



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Sutter's Fort to Present "Hands on History: A Community of Many Faces" on May 21

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Continuing a popular series of interactive and fun "Hands on History" activities each month, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) will present a special "Hands on History: *A Community of Many Faces*" event on Saturday, May 21, 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 1840s to celebrate and honor the richly diverse cultures represented at the Fort. In fact, the Gold Rush of 1849 brought tens of thousands of people to California from all over the world. But even before the first gold seekers arrived, Sutter's Fort was already a melting pot of ethnic, social and cultural diversity. In the New Helvetia Diary (the daily log book of Sutter's Fort), there are at least 30 different groups of Native people mentioned as having visited the Fort and/or provided labor for John Sutter.

On this special "Hands on History" day, representatives from the Hawaiian Community will be giving presentations about California's earliest Hawaiians and their role in the history and culture of the Sacramento Valley and early California. In addition, there will be rancho culture demonstrations and French and English fur trappers demonstrating how traps work. Interactive and fun hands-on craft making will be available for kids of all ages who are interested in creating special keepsakes to take home. Plus, Fort visitors will have the opportunity to taste samples of different ethnic foods that will either be baked in the on-site "horno" or provided by the Swiss Society. And, of course, demonstrations of black powder weaponry in action will take place 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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