History Re-Imagined

Ushering in Revamped Sites to Explore the Anza Trail in San Francisco...
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...and Pima County
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Anza Trail Welcomes New Outdoor Recreation Planner BriAnna Weldon

In September, the Anza Trail welcomed BriAnna Weldon to its San Francisco administrative staff as Outdoor Recreation Planner. BriAnna will work to support the Anza Trail’s partners in building, protecting, and maintaining the trail, particularly its segments of recreation trail. Meet Bri:

Q: Welcome BriAnna! Tell us about yourself.
A: I grew up in Paramount, near Long Beach, and I went to UC Berkeley. I graduated in 2010 with a degree in Landscape Architecture and got my Master’s in Landscape Architecture from Cal Poly Pomona in 2012.

Q: What got you interested in landscape architecture?
A: When I went to Cal I really liked art and I liked geometry. Architecture was a good intersection. One of my first classes was taught by a landscape architect. His interest was in how culture and the landscape intersect. To me that’s the crux of landscape architecture. I immediately changed my major and never looked back. It’s something really rewarding to design a space where people can play and make memories attached to nature. I really like that.

Q: How did you begin working with the National Park Service?
A: I was an AmeriCorps fellow with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) in Los Angeles. My projects there included equestrian trail planning, urban trails, and work along the LA River.

Q: The LA River is important to the Anza Trail. Was the trail part of your work with RTCA?
A: Yes, the Anza Trail is one of the recreational opportunities along the river. I worked on a recreation guide for the Glendale Narrows that featured the Anza Trail.

Q: Where did your interest in trails originate?
A: I grew up riding horses through the Chino Hills. Trail riding. I actually don’t like hiking (laughs) because I’m really clumsy. But when you’re trail riding, the horse does the hard part and I can just enjoy nature. When I was 13 or 14 I went on a ride from Corona to Ventura. It was a 4 day ride and camp. I went with my grandma and her friends. It was the first time I went camping and to be out of the city for four days straight was impressionable.

Q: Are there places along the Anza Trail you are especially excited to experience?
A: Yes! I’ve ridden horses in all the northern Arizona deserts, but never southern, so I’m excited to go there and see it.

I always had this pet interest in the settlement of the missions. So having that historical interest, combining it with the Anza Trail, and then figuring out how to tell that story is an interesting opportunity for me. I think all design should tell a story. Figuring out how to do that is what’s fun for me!
Luis Lopez, one of our members, who portrayed Anza at San Gabriel Mission events, passed away in June. The re-enacting community was devastated.

Lou was formerly in charge of W.E.S.T., Western Educators, Shooter’s and Troopers. In addition to Juan Bautista de Anza, Lou portrayed: Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado (my idea); Manual Dominguez at the Dominguez Rancho; and Juan Matias Sanchez at the Sanchez Adobe in Montebello, were I live.

Lou had helped organize Old Fort MacArthur Days since 2000, building it into the biggest, continuous, living history event in Los Angeles County. Before he died, Lou asked me to deliver the “California timeline” speech at Old Fort Mac Days.

What is the “timeline”? Lou came up with the idea of telling the history of California through different characters. As Governor Alvarado, he would address the public then call up the Spanish conquistadors. Then Father Serra would come forward, then a don of the rancho period (and sometimes me as a doña). Then a Marine Dragoon, American settlers, etc.

I was with him the first time he did the timeline at Founders’ Day in uptown Whittier. He tailored the timeline to the location where it was given, and I performed it with him numerous times.

I learned so much from Lou. His talks to the children are burned like a CD in my brain. No one talked the way he did with the kids. I have a lot to learn. The main things I learned from him, as listed on his website under Rules for Reenactors: be historically accurate; educate the public; educate children; and you don’t have to be raunchy to this! (a reference to the pirate group he belonged to).

No one will be able to fill his shoes.
Volunteers and staff of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail helped inaugurate a newly restored Presidio of San Francisco Officers’ Club on September 23, 2014. The Presidio Officers’ Club is San Francisco’s most historic building. It is California Historical Landmark No. 79 and a contributing resource to the Presidio’s National Historic Landmark District status.

The Presidio Officers’ Club is one of just two buildings remaining in San Francisco from the Spanish colonization of California. The other is Mission Dolores.

The front portion of the club was erected by Spanish colonists of the Anza Expedition of 1776 with adobe bricks made with soil from the Presidio’s El Polín Spring. It is believed that the building was mostly destroyed during a devastating storm in 1779. It was rebuilt, only to suffer major damage during a series of earthquakes in the summer of 1808, and then again in the quake of 1812.

Over generations, the building has housed living quarters for Spanish and Mexican soldiers, barracks for the U.S. Army, a mess room and kitchen, laundresses’ quarters, post headquarters, an assembly hall, a ballroom, and a restaurant and bar.

The Officers’ Club took on its famous social role in the early 20th century. A 1934 remodel gave the building the familiar Mission Revival character it retains today. Celebrities of stage and screen were in regular attendance: Bob Hope, Jack Benny,
Veronica Lake, Joan Crawford, and many others. California historian Kevin Starr described the scene during the war years: “At night, after duty hours, the bar at the Officers’ Club was packed solid with men in khaki and brass, pinks and greens, highballs in one hand, Lucky Strikes or Camels in the other, the room electric with the excitement of a city, a state, a nation, a world at war.”

The Presidio Officers’ Club came to hold a special place in the hearts of the thousands of servicemen who passed through the post. Within its walls “nearly every general officer of the Army from the Civil War days, and unsung thousands who never reached star rank have enjoyed the comradeship of their fellows.”

In 2014, the Presidio Trust completed a rehabilitation of the Officers’ Club, transforming it into a multifaceted cultural destination.

The fully rehabilitated Officers’ Club features state-of-the-art exhibits, rich community programs, a gracious “living room” for gathering, spaces for special events and celebrations, and a signature restaurant, Arguello, by award-winning chef Traci Des Jardins.

A September 23, 2014, ribbon-cutting ceremony featured a procession of the historic flags that have flown over the Presidio, presented by Anza Trail volunteers and staff. The Amigos de Anza drill team lent its flags for the occasion.

Anza Trail Park Guide Daniel Sanchez, dressed in a Spanish colonial officer’s uniform, led the procession, followed by Maya Smestad, Leticia Cowan, Dr. Greg Bernal-Mendoza Smestad, Patricia Kieffer, and Charlie Kieffer.

The ceremony also featured the presentation of a handcrafted basket by Ohlone artist and scholar Linda Yamane, and remarks by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, former Secretary of State George Shultz, and Presidio Trust Executive Director Craig Middleton.

You are welcome to enjoy the array of offerings at the Officers’ Club and encouraged to use it to enrich your own Presidio experience.
The Raúl M. Grijalva Canoa Ranch Conservation Park, or Canoa Ranch as it is commonly known, is the newest addition to the month of Anza Days commemorations in the Santa Cruz River Heritage Area.

Our 2nd annual Anza Day takes place Sunday, October 26, from 9AM to 1PM at the Historic Hacienda de la Canoa, the former headquarters for the ranch.

During Anza Day, Pima County will unveil a new permanent exhibit at the Historic Hacienda focusing on the families of the Anza Expedition, made possible by the support of the National Park Service.

La Canoa and the Anza Expedition of 1775-76

At La Canoa in the evening of October 23, 1775, Anza Expedition member Mariá Ignacia Piñuelas Feliz went into labor and delivered a baby boy. Complications from the birth arose and she died at 3AM the morning of October 24. Hers was the only death to occur during the expedition. The baby boy and her other six children survived the journey but the little boy later perished in San Francisco.

The morning of October 25, rain made it difficult for the expedition to pack and procure enough water before leaving La Canoa. One cannot help but wonder if the tragedy of Manuel’s death and the inclement weather was seen by the expedition members as an ominous portent of the difficult journey ahead or if death in childbirth, storms, and other daily obstacles were unfortunate, but common, life events in the late eighteenth century.

The settlers stopped at Mission San Xavier del Bac on October 25, 1775, to mourn Manuela but also to celebrate the marriages of three...
couples. The next day, the families set out to resume their remarkable journey.

**Anza Day 2014 Events**

Anza Day at La Canoa will open with a special traditional blessing by members of the Tohono O’odham Nation, followed by basket weaving demonstrations and a sale of their beautiful creations.

The Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona Color Guard will ride from the Elephant Head Trailhead along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and make a colorful and exciting entrance, followed by other equestrians and visitors dressed for the occasion.

Other activities will include traditional games and children’s activities, baby animals with their 4-H owners, historic equipment presented by Power from the Past, heritage produce, tours of the ranch, lectures by Arizona Humanities Scholars, a chuck wagon serving lunch, cowboy coffee boiled over a campfire, and cobbler.

Canoa Ranch is located between Green Valley and Amado, Ariz., on the east side of Interstate 19. The property’s first recorded name is La Canoa as it was referred to in the 1700s when the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition camped there on their first night out from Tubac Presidio.

The property, preserved by Pima County, is a 4,800-acre remnant of the original 1821 San Ignacio de la Canoa Spanish land grant that covered 17,000 acres and much of what are now the communities of Green Valley and Sahuarita. The conservation park is a microcosm of the history of Southern Arizona and reflects the lives and works of indigenous people along with men and women of Spanish, Mexican, European, African, and Asian descent. Running through the property from south to north is the Santa Cruz River, a source of water and a natural travel route in historic times followed by the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition on the initial leg of their journey.
As a park ranger I’ve really become an enthusiast for long walks, and I mean all sorts of long treks, from hiking to the top of high mountain peaks, to leisurely strolls among the giant Sequoias, and quiet ramblings on creek side trails. These are all types of walks most people think of when walking in a national park, and as I said I like them all, but more recently I have come to enjoy exploring the historic areas of Downtown Los Angeles by foot—on my own time and as part of my new post and duty station working out of the Community Outreach Office for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in LA. So when I heard that every year the city of Los Angeles celebrates its birthday with a nine-mile trek from the San Gabriel Mission to the El Pueblo State Historical Monument, where my office is located, I was immediately interested in participating.

Nine miles didn’t sound that bad, but getting up before 5 a.m. to be ready for the 6 a.m. departure did not sound so appealing. However, in a fortuitous meeting with our partners at the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail just a few days before the walk was about to take place, I found inspiration in the Anza story and how it related to the story of the first Pobladores, or the “settlers” in Spanish, who founded the little Pueblo of Los Angeles on September 4, 1781, soon after arriving from the Mission San Gabriel.

The walk is held every year around the city’s birthday to commemorate the pobladores and their journey—not just the trek from San Gabriel, but the long journey from present day Mexico that took many months. And also we celebrate the people that made up the group that would become LA’s first citizens. This was a diverse group from the beginning; among the 44 people there were African, Spanish, Mestizo, and Native American families. I decided that I would do the walk in honor of this journey and others like it such as the Anza expedition. And even today people all over the world still make long journeys to escape hardships in their native lands and to look for a better and safer place to live.

I recruited a friend and colleague, Luis Rincon, Interpretive Specialist with California State Parks, also stationed downtown at the LA State Historic Park. We met at the mission a little before 6 a.m. on Saturday, August 30, groggy-eyed but excited. It was still dark, but the mission was buzzing with activity as people filed in to get registered and prep for the journey.
There was a shared feeling of, “Alright this is nine miles on concrete, so let’s get moving,” and the crowd did just that. We motored through the first three miles along the sidewalks of Alhambra. Immediately I noticed the connection of present-day journeys—our path paralleled railroad tracks used by the industrial lines. After Alhambra the sidewalk disappeared for a moment when we hit the city limits of Los Angeles and entered into the small hillside community of El Sereno. Luis grew up in El Sereno and attended Wilson High School atop the Ascot Hills. The school boasts the highest elevation in the LA Unified district—you can see Catalina from up there! Luis shared stories and his local knowledge as we walked through this cool old LA community.

We walked in between the communities of Boyle Heights and Lincoln Heights, and I felt as if we were getting this backdoor tour of LA that many Angelenos have never seen. We’re always driving in LA and when you’re on foot you really get to see where things lie in relation to each other. You can see how the surrounding geography shaped the city as it is today. From a small rise I could see the saddle in the hills of the Elysian Valley where we believe the Portola and the Anza expeditions traveled through a narrow gap along the river.

At Union Station we met up with Mayor Eric Garcetti and the rest of the ceremonial group which included Aztec dancers and members of the Tongva tribe. We all walked together across Alameda and up to the gazebo at El Pueblo where we gathered to hear the mayor give his speech. He recognized the first village that was there even before the settlers arrived, that of Yang’na, the Tonga village positioned upslope from river to avoid the occasional flooding. It took the new settlers a few years to figure this out and only after the pueblo got swept away two times. Then the mayor reminded us again that the city of LA was a diverse city from the very first day, when that group of pobaldores brought their different ancestries to set up the little sleepy pueblo that has now become the diverse megalopolis it is today.

Luis and I were a little tired but elated and proud to walk the route of LA’s history.
This easy, 1.7-mile loop trail takes you on a beautiful segment of Anza Trail through the Oakland Hills. This segment of Anza Trail is administered by the East Bay Regional Park District. Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve spans Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

About this Trail

I'm all ways eager to scout out a trail that is friendly for groups of new hikers. I found that the Anza Trail, passing through Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve, provides hikers a short loop with stunning views and amazing plant communities.

This loop trail is open to hikers only. A self-guided nature path provides information about flora in the park. The park's location in the hills above Oakland's Montclair district is home to a unique micro-climate; it is directly across San Francisco Bay from the golden gate, which provides a flow of Pacific fog.

The main Huckleberry Path/Anza Trail loop is 1.7 miles. A shortcut shaves 0.73 miles if desired.

Directions to Trailhead

The park is just southeast of Sibley Volcanic Preserve, and the Huckleberry Path trailhead is located just south of the intersection of Skyline Boulevard and Elverton Drive in Oakland (See Google map). Facilities include a gravel parking lot, tables, bathrooms, and a park sign that displays a map and information about the park.

Trail Route

Following the Huckleberry Path Trail, some friends and I decided to take the loop trail clockwise, starting down a set of stairs flanked by lush ferns.
Once you have descended the trail levels out and you may look across a canyon that overlooks San Leandro Creek.

Large Pacific Madrone trees shade this area. After 1/3 of a mile, Hackberry Path meets up with the Anza Trail (which in this area is also the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the Skyline National Trail). Keep right at this fork, preceding though a mature Bay Tree forest.

After another 1/2 mile (after the 5th marker on the self-guided nature tour) you have the option of turning right up a shortcut. This will shave 0.73 miles off the loop hike, but only after a strenuous climb.

To skip the shortcut, continue heading west. After another 0.4 miles, turn right to stay on the Huckleberry Path, leaving the Anza Trail. The Huckleberry Path takes you back to your starting point along the contours of the hills. The trail here is flanked with beautiful Manzanita plants and provides spectacular views of Mount Diablo.

Maps and Links

A full size map of the Huckleberry Botanical Regional Preserve is available at www.ebparks.org/parks/huckleberry#trailmap

Image of manzanita in Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve: credit: Flickr user Ken-ichi Ueda, creative commons license.
CALLING ALL SCRIPTWRITERS!

15 Momentous Encounters in the Life of Juan Bautista de Anza

by Julianne Burton-Carvajal, Ph.D.

Adapted from a joint presentation with Rita Vega-Acevedo for the Anza Society Conference in Banámichi, Sonora, March 2014. An expanded and richly detailed version of this piece is available on the Anza Trail Blog

Even the giants of history must capture the attention of each succeeding generation. In the 21st century, public attention is most effectively enlisted by audio-visual means: movies, television, video, digital animation, streaming websites and social media. As historians who admire the achievements of Juan Bautista de Anza the younger, we make bold to offer media-makers of the future a few signposts.

The following list of 15 momentous encounters depicts Anza not as a man of action, but as a “man of interaction”. Anza crossed paths with the key figures of his era. The list spans 25 years (1767–1786) and Anza’s vast travels - from Mexico City to San Francisco Bay to present-day Colorado. Unleash your imagination, and envision how a film director might depict the following richly varied scenarios:

#1. July 1767, Sonora
A top-secret royal order promulgated throughout the Spanish empire compelled Anza to arrest Jesuit fathers Roxas and Perera and transport them under guard to Aconchi on the western coast of Mexico for mass deportation. Father Roxas had not only baptized but also married Anza. For the young officer, the clash between duty and piety must have been agonizing.

#2. December 1773, Altar Presidio
Quechan Chieftain Salvador Palma introduced Anza to Sebastián Tarabal, the only one of three runaways from the San Gabriel Mission to survive the desert crossing. The cooperation of Chief Palma, along with Tarabal’s first-hand knowledge of the rugged desert terrain, were key factors in Anza’s decision to route his exploratory expedition to Yuma and cross the Colorado River there.
**#4. April 27, 1774, Point Concepción**

Anza and Franciscan missionary friar Junípero Serra crossed paths at a Chumash village just north of the future Santa Barbara. The Father-President of the Alta California missions was returning from highly productive series of encounters with the Viceroy in Mexico City. Anza had just blazed the first overland route between Sonora and Monterey. During that unplanned encounter, what impressions and insights might the soldier and the priest have shared around the campfire, each of them fresh from an endeavor that was pivotal to the continued survival of Alta California?

**#5. November 13, 1774, Mexico City**

Instructed to report on his exploratory overland expedition to Monterey, Anza had his first audience with Viceroy Antonio María Bucareli y Ursúa at the Viceregal Palace. The fact that his father had been the first to suggest an overland route to the northern frontier would not have been far from Anza’s mind.

**#3. February 7, 1774, Colorado Crossing**

Salvador Palma Anza welcomed the exploratory expedition of Anza and missionary friar Francisco Garcés near the junction of the Gila and Colorado rivers and enlisted his people, expert swimmers and raft-builders, to assist Anza and his troops in fording the treacherous river.

**#6. September 1775 - March 1776**

With viceregal authorization, Anza had recruited 240 settlers to build and populate the future San Francisco in Alta California. Pedro Font, the senior Franciscan friar attached to that second expedition, was a continuing thorn in Anza’s side from San Miguel de Horcasitas, the initial point of assembly, to arrival at Monterey on March 10, 1776. As Font’s diaries reveal, uneasy ill-feeling was mutual.
#7. December 1775 - May 1776

After spending an unproductive month at San Diego, where the mission had recently been destroyed by a Kumeyaay rebellion – the most devastating event in the history of Spanish Alta California – Anza and Governor Captain Fernando de Rivera y Moncada carried on a mutually frustrating, increasingly hostile correspondence regarding whether and when the presidio and mission at San Francisco would be founded.

Writing to Viceroy Bucareli on May 24, 1776, Rivera y Moncada declared:

*I do not believe there has ever been a Captain so disgraced in the King's armies, whose Colonel has reprehended him with such bitterness, nor with such magnitude as Don Juan Bautista has done to me, even had it been ordered by [God] my Examining Judge. [Everything] is topsy-turvy, with the heads where the feet should be.*

Rivera’s assertions were provoked by Anza’s 17th and final letter to him, written on May 3, 1776, which included the following paragraph:

...*Your Honor’s highly exaggerated years and experience... are like deceptions to those who see through you. It will not be easy for you to excuse the way you acted at our meeting [on the road near San Luis Obispo]. My greeting to you was not even properly completed when Your Honor kicked your mule (it is irrelevant whether with or without spurs) and marched off, claiming [after four months of waiting on my part] that I was importuning, interrupting, or detaining you. [Later] Your Honor tried to attribute this great rudeness to the effects of your “illness.”*
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#11. February 13, 1777, Mexico City
In an elaborate evening ceremony at the grand Mexico City Cathedral that fulfilled Chieftain Salvador Palma’s long-expressed desire for baptism, Anza became his baptismal godfather, joining the two in spiritual kinship.

#10. November 4, 1776, Mexico City
Anza and a delegation of Quechan (Yuma) Indians from the lower Colorado River basin attended a full-dress “Court Day” celebration at the Viceregal Palace in Mexico City honoring the birthday of Spain’s King Carlos III, who would turn out to be the last of the Hapsburg dynasty.

#12. April 1778, Chihuahua
As newly-designated Governor of the remote and besieged Kingdom of New Mexico, Anza attended a meeting of governors of Northern New Spain, convened at the frontier outpost of Chihuahua by Teodoro Caballero de Croix, first Commander of the newly designated Internal Provinces.

#13. 1779, Santa Fe
Soon after his arrival at the sprawling adobe Palace of the Governors, Governor Anza enjoyed a reunion with soldier and civilian official Bernardo Miera y Pacheco – a distant relation from Sonora whose talents as artist and cartographer, along with his unequaled familiarity with the territory of and beyond the Kingdom of New Mexico, made him a most valuable advisor.

#14. 1781 - 1784, New Mexico
While Anza was governor, the ongoing ecclesiastical and civil trials of Fray Diego Muñoz and José Juan Bustos exemplified the bitter struggles between church and state – as well as between Spaniards and creoles – that wearied northern governors and impeded their effectiveness.

#15. February 1786, New Mexico
Nearly six years after Anza had killed the renowned Comanche leader Cuerno Verde in battle, Comanche Chief Ecuacapa and his retinue “talked treaty” with the Governor at Pecos Pueblo east of Santa Fe. That treaty brought a generation of peace to New Mexico at last, permitting a sustainable economy to develop after more than a century of Spanish-Indian warfare.
The California Indian Heritage Center Foundation is calling for Native American artists to produce new visual artwork that shares the Native Californian perspective of the Anza Expedition of 1775-76 and its impact.

The visual art will enter the collection of the California Indian Heritage Center Foundation for display and interpretation. It will also be used by the National Park Service for education and interpretation of multiple perspectives of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

The California Indian Heritage Center Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), is a California State Parks cooperating association that provides support for the California Indian Heritage Center. The California Indian Heritage Center honors the diversity and history of California Indian people by preserving cultural and tribal traditions, nurturing contemporary expressions, and facilitating research and education. The museum’s collections and exhibits, and its many educational programs and events, inspire visitors from all over the world. More information is available at www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27275.

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail commemorates the migration route of the colonists of the Anza Expedition of 1775-76, who entered present-day California to establish a colony at San Francisco Bay. The Anza Expedition colonists crossed the homelands of the Quechan, Kumeyaay, Tongva, Chumash, Salinan, Ohlone, and Bay Miwok, among others. More information is available at www.anzahistorictrail.org.

Call for Artists - Apply by Dec. 31, 2014

Four full-color illustrations will be commissioned for this project. Check the Anza Trail blog this Fall at http://www.anzahistorictrail.org for the full Scope of Work announcing this opportunity and application procedures!
Join the Anza Trail Foundation (it’s Free!) to receive a monthly email of expanded Anza Trail News & Events. Sign up at www.anzahistorictrail.org

October

Sat 4  Public Grand Opening of the Presidio of San Francisco Officers’ Club (see p. 4)
Sat 4  Family Fandango at Las Lagunas de Anza (Nogales, AZ) www.santaferanchfoundation.org
Wed 8  Santa Barbara County Information Session: Become an Anza Trail docent on board Amtrak. 7PM, South Coast Railroad Museum, 300 North Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA (805) 964-3540
Sat 18  Anza Days in Tubac and Tumacacori! www.tubacpresidio.org
Sun 26  Anza Day at Historic Hacienda de la Canoa (see p. 6)

November

Sat 1  Day of the Dead at Mission Dolores (San Francisco) www.parksconservancy.org
Sun 23  San Jose Birthday Commemoration; www.historysanjose.org

December

5-6  30th Annual Christmas in the Adobes, Monterey State Historic Park; www.parks.ca.gov
Sat 6  ATCA Pancake Breakfast at Wisdom’s, Tumacacori, AZ
6-7  La Fiesta de Tumacacori; www.nps.gov/TUMA
Sat 13  Holiday musical procession, Las Posadas, at the Anza Trail Exhibit (Martinez, CA) Time and date to be confirmed. Contact 415-623-2344
Sat 13  Luminaria Festival at the Tucson Presidio; www.tucsonpresidio.com
A happy kayaker poses during an August 2014 Safe Routes to the River excursion on the LA River. The youth learned about the Anza Expedition as part of their studies of the river.