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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JOHN MUIR MOUNTAIN DAY CAMP IS A STEP BACK IN TIME**

MARTINEZ—John Muir’s home in Martinez hosts the John Muir Mountain Day Camp, where children experience days without electronics, television, computers or cell phones. Instead, campers explore and learn about nature while they are immersed in the life, thoughts and times of John Muir. Through fun activities that leave no child inside, campers will learn to understand and appreciate the natural world around them.

“John Muir Mountain Day Camp is a natural alternative to video games,” said Camp Director Susan Barry. With a variety of outdoor activities taking place in Muir’s orchard and open lands, children experience what the outdoors have to offer, along with lessons gently learned through art, nature walks, inventions, sourdough bread baking, music and special guests. The campers explore, discover, create and enjoy the wonders of nature.

“Children have the opportunity to see the world the way John Muir saw it,” said Camp Director and teacher Jill Harcke. “Each child becomes a botanist, artist, sourdough cook and naturalist all in one week.” She describes the camp as a personal, hand-crafted approach delivering “naturally good times.” “Now in its seventh year, campers from all over the country have attended, with many children returning year after year. Each day campers have experiences with National Park Service rangers. They follow in the footsteps of John Muir

and his daughters, Wanda and Helen, as they saunter through the hills surrounding the Muir home.

National Park Service Ranger Frank Helling makes a special appearance as John Muir, and arrives with stories and exciting experiences. Artist, educator, and Camp Director Susan Barry draws out the artist in every child. Harcke guides campers through the steps of baking their own bread with 140-year-old sourdough starter. Michael Muir, John Muir's great grandson, takes campers on a horse-drawn carriage ride.

Extended hours are new this year—more than two additional hours each day for only \$15 per week over last year. The camp is sponsored by the John Muir Association and the National Park Service at the John Muir National Historic Site, and is located at the Site, 4202 Alhambra Avenue in Martinez. The camp is made possible by our supporters: Shell Oil Products US Martinez Refinery, St. Andrew's Society and Kiwanis Club of Martinez.

Camp registration includes a custom camp t-shirt. Parents are invited to register their children from ages 8 to 12 years old and are encouraged to join in on any of the activities. Two five-day sessions take place August 3 to August 7 and August 10 to 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. each day. The sessions differ, so a child may attend both sessions and enjoy a two-week camp if they wish. Tuition is \$250 per camper for each session, with discounts for multiple children in the same family. John Muir Association members receive a \$25 discount.

Scholarships are available. To register, call the Willows Theatre Box Office at (925) 798-1300. For more information, please call Camp Director Jill Harcke at (925) 676-6925 or visit [www.muircamp.org](http://www.muircamp.org). Space is very limited; be sure to register now.