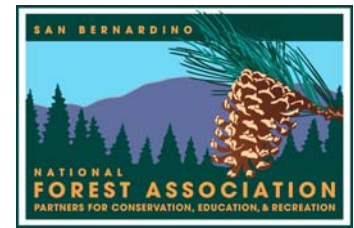


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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9th Annual Feast of the Harvest Moon Celebrates Native American Culture; October 24, 2009

In the northern hemisphere, the full moon nearest the September equinox is called the Harvest Moon followed by the Hunter's Moon in October. The Harvest and Hunter's Moons are special because the time of moonrise on successive evenings is shorter than usual. As a result, there is no long period of darkness between sunset and moonrise.

Traditionally, the Feast of the Harvest Moon was celebrated among some American Indian tribes. On October 24, the feast will be a celebration of Native American culture and heritage at the Big Bear Discovery Center from 10am to 2pm. Admission is free. This year's event is co-sponsored by Verizon and the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) committed to delivering a family-oriented day of increasing Native American literacy for its visitors to be more well-informed on American Tribes represented through dance and storytelling, along with the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands and mountains, the Serrano.

The Serrano looked to nature and the land to provide the necessities of life including shelter, clothing, food and plants used for medicine. The Serrano who lived at Yuhaviat, an area of pine tress near present day Big Bear Lake, were called the Yuhaviatam, or the "People of the Pines". James Ramos, co-founder of the San Manuel Cultural Awareness Program and the only living descendent of their last indigenous chief, Santos Manuel, produced a "People of the Pines" documentary which will be shown at the Discovery Center throughout the day.

The village played an important role in the Serrano clans as members would gather together to tell stores of creation, sing songs and dance. Children's Forest youth leaders and volunteers will create their own village of sorts to replicate how the Serrano's lived productively and peacefully off the land through interactive exhibits and hands-on activities including acorn processing for food production, string games, creating your own pictographs known as Native American rock art, and walking history tours of pine trees and their many species found in the forest. Additional activities include a pine needle basket making class from 10am to Noon; class size is limited and to ages 14 and up (nominal fee applies), a pumpkin carving contest from 11:00am to Noon; and string apple bobbing challenging youth on their eye/mouth dexterity.

Children's Forest youth leaders, who manage their year-round greenhouse at Children's Forest located adjacent to Running Springs, will lead a restoration demonstration on how they plant and nurture trees in a bed grown for forest restoration projects on the San Bernardino National Forest, such as Forest Aid. Forest Aid 2010, a partnership initiative of the U.S. Forest Service, SBNFA and LA-based TreePeople, will begin next March addressing the Butler burn area near Fawnskin. Volunteers can sign up at the event to participate in one of the largest volunteer-led tree planting programs in Southern California aimed at restoring the burn areas on the San Bernardino National Forest from the 2003 and 2007 wildfires.

Highlights of the day's events will be live performances by Elaine Meyers, an accomplished all around Native American dancer in Fancy Shawl, Jingle Dress, Northern Traditional and Southern

Traditional. Elaine is very effective with kids who join her in dance and song. Terry Goedel and son, Michael, are Yakama/Tulalip Indians from Washington State. They will present their award winning hoop dancer, a traditional art form that is extremely vivid in color, movement and very high energy. Local Native American, John 3 Hawks, will be on hand to bring local folklore to life followed by a scheduled appearance by the Moonridge Zoo and their captivating native animals; a real favorite of kids to connect with and learn more about our indigenous wildlife.

Fall festival treats will be available for purchase and scheduled to appear is the traditional fry bread. Bill Knick's café will also be open serving sandwiches, hot chocolate and cider. Parking is free.

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About the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA)

Founded in 1993 by retired SBNF Supervisor, Gene Zimmerman, the SBNFA was formed to complement and expand the mission of the U.S. Forest Service in "caring for the land and serving the people". The SBNFA matches federal dollars, builds capacity and resources through partnerships, foundation grants, fund raising events, and donations to create opportunities for people and communities to participate in public lands management. Additionally, the SBNFA instills forest stewardship values through its educational and recreational programs aimed at San Bernardino National Forest visitors and residents; over 15 million annually recreate on this national treasure. This outreach is accomplished through 1,000 volunteers supporting the SBNFA's six divisions including the Big Bear Discovery Center, Children's Forest, Fire Lookouts, Forest Care, Off Highway Vehicle outreach education and Urban Conservation Corps. For more information on "Your Partner for Conservation, Education & Recreation", check out their website, www.SBNFA.org; or, contact executive director, Sarah Miggins, if you are interested in supporting an SBNFA program.