

Daily Pilot

Crystal Cove set to celebrate holidays



People gather at a previous Crystal Cove Tree Lighting ceremony. (File Photo / Daily Pilot)



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While the warmth of the sun is still gracing Orange County beaches, it won't stop the Crystal Cove Historic District from hosting an onshore tree lighting ceremony and a visit from Santa.

The Crystal Cove Alliance will host its 19th annual Seaside Holiday Celebration Dec. 5.

"The event is one of our most anticipated of the year, as it evokes the historical and magical holiday spirit of Crystal Cove," the alliance's founder and interim President Laura Davick said in a statement.

"There's no better way to appreciate the beauty of our seaside jewel than to celebrate the season here, alongside friends and family."

The alliance formed in 1999 and is dedicated to preserving Crystal Cove State Park's historical and natural resources.

The event will feature a festive bazaar, open all day with items handcrafted by local residents and an art show, as well as a lesson on how to make jewelry and holiday ornaments by wire-wrapping sea glass.

Santa and strolling carolers are expected to arrive around 4 p.m.

The Beachcomber Café plans to provide complimentary hot chocolate, apple cider and home-baked goods.

The celebration will conclude with a tree lighting on the shore at dusk.

Funds raised during the holiday season will go toward increasing the state park's accessibility — one option includes purchasing beach wheelchairs for elderly and disabled visitors.

The holiday festivities will take place 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Attendees may park at the Los Trancos parking lot on the inland side of Coast Highway. Cost for parking is \$5 per hour or \$15 for the day. A shuttle will also be available during the day for \$1 each way.