



## Environmental Living Program

Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Living Program (ELP) at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. This is a special program that allows children to "live" history. The student, along with their teacher and trained parent helpers, spend 24 hours portraying characters of the 1840's California and partake in the various activities, trades, and entertainment of the era.

### Application and Selection Process:

- An application by a teacher is required to participate in ELP.
- Applications are only accepted November thru March.
- Only one application per class will be accepted.
- Applications are selected in a random drawing at the end of May.-If your application is drawn and you cannot attend, the next teacher on the waiting list will be selected.
- Program days are Tuesdays and Thursdays from November into June

### Cost:

- The program participation fee is \$600.00.
- There are other costs (e.g. food, project supplies, entertainment, etc.) that you will incur.
- The exact amount of these added costs depends on what you want to do with your ELP. For example, some groups may hire musicians for their evening entertainment while other schools do skits and tell campfire stories.

### Training:

- All teachers must attend a mandatory training workshop held on a Saturday in August. This gives teachers more information about the programs and what the Fort can provide and what the schools may provide. This is also the time when your ELP date is selected. The selection order is determined by a random lottery draw.
- Another training workshop for teacher AND parents is held on a Saturday later in the year. Four workshops are offered during the school year. It is mandatory that a parent be trained for every station that you plan to operate. This program requires strong parent support and participation.

### Participation:

- A pre-visit to the Fort (not required but recommended) normally occurs about three weeks before the overnight and introduces the students to the Fort. This helps to calm fears and gives the students a tangible idea for what they are preparing.
- The overnight program starts at 8:00am on a Tuesday and Thursday and ends by 9:00am the following day.
- Students arrive (usually by wagon) dressed in costumes typical of those that would have been seen around the Fort in the 1839-1849 historical period. They spend the day

performing many of the jobs that would have been done around the Fort, including candle-making, trapping, roping, packing a covered wagon, weaving a blanket, cooking, and baking.

- At night, groups take turns keeping a "night watch" while the others are comfortably tucked into their bedrolls (sleeping bags).

This program is a fabulous teaching tool that has been successful since 1976. It is based upon students learning through hands-on first-hand experiences. We appreciate your interest and invite you to contact us for additional questions. Applications are available at the Fort or [www.parks.ca.gov/sutterfort](http://www.parks.ca.gov/sutterfort).