

March 28, 2026 8:00 a.m. 10th Avenue Picnic Meadow

COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

A REDEDICATION OF THE JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA HISTORICAL MARKER

Hosted by San Francisco Bay Chapter NSDAC



Program

- Luis Valle Cordero greeting
- Opening
- Introductions
- Historical Significance
- Rededication Address
- Rededication
- Closing

Juan Bautista de Anza

In the spring of 1776, after a 900 mile journey from what is now Mexico, Spanish Lt. Col. Juan Bautista de Anza and his soldiers came upon Mountain Lake. They were searching for a suitable location for a northern settlement and found the lake an ideal location. It offered abundant water and pasture land, grazing deer, and one of the finest harbors in the world. They broke ground half a mile from the lake and called the settlement the Presidio. The expedition camped at Mountain Lake where a stone marks the site which was originally dedicated on 19 September 1957.

DAC Historical Marker Series

The **Daughters of the American Colonists** established their Historical Marker Series to recognize places connected to early American settlement, exploration, and community life. Each marker is carefully researched and sponsored by a local chapter, ensuring historical accuracy and long-term stewardship.

The **1957 stone marker** placed by the San Francisco Chapter is part of this tradition, honoring the route and encampments of the **Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition**. Its rededication celebrates both the marker's legacy and the **America 250 anniversary** of the encampment it commemorates.

Parking Tips

Mountain Lake Park Meadow where the stone marker lies is accessed via Lake Street/11th Ave. or 10th Ave. Carpooling is highly suggested as attendees will need to walk in from either park access. There is a paved path around the 10th avenue picnic meadow.



Juan Bautista de Anza, Spanish explorer, camped at this site March 27, 1776. Placed by San Francisco Chapter Daughters of the American Colonists September 1957



FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY—Patricia de Anza Kelly, 6, a remote descendant of Juan Bautista de Anza, holds wreath to place on marker unveiled yesterday. The plaque notes the site where the Spanish explorer camped March 27, 1776.

De Anza Marker Unveiled

A bronze marker, establishing the site where Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza and his troops camped March 27, 1776, was unveiled by the San Francisco Chapter Daughters of the American Colonists, yesterday in Mountain Lake Park. Mrs. Albert M. Walsh, honorary State regent, presented the marker to the city. Edward J. McDewitt, secretary of the recreation and Park Commission, accepted the plaque. De Anza made his expedition to San Francisco sites for the Spanish Presidio, Mission Dolores and Fort Point. The California Historical Society and the Society of California Pioneers authenticated the camp site. The Art Commission approved the text and design of the marker which was placed on a huge boulder. The park is at the south boundary of the Presidio, near the intersection of 12th Ave. and Lake St.

“A community returns to the 1957 marker to honor 250 years since the de Anza encampment shaped our region’s story.”

Contact Information: Kathy Watson, Regent San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Daughters of American Colonists
Email: webmaster@cssdac.org State Society Website: cssdac.org
Phone: 510-499-1603