

2009 San Juan Capistrano Swallows' Day Parade takes place on March 21

The non-motorized parade includes equestrian entries featuring 500 horses.

March 20, 2009

The San Juan Capistrano Swallows' Day Parade will be held on March 21, 2009. Fiesta de las Golondrinas, meaning Festival of the Swallows, activities pay tribute to the annual return of the swallows and San Juan Capistrano's Spanish and western heritage. The festival began in the 1930s and grew to include an equestrian parade, trail ride and western dance.

One of the nation's largest non-motorized parades, the Swallows' Day Parade will feature over 100 parade entries including approximately 500 horses in various equestrian entries, high school, junior high and military marching bands, folkloric dancers, historical reenactments and local community groups.

Melitas Forster, great granddaughter of Don Juan Forster and original owner of the Swallow's Inn, will serve as this year's grand marshal.

The annual parade concludes a series of festivities that occur in San Juan Capistrano throughout the month of March.

The Fiesta de Las Golondrinas is tied to the legendary return of the swallows to the Mission San Juan Capistrano on St. Joseph's Day, March 19th. The square-tailed cliff swallows spend the summer in San Juan Capistrano and leave in late October to travel 6000 miles for a winter in Goya, Argentina.

For more information about Fiesta de las Golondrinas events visit www.swallowsparade.com.

Read about equestrian entries in the Rose Parade.

Learn how to get your horse ready for a parade.