



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE PONCE DE LEÓN MUSTER

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL – April 3, 2010 – Four hundred and ninety-seven years ago, in April 1513, Don Juan Ponce de León stepped ashore on the east coast of Florida and changed history forever. On April 10, 2010, the first, annual historical muster of the living history group, *La Compañía de Juan Ponce de León* (The Company of Juan Ponce de León), will be held at Ponce de León's Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park (www.fountainofyouthflorida.com/) in St. Augustine, Florida, our nation's oldest city.

This heritage Event will feature the following interpretations, lectures, and demonstrations:

- 10:00: Event opens to the public
- 10:00: The History of Ponce, His Company, and His World
- 10:30: The Crossbow in the Early 16th-century Spanish Caribbean and Florida
- 11:00: The *Arquebus*, America's First Firearm
- 11:30: The History of Ponce, His Company, and His World
- 12:00: The *Rodeleros* – Spain's Sword-and-shield Troops
- 12:30: Horses in the New World
- 1:00: The Crossbow in the Early 16th-century Spanish Caribbean and Florida
- 1:30: The *Arquebus*, America's First Firearm
- 2:00: A brief talk on Don Juan Ponce de Leon and maritime life in the Age of Discovery by Dr. Samuel P. Turner, Director of Archaeology/Lighthouse Archaeology Maritime Program, St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum
- 2:30: The *Rodeleros* – Spain's Sword-and-shield Troops
- 3:00: Horses in the New World
- 3:30: The History of Ponce, His Company, and His World
- 5:00: Event closes to the public

Entry to Saturday's activities at Ponce de León's Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park will be by paid admission.

La Compañía de Juan Ponce de León (The Company of Juan Ponce de León) is a living history group created to present a historically accurate portrayal of the 16th-century company of Don Juan Ponce de León, the founder of Florida, who led the first documented European expedition to what is now the continental United States in 1513 and established the first European colony in the continental U.S. in 1521. The group will also play an exciting, colorful role in Florida's 500th anniversary observances in 2013.

This Event is sponsored by *La Compañía de Juan Ponce de León* (The Company of Juan Ponce de León), with the assistance of Ponce de León's Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park. For more information on *La*

Compañía de Juan Ponce de León, please contact us at info@companyofponcedeleon.org or phone us, toll-free, at 1-877-FLA-HIST (1-877-352-4478)!

La Compañía de Juan Ponce de León is a member unit of Florida Living History, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational organization dedicated to the support of living history activities, events, and portrayals related to the history of Florida.
www.floridalivinghistory.org/

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