



News Release

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Contacts:
Steve Beck, 916-445-3996
stbeck@parks.ca.gov
Sutter's Fort SHP
Lisa Mealoy, 916-323-7626
Friends of Sutter's Fort

Sutter's Fort to Present "Hands on History: Wagons West" on September 19

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California State Parks and Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) are proud to present an interactive and fun "Hands on History: *Wagons West*" event on Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The special day will be focused on the wagons used in the journeys of thousands of early emigrants and tens of thousands of gold seekers who made the perilous trek to Sutter's Fort in the 1840s and 50s.

The wagons used were small farm vehicles with room only for supplies; everyone – including children – had to walk alongside. The overland journey to California by wagon was a perilous undertaking fraught with danger from inclement weather, bad or non-existent roads, scarce food and water for both people and animals, and the constant threat that animals or supplies would be stolen in the dead of night.

"Hands on History" visitors to the Fort will hear tales of the wagons that came west and have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities such as a *History Hunt*, dress in pioneer clothes, hold a musket or Dutch oven, take a picture next to a real pioneer wagon and make a keepsake to take home. And, in recognition of the Farm-to-Fork celebration happening this month, 19th century technique ironware cooking demonstrations will take place that highlight how John Sutter was way ahead of the culinary curve with his early "field to table" focus. And, of course, popular demonstrations of black powder weaponry in action will take place including the crowd-favorite firing of Sutter's cannon.

Sutter's Fort is currently undergoing important restoration efforts and rehabilitation work will continue for the next few months. For a limited time during the restoration period, Sutter's Fort SHP is offering reduced admission prices which are as follows for this special day: \$5 per adult (18 and older), \$3 per youth (ages 6 to 17) and free for children 5 and under. For more information or find out if there will be restoration impacts during planned visits to the Fort, call 916-445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org

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