

OC Parks Wins Discovery Science Center Gingerbread Competition

Dec. 3, 2009 (IRVINE, Calif.) – OC Parks newest park – one made of gingerbread – won the Best Creation by a Corporation award in Discovery Science Center’s Science of Gingerbread contest Dec. 2.

A group of OC Parks staff toiled more than 100 hours at home, after work and on their lunch breaks building their confection creation from donated materials. The gingerbread park included Park Rangers, children, a Park Ranger station, duck pond and a beach. It even included a gingerbread dog – on a candy leash, of course.



Some members of the OC Parks gingerbread team stand with their creation. Pictured are, from left, Scott Thomas, Sandy Heaton, Thom Baker, Aubrey Guest and Tom Starnes.

Recent graduates of OC Parks’ Project Management program, the gingerbread team put their skills to work, even drafting a work break-down structure and Gantt chart.

Park features included green-dyed coconut grass, a crushed-saltine beach-rock swale and pretzel-

- MORE -



Gingerbread people and logos prepare for deployment.



Aubrey Guest and Tom Starnes work on the park, above. A dog gets a leash, below.



Gingerbread continued

rod Ranger Station. A four-sided kiosk was painted with frosting to represent OC Parks' different types of facilities: regional, wilderness, coastal and historical parks.

Other building materials included brown sugar, pinto beans, gummy and hard candies and plenty of frosting.

This was the first year OC Parks participated in the event. The gin-

gerbread creations will be on view at the Discovery Science Center through Jan. 3.



OC Parks team claims its prize.



OC Parks gingerbread builders, including their staff titles and project titles, were:

Scott Thomas - Design Manager, Gingerbread Project Manager

Tom Starnes - Marketing Manager, Gingerbread Project Sponsor

Thom Baker - Engineering Technician III, Gingerbread Ranger Station and Base Construction

Robin LaMont - Senior Construction Inspector, Gingerbread Baker (all pieces) and Construction

Aubrey Guest - Engineering Technician III, Gingerbread Landscape, Oak Tree, Kids and Props

Susan Brodeur - Senior Coastal Engineer, Gingerbread Christmas Tree and Candy Decorations

Rosa Martinez - Secretary I, Gingerbread Construction

Sandy Heaton - Graphic Artist, Gingerbread Kiosk Artist