff and volunteers bend, shape, and twist metal into functional objects. The programs and demonstrations teach children the value of knowledge, skills, and the importance of the blacksmiths in early California towns.

The woodshop demonstrations provide an opportunity to discuss the tools, construction techniques, and the value of woodworkers in the development of San Diego and California. In addition, they talk about where the resources came from, how they were processed, and how every part of the product was used. A family favorite appears to be the construction of the wood caskets for historic burials.



The San Diego Union was one of the earliest newspapers in San Diego. Staff and volunteers provide interactive demonstrations to explain the newspaper business in the early 1860s, complete with type setting demonstrations and printing on the historic presses.



Children are eager to dive into a learning experience, as seen in this pie eating contest, and are given opportunities to experience historic activities and celebrations. Our programs are designed to provide historical information through meaningful and fun experiences that will produce long term memories



The historic wagon ride interpretive concession provides another

