

SPRING 2009

AT THE PRESIDIO

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS
AS A NATIONAL PARK

SPIRE by Andy Goldsworthy
(see *Experiences*, p. 2)



A POETIC TRIBUTE TO THE PRESIDIO FOREST

Andy Goldsworthy's *Spire* Dazzles Visitors and Welcomes the Next Generation of Trees

British artist Andy Goldsworthy has earned international recognition for works that are both in and about nature. He is known for ephemeral art—pieces that decay, melt, or wash away.

In 2006, Goldsworthy visited the Presidio and was inspired by the history and character of its forest, planted more than 100 years ago by the Army. The aging cypress and pine trees are now in gradual decline. Each year, the Presidio Trust replants two to three acres, staggering the effort to create an uneven-aged forest that can be more easily sustained.

“ I have become aware of how nature is in a state of change, and that change is the key to understanding. I want my art to be sensitive and alert to changes in material, season, and weather... ”

- Andy Goldsworthy

Goldsworthy saw an opportunity to create a sculpture with the felled mature trees. In October 2008, he spent fourteen days at the Presidio overseeing the construction of *Spire*. The sculpture, located along the Bay Area Ridge Trail, is comprised of 35 cypress trees removed as this beloved forest grove is gradually replanted. From its 15-foot diameter, *Spire* rises over 90 feet into the air, and encourages visitors to experience it from different perspectives, both far and near.

Spire tells the story of the forest, celebrates its history and natural rhythms, and welcomes the next generation of trees. It is a poetic reference to the forest's past; as young trees grow up to meet the sculpture, it will eventually disappear into the forest. Hundreds have already made a visit to *Spire*, or have discovered it by happy coincidence during a hike. To experience *Spire* for yourself, see page 3.



Top: Andy Goldsworthy



Center: Growing cypress trees will eventually envelope the Spire into the forest



Bottom: The Presidio Trust Forestry crew helped construct Spire



Three Ways to Experience *Spire*

1. A Day at the *Spire*: Saturday, March 7 Limited group size. RSVP required. 415/ 561 5418

Goldsworthy Exhibit & *Spire*

1 to 3 pm

Meet in Building 49,
next to the Presidio Officers' Club
Join Presidio Trust Forester, Peter Ehrlich,
whose team helped construct the sculpture,
for a visit to the *Goldsworthy at the Presidio*
exhibit, followed by a hike to the *Spire* for a
behind-the-scenes tour (2 miles round trip,
rain or shine).

Sunset at the *Spire*

4:30 to 6:30 pm

Meet at Inspiration Point,
inside the Arguello Gate
Presidio Trust Forester Peter Ehrlich will lead a
late afternoon visit to *Spire*, followed by a
30-minute walk along the Bay Area Ridge Trail
to watch the sun set from Immigrant Point.
Bring your camera and favorite poem! (1.5
mile hike, rain or shine, shuttle will return to
Inspiration Point).

2. *Goldsworthy at the Presidio* exhibit Through May 3, 2009 Wednesday to Sunday 11 am to 5 pm

Building 49, next to the Presidio Officers' Club
Preparatory drawings, color photographs by the
artist of spires he has created at other sites,
video, and a 10 foot model of the Presidio spire
will provide an informative context for the
sculpture.

3. Self-Guided Visits

Get a map at
www.presidio.gov/experiences/spire

www.presidio.gov/calendar
415 / 561 5418



Spring in the Presidio

The Itsy Bitsy Spider

It seems so obvious it almost goes without saying. "Unless you know what you have, you can't protect it," says Terri Thomas, director of conservation, stewardship and research with the Presidio Trust. "But when the Presidio became a park, we didn't have a complete picture of what species were here."

In the last decade, a series of scientific surveys have shined light on this question, resulting in useful information that helps shape how the Presidio as a whole is managed for wildlife.

Several years ago Professor John Hafernik, entomologist with San Francisco State University, oversaw an inventory of Presidio bees. He found "unexpectedly high diversity" of native bees (nearly 60 species!), with the greatest populations observed in the park's remnant native habitats, which are being gradually expanded with volunteer support. Other inventories have also examined the park's population of birds, butterflies, reptiles, and amphibians.

Hafernik and his graduate students have now turned their attention to the Presidio's eight-legged residents...spiders.

Spiders help regulate insect populations as predators and are themselves food for other wildlife. Based upon their relationships with other insects and plant communities, Dr. Hafernik says, "spiders can be used to assess the success of restoration projects."



*Pumpkin Spider at
Mountain Lake*

Over the course of more than a year, Hafernik studied 13 sites around the Presidio and learned a great deal:

- A total 127 different spider species were observed.
- The most diverse spots were Presidio Hills (behind the Public Health Service Hospital), Inspiration Point grasslands, Lobos Creek/Dunes, and Baker Beach dunes.
- Several exotic species were discovered: *Badumna loginqua* (from Australia), *Meriola arcifera* (from South America) and *Zodarion* (from Europe).
- A potential first discovery of a gnaphosid spider, representing a new North American record, was made.



South by Southwest: Presidio Hills

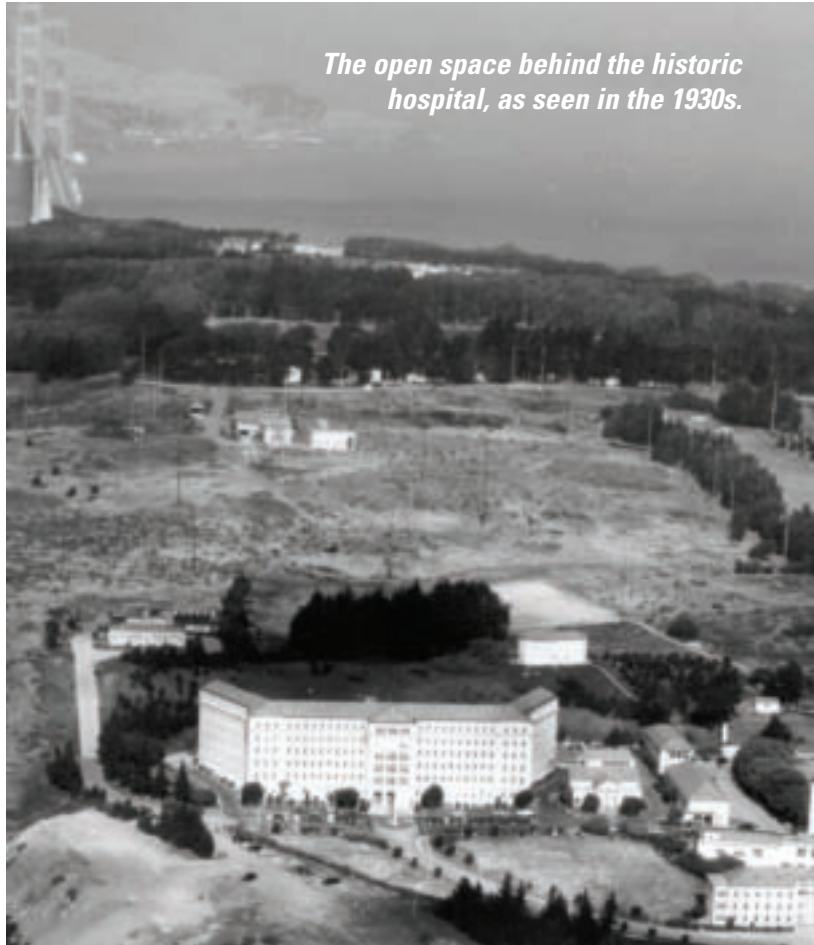
Located in a peaceful setting on the Presidio's southern border, the Public Health Service Hospital District is a refuge for native plants and wildlife and has a human history dating to 1875. Its historic buildings and landscapes are now being revitalized, and this area will soon serve as a new gateway welcoming hikers, bikers, and birdwatchers.

While the rehabilitation of the former hospital has drawn much public interest, there are extraordinary natural gems being nurtured at habitat restoration sites immediately behind the building, in the tranquil area known as Presidio Hills. This unusual ecological zone is sandwiched between the Presidio Golf Course, Baker Beach Apartments, and historic former Nike Missile silos.

Since last summer, 9,700 plants have been planted, representing five habitat types: dune scrub, dune swale, oak woodland, willow riparian and grassland vegetation communities. The site is home to several rare dune annual species, including the federally listed endangered wildflower, the San Francisco lessingia.

Volunteer groups that have recently helped with plantings include: 24th recruit class of the San Francisco Police Academy, the Drew School, Oakland's Boy Scout Troop 15, and our community-based drop-in habitat restoration program Presidio Park Stewards. For opportunities to volunteer at the site, contact **presidioparkstewards** @**parkscservancy.org**.

Stay tuned for more remarkable changes to come this year as additional projects open the door for the expansion and enhancement of San Francisco's natural heritage.



The open space behind the historic hospital, as seen in the 1930s.



Local high school students restoring habitat at Presidio Hills.



{ CALENDAR
FEATURE }

PRESIDIO EXPERIENCE OF THE MONTH

Each month in 2009, we'll bring you an opportunity to experience a new aspect of the park. Peel back the varied layers of the Presidio, guided by Trust staff and friends who will share a unique and personal perspective.

FEBRUARY

Valentine's Day

"Stroll through Time" on Lovers' Lane

Saturday, February 14

continuously from 1 to 3 pm

Meet at the Presidio Officers' Club for a shuttle ride to Lovers' Lane OR hit the trail on your own for a self-guided experience.



Lovers' Lane

For a century, Lovers' Lane has been the most direct route from the Presidio to just about anywhere your heart desires. On Valentine's Day, the San Francisco Bureau of Urban Secrets brings the past into the present with a self-guided storytelling experience along the park's oldest footpath. Meet artist Jeannene Przyblyski and stroll the one-mile trail while listening to audio tales and encountering costumed representatives from many different Presidio eras. Download the Lovers' Lane podcast to your portable device before the event at www.presidio.gov/calendar, or listen on the trail. No RSVP. Rain cancels.

MARCH

A Day at Spire: Saturday, March 7

Limited group size; RSVP required (415) 561-5418.

Goldsworthy Exhibit & Spire: 1 to 3 pm

Meet in Building 49, next to the Presidio Officers' Club. Join Presidio Trust Forester, Peter Ehrlich, whose team helped construct the sculpture, for a visit to the *Goldsworthy at the Presidio* exhibit, followed by a hike to the *Spire* for a behind-the-scenes tour (2 miles round trip, rain or shine).

Sunset and the Spire: 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Meet at Inspiration Point, inside the Arguello Gate. Presidio Trust Forester Peter Ehrlich will lead a late afternoon visit to *Spire*, followed by a 30-minute walk along the Bay Area Ridge Trail to watch the sun set from Immigrant Point. Bring your camera and favorite poem! (1.5 mile hike, rain or shine, shuttle will return to Inspiration Point).

APRIL

Spring Migration: Birdwatching with Guides from the Presidio Trust and Golden Gate

Audubon Society

Two Sundays, April 5 & 19, 10 am

Meet at Crissy Field Center, 603 Mason Street (MUNI 29)

Glimpse shorebirds and gulls on Crissy Field, then follow one of the last free flowing creeks in San Francisco through new restoration sites in the Tennessee Hollow watershed, ending at the source of the water itself at El Polin Springs.

Expect to walk around 2.5 to 3 miles roundtrip. The adventure will focus on riparian habitat and hopefully see some early migrants such as Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows and Allen's Hummingbirds. Space limited.

RSVP required to (415) 561-5418.



SPRING 2009

PARK CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) PUBLIC MEETING

Second Tuesdays, 7 pm
Presidio Officers' Club,
50 Moraga Avenue
RAB is a citizen's group that works with the Trust's environmental cleanup program.

www.presidio.gov/nature/cleanup
415/ 561 4255

TOURS OF ARION PRESS

Thursdays, 3 pm
See the historic typefoundry, pressroom and composing room, and bookbindery. Reservations required, \$7. Visit the gallery weekdays 9am to 5pm, free.

www.arionpress.com
415/ 668 2548

PRESIDIO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Restore a trail, plant a tree, nurture a native plant. Regularly scheduled work days and group projects are available. Details about the many volunteer opportunities are on the website.

www.presidio.gov/experiences/volunteer
415/ 561 5333

SUNDAY GROUP BIKE RIDE AT SPORTS BASEMENT

Sundays, 8:30 am
610 Mason St, at Crissy Field
All levels welcome.
Register by contacting
krusch@sportsbasement.com.

GOLDSWORTHY AT THE PRESIDIO

Wednesday to Sunday,
11am to 5pm
Through May 3
49 Moraga Ave (next to the Presidio Officers' Club)
Gain further insights into Andy Goldsworthy's *Spire* - a new sculpture near the Arguello Gate. Preparatory drawings, color photographs by the artist of spires he has created at other sites, and a 12 foot model of the Presidio spire are on display.

www.presidio.gov/calendar



FEBRUARY

YMCA Adult Basketball and All Ages Tennis

Leagues begin in February. To join an adult basketball league, visit www.ymcasf.org/presidio or contact Robert Martinez at 415/ 447 9674. Tennis offerings range from biddy tennis for ages 3-4 to adult leagues. Contact Rich Carson.



12

YMCA Adventure Guides Program Informational Meeting

Thursday, February 12
6:30 pm

63 Funston Avenue,
Main Post

Learn about the YMCA's new parent/child program that explores the outdoors (including the Presidio) through fun and educational activities such as campouts. Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeehan@ymcasf.org.
415/ 447 9692

WAR & DISSENT: U.S. IN THE PHILIPPINES

Through February 22
Wednesday to Sunday
11 am to 5 pm

Presidio Officers' Club,
50 Moraga Avenue

The Spanish-American War and the Philippine War were turning points in United States' history and had a great impact on the Presidio. This exhibit of photographs, diaries, letters, political cartoons, recordings, maps, and flags looks at events from several points of view.

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/ 561 5500

SPECIAL EXHIBIT PROGRAMS

Shadows of War Performance:

The Lopez Family in the Philippines 1901

Thursday, February 5, 7 to 8 pm

Presidio Officers' Club

Produced by San Francisco's Bindlestiff Studio, this multi-media dramatic production inspired by the exhibition will feature Filipino-American actors and live music.

Mark Twain on War & Dissent: Living History Performance

Friday, February 6, 7 pm

Presidio Officers' Club

Author and humorist Mark Twain will speak on the subjects of war and dissent. Portrayal by McAvoy Layne.

Ranger Walks

RSVP to 415/ 561 4323.

Meet at the Presidio Officers' Club

Little War, Big Impact

Saturday, February 7 & Sunday, February 22

1 to 2:30 pm

Buffalo Soldiers in a Jim Crow Army

Sunday, February 15

1 to 3 pm



12 & 13

CONCERTS AT THE PRESIDIO

Thursday and Friday,

February 12 and 13

7:30 pm

Golden Gate Club,

135 Fisher Loop

Enjoy classical concerts and recitals highlighting young artists.

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/ 447 6274

28

WINTER FAMILY CAMPFIRE AT CRISSY FIELD

Saturday, February 28

4 to 6 pm

Cozy up with a campfire on the Crissy Field Center plaza. Join us for storytelling, games, s'mores, and hot cider by the fire. Rain cancels. Registration recommended. \$20 per family of three; \$8 per additional family member.

www.crissyfield.org

415/ 561 7765



MARCH

4

MONTHLY PRESIDIO SHUTTLE TOUR

Wednesday, March 4

Noon to 1 pm

Meet at Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue

The Presidio Trust is launching monthly free guided shuttle tours introducing visitors to the park's historic areas, wild open spaces, and hidden nooks, with an emphasis on projects that are shaping the park today.

Visit the Main Post, Crissy Field, Fort Winfield Scott, and the western coastal bluffs.

RSVP required.

415/ 561 5418



18

WATER + COLOR: California Watercolor Association 40th Annual National Exhibition

March 18 to May 24

Wednesdays to Sundays

11 am to 5 pm

FREE

Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415 / 561 5418

APRIL

PRESIDIO SPRING CAMPS

YMCA Youth Spring Break Camp

April 6 to 10 and April 13 to 17

Each week will consist of hiking in the Presidio, fun field trips, arts and crafts, group games, and sports. Price and details on the website.

www.ymcasf.org/Presidio/camping.html

415/ 447 9692

Presidio Trekkers at Crissy Field Center

April 6 to 10

8:30 am to 4 pm

(extended care to 5:30 pm)

\$350 per child (\$15 extra per day for extended care)

Grades: 1–6

Take an exciting journey from the heights of Inspiration Point to the bottom of Crissy Field Marsh. Create your own "habitat in a box" in the Center's Art Lab. Investigate the impact of humans on watersheds in the Ecology Lab, and create your own ecological musical anthem in our the Lab.

www.crissyfield.org

415/ 561 7765

1

MONTHLY PRESIDIO SHUTTLE TOUR

Wednesday, April 1

Noon to 1 pm

Meet at Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue

(see March 4)

12

EASTER BRUNCH AT PRESIDIO GOLF COURSE CAFÉ

Sunday, April 12

10 am to 3 pm

Enjoy a buffet and a special appearance from the Easter Bunny. Reservations required by emailing

mperry@palmergolf.com or 415/ 561-4661 x 209.

www.presidiogolf.com

18

EARTH STROLL

A Healthy Planet,

A Healthy You

Saturday, April 18, 2009

10 am to 3 pm

\$8 for all-activity passport

Drop-in, all ages welcome Get

out and get active this Earth

Day! Bring the whole family on

a fun, interactive fitness

adventure around Crissy Field.

Play eco-games, visit with live

animals, and you make strides

for a healthy planet and a

healthy you at many activity

stations designed to help you

connect with this little corner of

the planet. To register, call

415/ 561 7765 or visit

www.crissyfield.org.



HOLDING DOWN THE FORT

Behind the Scenes Preservation Safeguards History at Fort Scott

To paraphrase The Beatles: they're fixing holes where the rain gets in. Crews have completed the first phase of a three-year effort to preserve two dozen historic buildings that once housed the command center for San Francisco Bay's coastal defenses. The behind the scenes preservation work will secure Fort Winfield Scott, a beautiful campus near the Golden Gate Bridge toll plaza, until a new purpose animates the historic barracks and parade ground.

For six months, crews worked on the first six Mission-style buildings, whose architecture is celebrated on the Presidio's famed logo. The focus has been on exterior repairs, including replacing roofs, fixing cracked and failing concrete, and painting the buildings. Another six buildings are scheduled for preservation maintenance next year.

More than half of the Presidio's 476 historic buildings have been rehabilitated by the Trust in the last decade. However, maintenance work such as this is needed to keep the remaining buildings in good condition while they await their future use. The Presidio is considered the largest historic preservation project underway in the United States.

"The work we're doing is not so much geared towards physical

appearance, although that's kind of a side benefit. Our focus is really towards preserving the building until a complete rehabilitation can occur," says Trust architectural conservator Christina Wallace.

"When the Presidio Trust took over from the Army, some of the Mission Revival style barracks at Fort Scott were already beginning to crumble from within," says Peter Foley, project manager for the preservation maintenance work. "We've been reversing the effects of water infiltration and making repairs to ensure that water stays out."

The work can be tedious. At one point, workers actually tapped every square inch of the walls searching for hollow voids behind the cement plaster that needed to be filled in. Each building has also been thoroughly photographed to document its original design.

"So often the public sees only the finished project — like the historic Civil War-era houses along Funston Avenue that now house offices," says Wallace. "But there's so much that goes on behind the scenes to preserve and maintain these buildings. Without the work we're doing now, full rehabilitation becomes more challenging and costly."

Literally a fort within a fort, Fort Winfield Scott has always been a

distinct part of the Presidio. The U.S. took control of the Presidio in 1846 and, like the Spanish before them, quickly recognized the importance of San Francisco harbor in maintaining control of California. Concrete gun batteries were built by the Army beginning in the 1880s along the Presidio's western edge to defend the Golden Gate. In 1912, the Mission-style Fort Scott campus was constructed to house the Coast Artillery headquarters that operated the harbor defenses.

By World War II, Fort Scott's batteries were obsolete. With the United States' victory at Midway in 1942, the threat of a Japanese invasion of the west coast faded. Following the war, with the advent of missiles and long range bombers, the batteries became a way of defending against an air attack — not ships. In 1946, Fort Scott was "demoted" from an independent post and again became part of the Presidio. The Coast Artillery was abolished in 1950 and succeeded in 1968 by the Air Defense artillery.

Long range plans call for a "contemplative retreat" — a center for education, conferences, and research that would take advantage of Fort Scott's campus-like setting and tranquil atmosphere.



Top: Presidio Trust project manager Peter Foley and architectural conservator Christina Wallace at Fort Scott. Bottom: Fort Scott in the 1930s.



40th ANNUAL WATERCOLOR EXHIBITION

In March, the California Watercolor Association will again bring its prestigious exhibition to the Presidio Officers' Club. One hundred paintings selected from a large pool of entries submitted by artists from around the nation and world will be on display. As the paintings in this exhibition demonstrate, contemporary watermedia painting defies easy generalizations. Using papers, pigments and techniques developed over many centuries, each artist included in the exhibition brings a unique personal vision and style to this highly varied collection.



WATER + COLOR: California Watercolor Association 40th Annual National Exhibition

March 18 to May 24

Wednesdays to Sundays

11 am to 5 pm

FREE

Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

A Watercolor Presentation with John Salminen

Wednesday, February 4, 7:30 pm

Golden Gate Club, 135 Fisher Loop, Presidio

The award-winning artist discusses his technique and approach to painting.

Presidio Paint Outs

Saturdays, April 4 & May 2, 10 am to 3 pm

Attention plein air painters and their fans! This year there will be two Paint Out competitions for all artists (any medium) who love painting outside. Cash prizes will be awarded, including a People's Choice award. To register, visit www.californiawatercolor.org.

Fridays: Artists in the Gallery

A featured guest artist will paint and engage in conversation in the gallery about water media. The event takes place from 1 to 2:30 pm, on March 20 and 27, April 3 and 24, and May 1, 8, 15, and 22.

Jazz in the Gallery

Thursday, April 30, 6:30 pm

A free traditional jazz concert held in the gallery will feature the Dana Street Jazz Trio. Please join us!

People's Choice Award: Voice Your Opinion!

Exhibit visitors will have the opportunity to nominate their favorite pieces. Voting will be conducted March 18 through April 26. The results will be made available in the gallery.

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415 / 561 5418



OUTWARD BOUND

Park Hosts Wilderness Adventures for Youth



The biggest outdoor classroom in San Francisco is welcoming another popular program for Bay Area teens. Outward Bound, which for 20 years has offered wilderness adventures to help kids develop self-reliance, leadership, teamwork, and community service, is now providing outdoor educational opportunities at the Presidio.

“This is a perfect partnership,” says Michael Boland, director of planning, park projects and programs for the Presidio Trust. “Outward Bound’s exceptional program is exactly what the Trust envisions the Presidio hosting in this urban national park. Our goal is that every child in San Francisco will have a meaningful experience here.”

Two newly renovated buildings above the Presidio’s Baker Beach will house the Outward Bound Bay Area Center. Instructors will use the buildings as an administrative headquarters and to host orientation sessions with students before they begin their adventures - including hiking and camping - throughout the park as well as San Francisco and more remote wilderness areas.

Outward Bound expects more than 300 students to take part this year alone. The Presidio will also serve as a jumping off point for excursions in other parts of San Francisco and the Bay Area.

“We feel very fortunate to be in the heart of the Presidio, with its incomparable natural setting and cultural resources,” says Woody Scal, co-chair of Outward Bound’s board of directors. “We’re a short hike to the Rob Hill Campground, the Coastal Trail, Baker Beach, Crissy Field, and the Golden Gate Bridge.”

Outward Bound joins more than a dozen youth-serving Presidio organizations, including the YMCA, Bay Kids, and First Graduate. Through the Camping at the Presidio program, a partnership with Crissy Field Center and Bay Area Wilderness Training, children who traditionally have not visited national parks enjoy overnight camping experiences. Outward Bound expects to partner with these other groups to provide programs and development opportunities to Bay Area youth.



CONTENT



EXPERIENCES 2

Spire by Andy Goldsworthy



HISTORY 6

Behind the Scenes
Preservation at Fort Scott



NATURE IN THE CITY 4

Spring in the Presidio



FEATURE 8

40th Annual Watercolor
Exhibition



CALENDAR *Pull Out Insert*

A Full Calendar of Events and
Activities



KIDS IN THE PARK 9

Outward Bound
Bound for the Presidio

AT THE PRESIDIO

is published by the Presidio Trust. Your questions and comments are welcome.

Please contact us at

415/561 5418 or

presidio@presidiotrust.gov.

{Cover}

Spire by Andy Goldsworthy

Layout: Amy Wolff

Printed on Recycled Paper with

Soybase Inks

THE PRESIDIO TRUST

34 Graham Street

P.O. Box 29052

San Francisco, California

94129-0052

www.presidio.gov

415/561 5418

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Francisco, CA
Permit No. 925



{ DID YOU KNOW? }

While Spire is visible 90 feet above ground, its central Monterey cypress tree trunk is embedded an additional 20 feet beneath the surface.

