



Environmental Studies Program Program Summary 2014-2015

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. This program, available to public, private and home school groups, 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.

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.
- Only one application per class will be accepted.
- Applications will be placed in the order that they come in and dates will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Available ESP days are most Mondays from March to early June.

Cost

- The program participation fee is \$500.00.
- A nonrefundable \$50.00 deposit is required by the time of the first 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 November. 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.





- 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 candle-making, trapping, weaving a blanket, cooking 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. Applications are available at the Fort or by contacting the ESP Coordinator at the above e-mail.

