

RECREATION

National Geographic creates new area trail map

Sentinel staff report

SANTA CRUZ — Hilltromper, a resource for outside recreation, will join the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks in hosting a map release party Nov. 14 at the Hotel Paradox to celebrate National Geographic's new Santa Cruz area trail map.

The 6 p.m. event will be free, with complimentary beer, wine and light appetizers provided by Hotel Paradox and Hilltromper. Representatives from National Geographic, including the cartographer, will explain how the map was created and why Santa Cruz County was selected.

The "Big Basin/Santa Cruz Parks and Preserves" map covers most of the county, as well as portions of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. It was created in consultation with local land management agencies and non-profits, including Friends of Santa

Cruz State Parks.

"As a proud map geek, I was thrilled when National Geographic reached out to our organization for input on this new map," said Bonny Hawley, the group's executive director. "The map is a great resource for both locals and visitors because it provides a unique look at the Santa Cruz Mountains and surrounding areas, in terms of recreational

IF YOU GO

MAP RELEASE PARTY

WHAT: Hilltromper and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks celebrate new National Geographic map of Santa Cruz area trails

WHEN: 6 p.m. Nov. 14

WHERE: Hotel Paradox, 611 Ocean St., Santa Cruz

INFORMATION: www.thatsmypark.org

opportunities and the various ways by which habitats are protected."

The Trails Illustrated series provides users with topographic information, clearly marked trails, recreational points of interest and navigational aids.

"This map lets us see the big picture — it's the best look we've ever had of the whole Santa Cruz Mountains ecosystem, in gorgeous detail," said Eric Johnson, founder and CEO of Hilltromper. "It really hits home that we are geographically blessed. And even though I thought I knew this place like the back of my hand, I've already found places I didn't know existed."

The maps are available for sale online and at Friends' ParkStores. Proceeds stay local and support state parks and beaches.

Visit ThatsMyPark.org/shop/park-stores/ for more information, including ParkStore locations and hours.