



Mendocino County's World Famous **SKUNK TRAIN**

Redwoods | Trains | Railbikes | Hikes | Glen Blair Bar

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mendocino Railway
06/22/2026

SKUNK TRAIN UNVEILS ITS TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S 250th ANNIVERSARY—LOCOMOTIVE 1776

FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA - June 22, 2026 - In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, Mendocino Railway's California Western Railroad / Skunk Train has unveiled Locomotive 1776, honoring the nation's past, present, and future through one of the country's most enduring symbols of progress: the railroad.

Locomotive 1776 features a striking design incorporating the American flag and a bald eagle, serving as a rolling tribute to the spirit of the United States and the generations of Americans whose vision, determination, and innovation helped build the nation. Beginning this month, Locomotive 1776 will lead most trains from Fort Bragg, including the popular [Pudding Creek Express](#), the Presidential Class experience aboard [the Redwood](#), and rides to [Glen Blair Bar](#).

"Railroads have always played an important role in the American story," said Robert Jason Pinoli, President and CEO of Mendocino Railway. "From connecting communities and supporting commerce, to preserving history and creating memorable experiences for future generations, railroads reflect the same spirit of perseverance, innovation, and opportunity that has defined our nation for 250 years. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, Locomotive 1776 serves as a reminder of where we've been, how far we've come, and the enduring spirit that continues to move our country forward."

The locomotive's design draws inspiration from a rich tradition of patriotic railroad displays that stretches back generations, including the famous Freedom Train of 1948 and other historic efforts that used railroads to celebrate American ideals and milestones.

"Our team has worked hard to create a scheme that appropriately honors those of the historical past while looking forward to the future of our nation," said Efstathios Pappas, General Manager of the Skunk Train. "We wanted this locomotive to be something that inspires pride,

sparks conversation, and reminds people of the incredible achievements made possible through the American spirit. We think people will be pleased with what we have created."

California Western Railroad / Skunk Train is a Class III common carrier public utility railroad located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County. This heritage freight railroad began operating in 1885 initially moved redwood logs from the rugged back country to Mendocino Coast sawmills, later transporting finished lumber out to the national railroad network. Later, it added passenger service and in 1925, the railroad became affectionately known as the "Skunk Train." Since then, the Skunk Train has become a nationally recognized destination, recently named one of North America's Six Most Spectacular Train Trips by *The New York Times* and ranked one of the 10 Best Scenic Train Rides in the Nation by the *USA Today* 10Best Readers' Choice Awards. Freight, passenger, and excursion trains operate year-round. For tickets and more information, visit www.skunktrain.com or call (707) 964-6371.

###

Media Assets:

High-resolution images are available for download here:

[Skunk Train 250th Anniversary Media Photos](#)

Media Contact:

Kimberly Preciado

Public Relations Manager

Mendocino Railway

kpreciado@mendocinorailway.com

Connect with the Skunk Train:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/skunktrain>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/skunktrain>