

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 15, 2007

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DIG INTO ARCHAEOLOGY! **Mock Archaeology Lab at Sutter's Fort**

Where: *Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, 2701 L Street, Sacramento*

When: Wednesdays and Saturdays through June 30, 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(except June 9)

Cost: Included with regular Sutter's Fort admission: \$4 adults; \$2 youths ages 6-17; children 5 and under free; starting May 26 (when "History Live," a daily demonstration program, begins) \$6 adults, \$3 youths, ages 5 and under free

Have you ever wanted to be an archaeologist like Indiana Jones, exploring history through artifacts recovered from beneath the earth's surface? Now you can, each Wednesday and Saturday through June 30, 2007, at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park in Sacramento. People of all ages are invited to participate in a "mock archaeology lab," a unique, hands-on learning experience that helps non-specialists understand what archaeologists do when they seek to uncover long-hidden artifacts and objects.

This "mock archaeology lab" has been developed by Tremaine & Associates in conjunction with Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento and Sutter's Fort State Historic

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Park to provide visitors and groups an in-depth view into understanding the methods of archaeology commonly used today. The mock lab includes various stations where visitors perform tasks in order to discover and identify artifacts that reflect long-vanished ways of life relating to past inhabitants of Sacramento. Tremaine & Associates archaeologists will be onsite to explain the process and role of archaeology.

In early 2007, as road excavation work was under way for the expansion of Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, Tremaine & Associates found archaeological evidence of human occupation in the settlement known as New Helvetia (the Sacramento region's name during the time Capt. John Sutter was busily establishing Sutter's Fort and outlying agricultural and lumber enterprises). Since then, the objects discovered have been processed and identified, providing new information relating to the Fort. This data may help preserve and protect additional archaeological items still remaining beneath the surface, where today just a few feet above, people go about their daily lives in the thriving urban neighborhood of Midtown Sacramento.

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About Sutter's Fort State Historic Park

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the nonprofit Sacramento Historic Sites Association, 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 26th and 28th Streets, the Fort offers special events and living history 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 non-Indian settlement in California's Central Valley. For more information, call (916) 445-4422 or visit www.parks.ca.gov and click on "Find a Park."

About Mock Lab

Sponsored by Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento and designed and staffed by Tremaine & Associates.