

Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center

(formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge)

The Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center, formerly known as LeConte Memorial Lodge, was built by the Sierra Club and dedicated on July 3, 1904. The building served as the first permanent public information center in Yosemite Valley, replacing the Sierra Club's public reading room and information center at Sinning's Cottage, which had been established at the request of the California State Park Commission in 1898.

The new structure was designed by Berkeley architect John White. He proposed that the design should be derived from native building materials and that the site should determine the design of the building. White's design reflected these principles in the rough-hewn granite masonry, steep-pitched wooden gabled roof, posed hammer beams, and scissor trusses, which captured the verticality, color, and texture of Yosemite Valley. The simplicity of the design lends itself to lofty thoughts and inspirations.

Originally constructed in Curry Village, the building was moved to its present location in 1919. Unique in the National Park System, it was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

The building originally was named for the scientist and university professor Joseph LeConte, who was a charter member and early director of the Sierra Club. Unfortunately, Joseph LeConte's legacy has since been marred by the rediscovery of his late 19th-century writings on segregation and racial superiority. Those views are un-

acceptable to the Sierra Club, which is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion within its membership, in our national parks, and in society at large. Therefore, in 2015, the Sierra Club asked that the LeConte Memorial Lodge be renamed.

Although motivated by a rejection of Joseph LeConte's writings, the name change -- to Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center -- also more accurately represents the educational mission of the Center. The Center tells the stories of many Sierra Club leaders who have promoted protection for Yosemite and other national parks. Current exhibits cover John Muir, Robert Underwood Johnson, William Colby, Edward Parsons, Marion Randall Parsons, Aurelia Harwood, Ansel Adams, David Brower, Dr. Edgar Wayburn, and other important Sierra Club leaders. The Center also highlights the Club's current endeavors to combat global climate change and support environmental justice.



Through interpretive environmental education programs and projects, the legacy of stewardship continues. Through the service of Sierra Club volunteers and one staff curator, the Center opens each season to invite visitors to enjoy a conservation and natural history library, exhibits about the history of the Sierra Club and its current endeavors, and a children's library corner. The center continues to inspire current and future generations to enjoy, explore, and protect the natural world.



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Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center

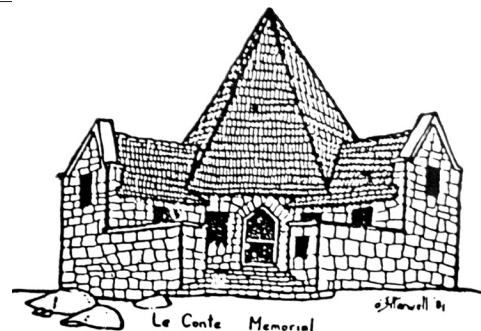
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Help Preserve the Sierra Club Home in Yosemite NP

Built in 1904, the Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center, is a Sierra Club education program that has inspired a deep abiding conservation ethic and love for wilderness adventure and preservation for generations of visitors. The building served as the first park visitor center and provided information about Yosemite, the Sierra Nevada, and the Sierra Club. For 112 years it has stood as the “Spiritual Home” of the Sierra Club in Yosemite National Park.

John Muir’s early experiences in Yosemite Valley gave rise to the Sierra Club. This National Historic Landmark is a monument to the Sierra Club’s deep roots in that valley and reminds visitors of the Club’s rich history that predates the National Park System.

Today, the Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center not only explains the role of the men and women who worked historically to protect Yosemite and the Sierra but also highlights the Club’s current endeavors to combat global climate change and support environmental justice.

We need to continue the Sierra Club’s legacy at the Heritage Center and the time has come to raise funds for the program and ensure its existence for future generations. **To start, we need to raise \$90,000 by October 1, 2016 to fully fund operations for fiscal year 2017.**

Please Donate Now!

Help us keep the Sierra Club’s oldest public outreach and education program in Yosemite National Park.

To learn more, and to support us with your tax-deductible donation online, please visit:
<http://vault.sierraclub.org/leconte/>

To Donate By Check, please write “Restricted to LeConte Memorial Fund” in the memo line and make payable to: The Sierra Club Foundation. Mail to:

**The Sierra Club Foundation
2101 Webster St., Suite 1250
Oakland, CA 94612**

To get involved and keep this shining beacon of the Sierra Club legacy alive in Yosemite National Park, Contact:

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