

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **New in 2011, Sutter's Fort Launches Special "Hands on History" Focus** *Monthly On-Site Events Offer Fun & Interactive Activities*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – Founded in 1839 and established as the first European/American settlement in the Sacramento Valley, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) is debuting an interactive and new "Hands on History" focus in 2011. Typically held on the third Saturday of each month, special "Hands on History" events are highlighted by fun and interactive activities that allow Fort visitors to get involved and even take home their hand-crafted items. Additionally, enthusiastic and knowledgeable docents -- dressed in period attire -- will be on hand to greet and interact with Fort guests while also answering questions and helping with on-site activities.

As an example, the next "Hands on History" event (scheduled for Saturday, February 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) is focused on the topic "By Land and By Sea" and chronicles the two ways early emigrants first came to California. To demonstrate the special focus and elevate the experience for Fort visitors, guests will be encouraged to participate in various activities that include the following: making rope from twine (for securing wagons or the rigging on ships), tying various types of nautical knots used by early sailors (including the bowline, square knot and others), reading and following overland maps (common maps with wagon trails) and making hardtack biscuits (an early staple food made to soak in broth for sustenance during long journeys). Additionally, military encampments will be set-up and cannon and firearms demonstrations will take place that day so Fort visitors can see and learn about the different types of weapons that were used during that time. After a day at the Fort, visitors will have gained an appreciation for early pioneer life "By Land and By Sea" and have small take-away items they've hand-crafted.

On the monthly "Hands on History" special event days, admission fees to Sutter's Fort State Historic Park are as follows: \$6 for adults, \$4 for youths (ages 6-17) and free to children five and under. All materials for "Hands on History" crafts are complimentary with admission and made possible by the non-profit Friends of Sutter's Fort in an effort to support historic programming for Fort guests. For more information about events and activities happening at Sutter's Fort SHP, please call (916) 445-4422 or visit [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org).

**About Sutter's Fort State Historic Park**

*Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the nonprofit Friends of Sutter's Fort, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located in midtown Sacramento on L Street between 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Streets, the Fort offers special events, Living History and Demonstration Days programs throughout the year. Established in 1839 by Swiss immigrant John Augustus Sutter, Sutter's Fort was at the center of a flourishing agricultural empire named New Helvetia (New Switzerland.) This empire established Sacramento's earliest settlement and the first European settlement in California's Central Valley. For more information, call (916) 445-4422 or visit [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org)*

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