

# News Release



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## **Gold Discovery Day in Coloma Commemoration of the Discovery that Changed the World**

**COLOMA, CA** – The 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Marshall’s momentous discovery of gold in the tailrace of Sutter’s Mill will be celebrated on January 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

Join in! **Gold Discovery Day commemoration on Saturday January 26** features a gold discovery reenactment on the banks of the American River. Park volunteers and docents in period dress bring the event to life!

Other activities include mill carpenter demonstrations, a Miwok Village, free wagon rides to Marshall’s Cabin, gold panning, and Gold Rush period music and entertainment. Gold Rush authors introduce their writings and sign publications at the museum store. The public is invited to all activities, free of charge. There is a \$7 per car parking fee at the park.

The event is sponsored by California State Parks and Gold Discovery Park Association. The association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to interpreting and conserving Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

In 1847, John Sutter asked James Marshall to build a sawmill along the banks of the American River. Sutter needed lumber for his expanding agricultural enterprises in the Sacramento Valley and Marshall, a carpenter, was looking for a job. Marshall and Sutter chose Coloma as the site for the sawmill because of the rushing river for power and a forest of pines for lumber. As the sawmill neared completion in January 1848, James Marshall contemplated its efficiency and made adjustments. Checking his project on the morning of January 24, 1848, James Marshall reached into shallow water at the side of the tailrace. He scooped up a handful of sand, gravel, mud.... and a few flakes of golden metal. “Hey boys,” he lifted his voice to workmen around him, “by God, I believe I’ve found a gold mine.” It was a moment that was to change the course of history.

The park is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. year round. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. The park is located on Highway 49, between Placerville and Auburn, about an hour east of Sacramento. For more information call (530) 622.3470 or (530) 295.2162 or visit [www.marshallgold.org](http://www.marshallgold.org). # # #