



## Making a Difference

# OCEAN ENTHUSIASM

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR SCHUYLER KIRBY HELPED LAUNCH A JUNIOR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM AT CRYSTAL COVE IN 2013.

A little over two years ago, Schuyler Kirby—a California State Park peace officer lifeguard supervisor—was part of the team tapped to launch Crystal Cove’s first-ever junior lifeguard program. The six-week summer program has been met with incredible community support since its inception, providing high quality aquatic safety training, surf rescue, marine life studies, CPR, first aid and more to participants.

Schuyler has played an instrumental role in advancing and growing the Crystal Cove State Park Junior Lifeguards program, all while ensuring that resource education and park protection remains in focus—something that sets this program apart from those on neighboring beaches.

“We provide a higher instructor to student ratio than other local programs, which allows us to be more hands-on and do a wider variety of



activities,” Schuyler explains. “We have a focus on resource protection and include education on both the aquatic side of our Park (MPA guidelines, tide pools, et cetera) and the backcountry.”

He developed the program based on department policy and guidelines, but adapted it to fit the needs, goals and community of Crystal Cove State Park. In his current role, he supervises all the employees involved in the program and also assists with the administrative work.

Under Schuyler’s direction, the program more than doubled after its first year. For its third summer in 2015, it’s expected to double again, operating out of the Muddy Creek area in addition to the normal operations out of Moro Beach.

When asked what he enjoys most about working at the Park, the answer is an easy one for the seasoned lifeguard supervisor: “The teamwork and camaraderie I have with all the employees.”

## Eat and Drink

# WHEELS ON THE BUS

THE BEACHCOMBER CAFÉ’S SHUTTLE DRIVERS ARE THE EYES AND EARS ON THE ROAD TO CRYSTAL COVE.

As visitors scramble to collect the last of their beach accessories from their cars, a playful horn blast fills the Los Trancos parking lot. You can faintly hear the bellowing laughter of a man behind the wheel of The Beachcomber Café shuttle—that’s Pedro, one of three drivers who transport guests from their cars to the Historic District restaurant. The bus drivers are fixtures in the Park, and as the first employees to greet visitors, they play an important role at Crystal Cove. Get to know Pedro, Dennis and Tom—and make sure you say hello next time you hop aboard the shuttle!

### DENNIS REYNOLDS

Dennis has been a shuttle driver for The Beachcomber Café for more than eight years. One of his favorite parts of the job is meeting people from all over the world who visit the park every year. As a longtime driver, he keeps his route exciting by reveling in the beauty of the Park’s nature. “You see a lot of wildlife going back and forth from the parking lot to the Historic District,” he says. “Many times on a clear day you can see pods of dolphins, or a whale spouting. In the parking lots, it’s fun to watch the squirrels and the occasional roadrunner darting around between cars.”



### PEDRO CONCEPCION

Pedro, a native of the Dominican Republic, makes sure every trip he makes down to the Park’s designated drop-off spot is filled with laughter. Also a longtime shuttle driver—he’s held his job since the cafe opened in 2006—Pedro is an expert at cracking jokes and making his passengers get excited about a day at the beach. One thing he enjoys is blowing the large brass bulb horn he carries on the shuttle. Everyone knows about the horn, he explains, not just shuttle guests, but also joggers, people in the crosswalk and people in their cars driving by.



### TOM ADAMS

The newest Beachcomber shuttle driver, Tom keeps the job fun by visiting with guests. “The thing I enjoy about the regulars is sharing just how special it is here at Crystal Cove,” he says. In the eight months he’s been on the job, he’s discovered that what he loves most is watching the majestic sunsets and seeing how much the children light up when they ride the bus.



## Then and Now

# A WOMAN WITH A MISSION

A FORMER COVITE HAS TURNED HER LOVE FOR THE COVE INTO A LIFELONG JOURNEY.

When Crystal Cove was in danger of being replaced by a luxury resort several years ago, one woman poured her heart and soul into saving the beloved SoCal landmark. Today, that woman—Laura Davick—is the founder and director of external affairs for Crystal Cove Alliance.

She’s made it her mission to preserve and sustain the State Park and it’s oceanfront Historic District, a stretch of sandy shore she once called home.

Laura’s memories of the Cove run deep: Her family had a beach house on the sand for 40 years, and her summer days and evenings were filled with potlucks and holiday celebrations. She laughingly shares stories of summer grunion runs and whipping up date shakes as a teenager working at The Shake Shack.

This passion gave her purpose when Crystal Cove



was slated to become a luxury resort. She launched a campaign to preserve the Cove, proposing a transformation of the historic cottages into overnight rentals and buildings for educational research. Under her watchful eye, cottages have been faithfully restored and many are highly sought-after rentals

that are booked eight months in advance. Crystal Cove has since become one of the most successful public-private partnership models in the California State Parks system.

Her obvious love for the community shines through in everything she does. She continues to be an advocate for the Park on a local and state level ... and if you want to hear some of Laura’s historic Cove stories and cottage rental tips, she leads a tour on the third Sunday of every month.

## Become a Member!

Our partners are all in this together! For as little as \$50, you can become a member of Crystal Cove Alliance. Our new program includes benefits such as discounts at The Park Interpretive Store, invitations to special events, a one-day parking pass, up to four shuttle passes, the CCA monthly newsletter and lots more. Don’t miss out—sign up today as a new member to be entered into a drawing for a two-night stay for two in a Crystal Cove cottage!



**CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE**

CCA is launching a new website on Wednesday, Jan. 7! Visit us at [crystalcovealliance.org](http://crystalcovealliance.org) to check out the exciting new features.