

Know-it-All submissions for 2007-2008

Columbia State Historic Park- Visitor Services
11255 Jackson St.
Columbia, CA 95310

Park Office: 209-588-9128

Columbia Museum Phone: 209-532-3184

Parks website www.parks.ca.gov

Friends of Columbia website www.friendsofcolumbiashp.org

Columbia SHP EVENTS

Regularly scheduled programs:

Free Town Tours each Saturday and Sunday, year-round @ 11:00. Led by park staff. Meet at the museum. Approximately 1 hour. (every day from July 5th- Labor Day @11:00).

For large groups, special tours may be arranged in advance by calling 588-9128.

Bucket Brigades are held on Saturdays at 1:30, from July 7th-Labor Day weekend. Meet at the Museum.

Gold Rush days- 2nd Saturday of each month, from 1-4. Many special exhibits open and hands-on activities throughout the day. Park docents in period attire lead programs throughout the park.

Special School programs designed to meet state curriculum standards for 4th graders are offered from September-June. \$40 per class. Students enjoy an hour-long history program at the museum led by park staff, including a bucket brigade. Then students walk to the original brick schoolhouse for an hour-long 1860s living history school program. Registration forms for the program are available at www.parks.ca.com, or may be obtained by calling the park office at 588-9128. Programs are popular and fill quickly. Applications processed starting August 15th.

Columbia Gold Trek School Program

This is a unique program, offered just a few Fridays each spring. After a series of in-class programs, led by the teacher and based on pre-visit activities in the accompanying teacher's guide, the students arrive at the park prepared for their Gold Trek. At the school, the students have baked hard-tack, created journals, and been designated in teams. When they arrive at the park, the teams participate in an auction, where they have the opportunity to spend or save their money, purchase maps, carts, supplies and shovels, and start on their journey. Along the route to the gold fields, they encounter charlatans, merchants, ferry crossings, and opportunities to make critical decisions that impact their ability to arrive at the diggin's ready to work.

This program is meant to replicate the experience that many young men faced as they traveled from Stockton to the diggings in search of gold. This program costs \$75 for a class of 30 students, and takes approximately 4 hours. Call 588-9128 for more information.

Columbia Lamplight Tours- November 30th & December 1st , 2007 Docents in period attire recreate the Christmas of the lonely miners of the 1850s. The town comes alive as guides lead participants on a tour by lamplight to view a progressive play at many venues along the main street. This unique and magical holiday experience is a fundraiser for the Friends of Columbia State Historic Park which supports educational programs at the park. Tickets go on sale in October. Call 588-9128 for information, or www.friendsofcolumbiashp.org.

Miner's Christmas December 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th, 22nd & 23rd 2007 Costumed interpreters recreate the mining camp of the 1850s, as homesick miners roast chestnuts and hot cider, and perform live music for park visitors. 19th century toys and games, Victorian Holiday craft making, and Christmas storytelling make this an enjoyable experience for the entire family, an antidote for the big store holiday shopping experience. For more information call the park office at 588-9128.

Columbia Diggins 1852-June 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th, 2008 The staff and volunteers of Columbia State Historic Park recreate the 1852 town of tents and shacks which sprung up in the wake of the discovery of gold. Hundreds of volunteers put a great deal of effort and research into this event, to depict as accurately as possible, the original town. Live music, gambling and games of the period, food, and mining activities provide a unique glimpse into life in 1852. 10-5 each day. Free. Call 588-9128 for details.

Columbia's History Mysteries June, 28th, July 19th & 26th, August 16th, 2008 Families are invited to solve an actual crime that occurred in Columbia in the 1850's. Families search for clues, interview witnesses "from the 1850's" & solve the mystery. This fun filled morning ends with a trial at the Justice Court. Reservations are required: 209-588-9128. \$15 per family.

Columbia State Historic Park New Docent Training Course- Docents are trained volunteers who assist in the educational and interpretive programs at Columbia State Historic Park by conducting school programs, staffing the museum, and participating in Special Events such as Diggins and Lamplight. Many benefits are offered, including free passes to other state parks, and the joy of sharing this unique historic spot with visitors from throughout the world. **Begins January 19th**. For an application and to schedule an interview, call 588-9128.

Columbia's Birthday- March 27th

One of the versions of the discovery of Gold in Columbia depicts the day, on March 27th, 1850, when the Hildreth Party camped on the edge of the seasonal stream running through the area, and discovered "color". Within two months, over 4,000 miners joined them, and the town of Columbia began its development. At noon, join re-enactors who

depict the original gold discoverers, for speeches and Birthday Cake at the corner of State and Main Street, then walk to the actual discovery site. 588-9128 for more information.

Back to School 1861 On Saturday, August 23rd, 2008 from 5:30-8:00 PM, the public is invited to participate in Back to School Night, 1861, at the Old Columbia Schoolhouse in Columbia State Historic Park. Visitors will enjoy live music, schoolyard games, and classroom sessions led by costumed interpreters inside the old brick schoolhouse on the hill. The upstairs of the building will be open for visitors who wish to climb the old spiral staircase, and even ring the old schoolhouse bell. The two-story brick schoolhouse is thought to be the oldest one of its kind in the state, and was first opened to students in 1861, to serve the educational needs of the growing mining town of Columbia. It saw continuous use until 1937 when the new Columbia School on Parrotts Ferry Road, was opened.

Its My Park! June & July –call park for days and times.

Stewardship Program for kids 8 and up. Participants will get a hands-on, behind the scenes glimpse of how a State Park operates, see how maintenance, interpreters, law enforcement and curators work, participate in fun activities and projects, and become a steward of your park! Participation is limited, advanced registration is required. Call 588-9128.

Columbia’s Anniversary, Big Band Street Dance- July Date TBD, 2008 8-10:30 PM. Celebrate the 1945 Anniversary of Columbia becoming a State Park, by dancing to the sounds of Rod Harris and His Columbia Kicks Big Band. Additional 1940s themed activities include a car show, open house of the Wilson-McConnell House, and a 1940s costume contest.

State Park Offices

Columbia State Historic Park
Visitor Services Office
11255 Jackson St.
Columbia, CA 95310
209-588-9128

Central Valley District State Park Office
22708 Broadway St.
Columbia, CA 95310
209-536-2910

Administrative offices for State Parks from San Luis Reservoir in west, Ft. Tejon in South, Bethany Reservoir in North, and Calaveras Big Trees in east.

Calaveras Sector Office, California State Parks
11255 Jackson St.
Columbia, CA 95310

209-532-0150

Administers parks including Calaveras Big Trees, Chawse Indian Grinding Rock, Turlock Lake State Recreation Area, Caswell State Recreation Area, Columbia State Historic Park, Bethany Reservoir

Volunteer Opportunities

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Museums

Columbia State Historic Park, Cavalier Museum

Open 10-4 daily 532-3184

Focus on gold rush history, Columbia town history

Service Groups/Non-profit

Friends of Columbia State Historic Park is one of over 80 Cooperating Associations working in support of State Parks in California. The board members, volunteers, fundraisers and contributors to Friends play a vital role in the operations of Columbia State Historic Park. Each year, over 500,000 visitors, including 20,000 of California's schoolchildren, benefit from programs supported by Friends of Columbia. Friends board members work to bridge support between park visitors, community members and educators and play a vital role in ensuring that Columbia State Historic Park will be preserved for future generations. www.friendsofcolumbiashp.org, info@friendsofcolumbia.org.

Self Guided Interpretive Trail

Karen Bakerville Smith Trail at Columbia State Historic Park, trailhead at Old Columbia School. 1.5 miles, easy. Self-guided brochures available at trailhead, or Columbia Museum.

Parks-National and State

Columbia State Historic Park 588-9128 11255 Jackson St. Columbia 95310

This State Historic Park is also designated as a National Historic Landmark District, and contains over 30 original gold-rush era brick buildings, the largest collection still in existence. Over 20 locally-owned concessionaires offer goods and services to evoke the spirit of the early gold rush town, and help to retain a living town feel. Over 500,000 visitors annually, from throughout the state, country and world. Free parking and admission, special programs offered by park staff throughout the year. Picnic areas available. www.parks.ca.gov