



Sierra Club

LeConte Memorial Lodge

P.O. Box 755, Yosemite, CA 95389
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The LeConte Memorial Lodge was built by the Sierra Club in 1903 to honor eminent geologist Joseph LeConte. LeConte was a University of California geology and natural history professor who was one of the first scientists to support John Muir's theory of the glacial origin of Yosemite Valley. LeConte, one of the most respected scientists in the United States at the time, joined with John Muir and others as a charter member and early director of the Sierra Club, founded in 1892. He was a leader among early members of the Club in exploring, climbing, mapping, and protecting Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada.

Berkeley architect John White was a follower of the First Bay Tradition of architecture. White and others held that a design should be derived from native building materials and exposed structure rather than decorative detail. White's design for the LeConte Memorial reflected these principles in the rough-hewn granite masonry and steep-pitched roof of LeConte Lodge, which capture the color, texture, and verticality of the Yosemite Valley walls. Unique in the National Park System, the Memorial was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

The Memorial has served as a focal point for Sierra Club members and guests advocating conservation and the National Park idea. The Sierra Club was organized by many of the same persons who had originally worked for the establishment of Yosemite National Park, including Joseph LeConte, John Muir, Robert Underwood Johnson, and others. In its first

conservation campaign, the Club defeated a proposal to reduce the size of the newly established Yosemite National Park. In 1906, the Club succeeded in combining Yosemite Valley, then in state ownership, with the surrounding high country into the present National Park. Although in 1913 it lost its campaign to prevent the flooding of nearby Hetch Hetchy Valley ("the second Yosemite") for a reservoir, it succeeded in obtaining the 1916 legislation to establish the National Park Service. Though its work today encompasses many national and international environmental issues, the Sierra Club continues its original commitment to preserve the natural wonders of the Sierra Nevada, Muir's "Range of Light."

Sierra Club volunteers and a curator keep the Lodge open during the summer months. The Lodge offers free public programs for visitors, including a children's program and evening slide presentations; educational programs, interpretive displays; and a conservation library. With greater funding, we would like to keep the Lodge operating year-round. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to "Sierra Club Foundation – LeConte Lodge Fund."

For more information during the summer contact the LeConte Memorial Lodge Curator; 209.372.4542 or leconte.curator@sierraclub.org

In the winter, contact the LeConte Memorial Lodge Committee Chair, Harold Wood; 559.739.8527 or harold.wood@sierraclub.org



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