



125 YEARS OF THE SIERRA CLUB

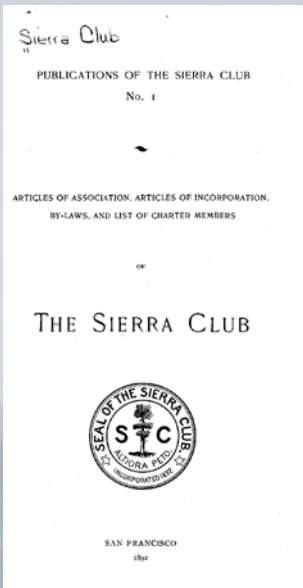
MUIR AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB

In 1889 John Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson, the editor of the influential Century Magazine, planned a campaign for a Yosemite National Park. The following year Congress established the park but Muir and Johnson recognized that an organization would be necessary to ensure Yosemite's protection.



John Muir

At the same time, a group at the University of California, led by professor J. Henry Senger, wanted to promote recreation by making the Sierra - and especially the Yosemite region - more accessible and better known. Others, including the artist William Keith, attorney Warren Olney, professors LeConte and Cornelius Beach Bradley, and Stanford University President David Starr Jordan, were also interested in creating an alpine club. Muir joined this group and Olney and Senger drew up articles of incorporation.



President Theodore Roosevelt's party at the Grizzly Giant, Mariposa Big Tree Grove, 1903. Left to right: 2 secret service men, Secretary of the Navy Moody, Governor Pardee, President Roosevelt, Dr. Rixey, John Muir, Nichola Murray Butler, Secretary Loeb, Benjamin Ide Wheeler.
By Joseph N. LeConte, 1903

The Club's first goals included establishing Glacier and Mount Rainier national parks, preserving California's coastal redwoods, and convincing the California legislature to give Yosemite Valley to the U.S. federal government. Muir escorted President Theodore Roosevelt through Yosemite in 1903. Two years later the California legislature ceded Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove to the federal government.

Muir's advice to

**"CLIMB THE MOUNTAINS AND
GET THEIR GOOD TIDINGS"**

has been followed by Sierra Club members from the beginning and the pursuit of this goal has played a key role in shaping its history.

On May 28, 1892 the Sierra Club was incorporated *"to explore, enjoy, and render accessible the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast; to publish authentic information concerning them,"* and *"to enlist the support and cooperation of the people and government in preserving the forests and other natural features of the Sierra Nevada."* In Muir's words, *"do something for wildness and make the mountains glad."* Muir served as the Club's president until his death in 1914.

