

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Division of Boating and Waterways | Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division | Office of Historic Preservation

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California State Railroad Museum

Foundation

It's *All Aboard for Story Time!* with a State Parks Ranger and K9 Companion on July 29

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – It's *All Aboard for Story Time!* with a very special celebrity guest duo – California State Parks Ranger Sasha Wessitsh and his K9 partner Ben – on Monday, July 29, at 11 a.m. at the California State Railroad Museum. To the delight of young children and train enthusiasts alike, Sasha will read the children's book *Locomotive* written by Brian Floca with his K9 partner Ben by his side.

As background, Sasha and his K9 partner Ben both recently joined the State Parks Capital District Public Safety Program in June 2019. Based in Old Sacramento State Historic Park, the dedicated team is hard at work protecting the community as they travel around the Capital District. Sasha first began his career with California State Parks over 12 years ago. He spent nine years working in the Off-Highway Vehicle division at Ocotillo Wells in Southern California before transferring to Folsom where he accepted a K9 position with Ben. Certified in Narcotics Detection, Ben is a patrol K9 and the pair have twice taken home the Department's prestigious Top Dog award.

All Aboard for Story Time! is offered every Monday morning year-round. Through this interactive and fun program, parents are encouraged to let trains and railroading introduce and foster the love of reading with their imaginative young children ages two to five. The *Story Time!* program showcases different railroad-related books each month. Afterward, children and parents are encouraged to explore the Museum. Whether it's toy trains or big locomotives, there is always something to discover in the California State Railroad Museum – North America's most popular railroad museum – that will thrill children (and adults) of all ages.

The *All Aboard for Story Time!* program is included with Museum admission: \$12 for adults; \$6 for youths ages 6-17; free for children ages 5 and under. For more information about the *Story Time!* reading program or the California State Railroad Museum in general, please call 916-323-9280 or visit www.californiarailroad.museum/.

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California State Parks provides for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Learn more at www.parks.ca.gov.

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About the California State Railroad Museum Foundation

The mission of the California State Railroad Museum Foundation (CSRMF) is to generate revenue and awareness on behalf of its destinations, while supporting the preservation, interpretation and promotion of our railroad heritage. The Foundation provides funding for ongoing support of numerous programs, both at the museum's Old Sacramento location and at the historic park in Jamestown, Calif. For more information, please visit www.californiarailroad.museum.