



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Columbia State Historic Park

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Ruth Coleman, Director

2009 Columbia Diggings Participant Rules

Columbia Diggings is a public educational event, which has been held at Columbia State Historic Park for the past 27 years. The main goal for the event is to assist the public in gaining a better understanding of life in the early days of the California Gold Rush. Many tent towns sprung up in the foothills during those times, one of which gave rise to the town of Columbia.

California State Parks believes that interpretive events are fundamentally different than re-enactments: a primary element of the event is to interact with and inspire visitors. For this reason, we encourage your participation in the interpretive workshop on Wednesday, May 27, 2009, at 6:00pm at the Eagle Cotage. Final registration will also be available then.

Check-in: Upon arrival you are required to check-in at the Eagle Cotage (front room) where you will be asked to complete a confidential medical form. At this time each volunteer will receive their stipend of “Eagles” (for use in purchasing snacks at the event to encourage interaction between participants). You will also be given a ticket for every lunch (compliments of park) – no ticket, no lunch, so please check in.

Scheduling: Volunteers participating in the event are asked to commit to a minimum of four (4) hours per day on site. This ensures even coverage throughout the event and (ideally) allows all participants time to wander and interact.

Morning Meeting: Thursday-Sunday at 9am, all participants are asked to meet at the flagpole for the morning meeting. If you have questions or concerns at any time during the event, please bring them to these meetings or talk to any staff member.

Meals: Two lunch options are available for registered volunteers: At the site or in the air-conditioned “green room”. Volunteers will present a meal ticket for lunch (tickets distributed at check-in before event). Continental breakfast items will be available at the Diggings site each day at 8:00am. Potluck dinners on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday **will not** be coordinated by the Park this year, but participants are welcome to arrange with others on the site. Our traditional “Thank You” dinner is served at 5:30pm on Sunday at the site.

Weapons: ****New in 2009****: California Law **NO LONGER REQUIRES** that criminal records checks must be conducted for all volunteers carrying firearms or edged weapons at our events. Current, active volunteers of California State Parks are permitted to carry weapons at Diggins. If you will be bringing a weapon, it must be included on your registration papers. All other state park weapons policies must be followed. Control of all weapons is the responsibility of the participant who brings the weapon to the event, weapons should stay holstered, and no weapons are to be fired on site. The State of California and Columbia State Historic Park are not responsible for loss or theft of any weapons.

Fire: By order of the Office of the California State Fire Marshall, all sources of flame at the event are regulated. Fire plans must be submitted to park staff by March 15th to allow time for review by the Deputy State Fire Marshall. No smoking is permitted at the event site for the duration of the event, including the evenings. Participants providing their own tents must certify that their tenting has been treated to meet the California State Fire Marshall's Standards.

Character Portrayals: We ask that if you are portraying a known historical figure, please restrict your portrayals to persons documented to have been present in Columbia in June of 1852. Out of respect to the historic person, your portrayal should be based, as much as possible, on the documented facts.

Costuming and Props:

This event portrays a California Gold Rush tent town during June 1852. All costuming should be as accurate as possible to represent the time period, the character being portrayed, activities and age of the wearer. We encourage participants to engage with each other and share costuming choices. "Please tell me about what you are wearing" should be considered a polite and honest inquiry, and an opportunity to learn. If you need assistance in costume development, or need to borrow a costume, the park has resources available.

We understand that many interpreters wish to bring their own gear. All participants are encouraged to let staff know of their needs for props, so needs can be budgeted and planned for purchasing. However, if you chose to bring and share your personal belongings, California State Parks cannot be responsible for theft or loss.

Alcohol: Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or consumption of same, while on duty as a volunteer or on site during public hours, is a violation of state park policy.

Sales: The sales portions of the event are fundraisers for *Friends of Columbia State Historic Park*, and are specified in a special event permit. Please, no outside sales, unless under prior written agreement with *Friends*.

Paperwork & Liability: All participants shall report to the Eagle Cotage when arriving at the event site, to complete final paperwork, receive meal tickets and scrip. All participants must have a current Volunteer Service Agreement, a Photo Release and a signed copy of these rules on file with the park (signature on registration form that you have reviewed rules will suffice).

We also ask that you complete a confidential health record for this event, containing emergency contact information, current medications, etc, in a sealed envelope. This will be shredded immediately after the event, and only opened by park staff in case of emergency.

WE REALIZE THIS IS REDUNDANT OF CHECK-IN PROCEDURE BUT WISH TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PROPERLY REGISTERED.

Photo Release: Diggins is a public event and use of event photos allows the park to be able to extend the influence of the event, throughout the year. Event photos are used for publicity, and in a variety of other educational programs. All participants are required to sign the photo release. Participation in the event is an assumption of agreement to be photographed. If you have concerns about the use of your image, please contact park staff.

Vehicles: Vehicles are prohibited on site from Thursday at 8:00 a.m. through the close of the event at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. This includes evenings after public hours. This is to limit congestion and reduce risk of damage to persons and property after the event begins. Many of our volunteers who stay on site like to have their evenings free from modern intrusions. Modern camp sites (with limited resources) are available with notification.

Participation: If you arrive after the above listed times for vehicle entry, be prepared to pack the items you bring into the site in period style conveyance or wait until the event closes after 5:00 for help. Please do not set up or take down your venues during the public hours (10-5, daily). This type of activity can be very disruptive to the event.

Cell Phones: ***Please **do not use cell phones** in Diggins during the time the event is open.***

Pets: Pets must have prior approval of park staff, and all state park regulations apply. Any pets on the grounds must have a period appropriate leash.

Personal Health: This event is very labor intensive. Please take care of yourself, get plenty of sleep, drink lots of water to avoid dehydration, and take breaks to cool off if necessary.

First Aid: State Park Rangers are first responders and are the only staff authorized to provide first aid to park visitors. For emergency response, please call 911 or contact staff at the Portals. There will be a designated volunteer on site at all times with a radio to reach state park dispatch. Cell phones also work in the area.

Modern Stuff:

It probably goes without saying that it is important that costumed interpreters avoid using modern devices such as cell phones and plastic water bottles in view of the public. Cold water and lemonade are available at the Diggins in the Star Spangled Saloon and the Bakery. We encourage you to bring a period-appropriate cup or mug for endless refills.

The Kudos Kan:

The humble Kudos Kan sits in the Green Room at the Eagle Cotage throughout the event, and is the grateful recipient of even the smallest acknowledgements. Its contents are traditionally read out loud during the Sunday evening Thank You dinner. We recognize that the success of this event is due to the many small miracles that occur throughout, and we encourage you to recognize, in this small way, the contributions you observe.

Have fun and be safe!

The Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.