



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Sutter's Fort to Present "Hands on History: *Mining the Miners*" on July 16

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Continuing a popular series of fun and interactive "Hands on History" activities offered each month, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) will present a special "Hands on History: *Mining the Miners*" event on Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fort visitors will be delighted to see the recently completed restoration of the historic walls and gates plus have the opportunity to step back in time to the 1850s after the cry "There's gold in them thar hills!" was echoed around the world and precipitated the largest unforced migration in the history of humanity. People from everywhere descended on the lightly populated and ungoverned land of California and their primary destination was Sutter's Fort before they headed for the hills in their quest for gold. Sutter's Fort was the last "civilized" place the new miners visited and the first place to which they returned for supplies, entertainment or, in many cases, disappointment. Many of these miners were innocent adventurers and their "pokes" (bags of gold or valuables) became the target of nefarious traders, businessmen, and gamblers anxious to fetch easy money without having to wipe the sweat off their brows. The most profitable game in town became "mining the miners."

Fort visitors are invited to spend the day enjoying hands-on activities such as gold panning, parlor and card games (and other games of chance), "Pioneer dress-up Station" activities where families dress as pioneers (perfect for picture-taking!), and the opportunity to win "Sutter Bucks." In addition, there will be a display of guns and weapons from the Gold Rush era and demonstrations of black powder weaponry in action including the crowd-favorite firing of Sutter's cannon.

All "Hands on History" activities are included in the cost of admission. Sutter's Fort SHP admission costs are as follows: \$7 per adult (18 and older), \$5 per youth (ages 6 to 17) and free for children 5 and under. For more information, call 916-445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org

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