



News Release

For Immediate Release
March 29, 2018

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Sutter's Fort SHP

Sutter's Fort Recreates California's First Mall for A Three-Day *Shop Traders' Faire* Event & Plans a Special "InstaMeet" on Final Day

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California State Parks, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) and Friends of Sutter's Fort are proud to present a vibrant, educational and fun three-day event – *Shop Traders' Faire* – on Friday, April 20 through Sunday, April 22, 2018. Offered just once a year, this lively and highly anticipated interpretive event takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and offers a unique shopping bazaar where visitors can purchase one-of-a-kind reproductions from vendors dressed in period attire. In addition, Fort visitors will gain unique insights into the early days of the Fort when it served as a central and critically important trading post, and have the opportunity to step back in time to experience what California's first shopping mall was like in the 1840s. And, in celebration of Photography Month Sacramento happening in April, Friends of Sutter's Fort is offering a special InstaMeet on Sunday, April 22, where community members active on Instagram are encouraged to visit the Fort to take photos of the bustling activity during the final day of the *Shop Traders' Faire*.

While it is common knowledge that Sutter's Fort marked the beginning of Sacramento, few people understand how the Fort served as a thriving commercial center in the early days of the Gold Rush. In fact, it was the only trading center on the way to the gold fields and literally thousands of gold miners passed through the Fort to purchase needed supplies from vendors hawking a variety of goods. Thus, Sutter's Fort essentially became California's first shopping mall. A score of merchants operated at the Fort, a sampling of which included Brannan and Co. general store; Hensley, Reading and Co. hardware store; Priest, Lee and Co. mining equipment; Peter Burnett, lawyer and real estate firm; Joseph Wadleigh, tinsmith and even a newspaper known as the *Placer Times*.

During the bustling *Shop Traders' Faire* three-day event and amid a lively shopping atmosphere, Fort visitors can watch artisans create pioneer goods for sale such as clothing, housewares, toys, beads and knives. Guests will also have the opportunity to make their own crafts, haggle with traders, hammer square nails and enjoy demonstrations of black powder weapons periodically throughout the day. In addition to the interactive opportunities, guests can also shop for artisan made hand-crafted items that make for treasured keepsakes, gifts and collectibles.

Admission to this special event at Sutter's Fort SHP is \$7 per adult (18 and older), \$5 per youth (ages 6 to 17) and is free for children 5 and under (regular admission pricing is \$5 per adult, \$3 for youth). For more, call 916-445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org



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California State Parks Mission

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

Friends of Sutter's Fort

The Friends of Sutter's Fort is a nonprofit 501 c 3 organization dedicated to the enhancement, preservation and protection of Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, and educational and interpretive programs at the park. Friends of Sutter's Fort is a Cooperating Association for California State Parks since 2006. Friends of Sutter's Fort is the major funder of both restoration work and programs at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. Through the generosity of our donors, in the past 3 years alone, we have funded several major projects including the painting of the exterior walls, the restoration of the blacksmith shop and the painting of the interior walls (currently underway). In addition, we are proud to provide funding to support the educational programs at the park. For more information, please visit www.suttersfort.org

Social Media Tags: #SuttersFort, @SuttersFort

