



To help meet an elementary school requirement, fourth-graders can now access a model of Mission Basilica San Diego online.

Local credit union to provide free models to San Diego County 4th-graders

Parents, students, teachers can download free model of Mission Basilica San Diego from CUA Web site

Source: Credit Union Alliance of San Diego

Every year the parents of some 17,000 fourth-graders are faced with a creative and practical challenge: How to build a model of the Mission Basilica San Diego to meet a San Diego County elementary school requirement.

The nonprofit organization Credit Union Alliance of San Diego has joined with **Paper Models Inc.** to provide a free photo-realistic model of Mission Basilica San Diego to fourth-grade students in San Diego County. The model is available at www.creditunionalliance.org.

"The Mission Model program provides a great opportunity for the CUA to provide another useful service to our members and the community," said Robin Lentz, CUA's spokeswoman. "As many parents and teachers know, the importance of the California Missions in the development of our state has not gone unnoticed in our classrooms."

One aspect of the fourth-grade history curriculum requires students to describe the social, political, cultural, economic life and interactions among the people of California and pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods. As part of this curriculum, many fourth-graders are required to build a model of a California mission.

"Until now, many of these Mission Models could only be purchased at stores for \$8-\$12 dollars a piece or made from common household items such as sugar cubes and yarn," said James

Models —

Continued from Page 16A

McPheters, CEO of California Coast Credit Union. "This is what credit unions are all about: helping people and the community. The CUA's focus this year is education and this is a terrific way for us to help students, teachers and parents improve the quality of this school project and especially the students' learning experience."

With the CUA-Paper Models program, a high-quality, lasting model of Mission Basilica San Diego can be downloaded from the Internet at no charge to parents.

"This paper model is easily printed out on a computer printer," said Lentz. "Using scissors, glue, and following the easy instructions, the kids can create a replica of Mission Basilica San Diego and learn about the heritage of the California Missions with their parents."

Also included on the CUA Web site are history, virtual tours and links so students can find out more about California Missions and the role they played in the cultural and social development of California's major metropolitan areas.