



News Release

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Sutter's Fort SHP

Sutter's Fort to Present "Hands on History: A Simple Emigrant Christmas on December 9

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California State Parks, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) and Friends of Sutter's Fort are proud to present an interactive, fun and festive "Hands on History: A Simple Emigrant Christmas" event on Saturday, December 9, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fort visitors will be delighted to see the recently completed restoration of the historic walls, gates, blacksmith shop and continuing work on the interior walls plus have the opportunity to step back in time to the 1850s to enjoy festive holiday traditions from John Sutter's day. In California's early history, people from around the world passed through the Fort gates, each with their own customs and traditions for the holiday season. Friends and families are encouraged to visit the Fort to experience a variety of early holiday traditions and cultural activities similar to what early emigrants enjoyed. Complete with docents in period attire, entertaining vignettes will be set up that showcase a few of the diverse holiday scenes that will include food, music, decorations and other holiday traditions. As a special treat for kids of all ages, Father Christmas will be on-hand to hear holiday wishes.

Fort visitors can also participate in a number of hands-on activities such as dipping and creating their own holiday candles, crafting their own "keepsake" holiday ornaments – that include snowflakes, cornhusk angels and bird nests – plus making holiday cards with nib (or "dip") pens and colored ink, grinding raw wheat into "Christmas flour," singing Christmas carols with Fort musicians and more. And, of course, popular demonstrations of black powder weaponry in action will take place including the crowd-favorite firing of Sutter's cannon. Additionally, Friends of Sutter's Fort Trade Store will be open, providing complimentary samples of gold nugget chocolates and offering a special holiday sale.

Admission costs for this special "Hands on History: A Simple Emigrant Christmas" event at the Fort are as follows: \$7 per adult (18 and older), \$3 per youth (ages 6 to 17) and free for children 5 and under. For more information, please call 916-445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org

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California State Parks Mission

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.

Friends of Sutter's Fort

The Friends of Sutter's Fort is a nonprofit 501 c 3 organization dedicated to the enhancement, preservation and protection of Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, and educational and interpretive programs at the park. Friends of Sutter's Fort is a Cooperating Association for California State Parks since 2006. Friends of Sutter's Fort is the major funder of both restoration work and programs at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. Through the generosity of our donors, in the past 3 years alone, we have funded several major projects including the painting of the exterior walls, the restoration of the blacksmith shop and the painting of the interior walls (currently underway). In addition, we are proud to provide funding to support the educational programs at the park. For more information, please visit www.suttersfort.org

Social Media Tags: #SuttersFort, @SuttersFort

