



## Environmental Studies Program Program Summary

Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Studies Program (ESP) at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. This is a very special program that is based on the popular Environmental Living Program (ELP). Unlike ELP however, this program is not an overnight experience; it is a daytime only program and runs for eight hours, from 8:00am until 4:00pm. The program allows students, along with their teacher and trained parent assistants, to portray characters of 1840's California and partake in the various activities, trades, and entertainment of the era. The program is highly flexible, giving teachers the ability to create their own unique experience; requires strong parent support and participation; and is a fabulous teaching tool based upon students learning through first-hand interaction and hands-on experiences.

### Requirements and Restrictions

- The program is available to public, private and home school groups.
- The program is limited to a maximum of 80 student participants; however, we recommend that in order to optimize the experience of participating students, the number of students be kept between 30 and 70.
- The program is open to middle and high school students as well as elementary school students.

### Application and Selection Process

- An application completed by a teacher is required to participate in ESP.
- Applications are only accepted January through June for the following school year.
- Please submit only one application per number of days you plan to participate; if you have two classes but want them to come on the same day, please only submit one application.
- In the past, ESP applications were placed in the order that they came in and dates were selected on a first-come, first-served basis. However, they will now be selected by random lottery draw, the same manner as ELP applications.
- The lottery process is as follows: in July, Sutter's Fort staff compiles all the submitted applications and, through a random drawing, creates a numbered list of the applications. Those schools whose applications are numbered between 1 and ~15 are guaranteed a place in the program (there are roughly 15 open slots for ESP, although it can vary slightly by year). The remaining schools (15 through 20 for example, if 20 applications were submitted) are placed on a waitlist. Then, at the ESP Teacher Workshop, teachers choose their ESP day according to their place on the list (number 1 chooses first, number 15 chooses last).
- If a teacher at any point withdraws from the program, their application is withdrawn and all other applications above it in the list move forward one space. If a teacher does not attend the ESP Teacher Workshop, they forfeit their place on the list and again, all other applications move up one space.





- Available ESP days are most Mondays from February to early June.

### Cost

- The program participation fee is \$500.
- A nonrefundable \$50 deposit is required by the time of the ESP Teacher Workshop in order to secure your place in the program.
- There are other costs (food, project supplies, entertainment, etc.) that you will incur.
- The full amount of these additional costs depends on what you decide to do with your ESP.

### Training Workshops

- There are three ESP workshops throughout the year, one Teacher Workshop and two Parent Workshops.
- The Teacher Workshop will be held on a Saturday in September. It is MANDATORY for teachers who wish to participate in ESP to attend; if the teacher, or an assigned representative, is not present, their spot is forfeited.
- This workshop will give the teachers more information on the program, how it is run and what stations they can choose to have for their ESP day, as well as what the Fort can provide and what the school needs to provide. This is also the day that teachers choose their ESP date.
- The Parent Workshops are held on Saturdays throughout the rest of the school year. Schools do not need to come to more than one of these and will be assigned a specific one depending on their chosen ESP date.
- At the Parent Workshop, parents will be trained by Fort docents on the stations to which they have been assigned by teachers. It is MANDATORY that a parent be trained at every station you plan to operate on your ESP day.

### Participation

- The program starts at 8:00am and ends by 4:00pm the same day.
- On an ESP day, the children arrive in the morning dressed in period clothing. They spend the day in small groups rotating every half hour or so between various stations run by their parents. At the stations they learn about and participate in many of the jobs that would have been performed at the Fort between 1839 and 1850, such as trapping, weaving, and baking.

We appreciate your interest in the Environmental Studies Program. If you have any questions, please contact us at (916) 323-7627 or [Adrian.Hough@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Adrian.Hough@parks.ca.gov). Applications are available at the Fort or online at [www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort](http://www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort) and [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org) under the Environmental Studies Program heading.

