

Helpful Reminders and Information

The principle of operation at the Sonoma Mission is to keep everything as authentic as possible, as it was during the Mission Era. There will be park visitors using the area while your class is here so we ask the following;

1. As much as your gear as possible be “stowed away” in designated areas.
2. Clean up should be continual and the responsibility of all.

Schedule as little free time as you can. The students will need a change of activities, but scheduling such things as late afternoon sketching of the Mission, storytelling, writing in journals, or participating in organized Indian Games works better than free time. It is also good to plan for an afternoon snack time.

Arrival and departure times are set when you send in your schedule two weeks before the program. Any minor changes must be cleared with the park staff ahead of time. The greatest violation is classes leaving early. You are responsible to have the park staff pass your inspection before you leave. Park staff will dismiss students, parents, and the teacher when the inspection is finished.

Please remember if you, parents, or aides would like to make a **pre-program visit** to the park to look at the set-up, make plans, or gather information you **need to make an appointment** with Emily Walski. Please tell parents this. This helps us prepare for your visit and to make sure there aren't scheduling conflicts with other school tours or ESP's.

We are more than willing to train the parent(s) on spinning or baskets if they make prearrangements to meet with us either before the program date or at a specified time on the day of the program. If the training is to be done during the day of the program, arrangements must have been previously made with the park staff.

Program Capacity. There will be no exceptions to this and it is the teacher's responsibility to regulate. Our maximum for the program is 40 students and 10 adults. Make sure that you have a sufficient number of trained adults to supervise the craft stations. If you have more parents, it is also a good to have an adult assigned to each group of students, one extra for the cook station, and one person to maintain fires. At the minimum, we like to see one adult for every 5-6 students. Our building capacity and program guidelines (as per the fire marshall) state that we will not have more than 40 students and 10 adults. (If you have one per station, one per group, an extra for fires and for the cook station, that is 10 adults.)

Classes need to use ONLY “Non chlorine bleach” and bio-degradable dish soap. Some local sources for these types of products are: Whole Foods Markets, Oliver's, and Trader Joe's.

Please bring as few disposables as possible. Every student and adult should bring his or her own fork, spoon, knife, plate, and cup from home. These should be items that they can use

through out the program and then return home with. (Please no plastic, especially no plastic water bottles!)

Projects and stations should be relevant to this site-1820-30's Mexican *Californio Mission/Rancho*, please do not do stations that would not have been here. The reason we do this is to maintain the character of the Environmental Studies Program. As stated in the introduction of the teachers manual, "Children, by experiencing as closely as possible, the reality of another time period or culture, become more acutely aware of both the elements of that environment and their own." We encourage you to fill any down time with journal writing, drawing, or Native American Indian games. **You are required to do the following stations as part of the program: cooking, candle making, basket weaving and spinning.**

If you are going to have a trade store, please "sell or trade" items that are related to the program or the time period. (If you need suggestions, please call us.)

We will supply kindling wood for you.

Please remind parents and students that there is a potential for allergies to the dust and grasses at the Mission, they should be prepared.

Remind parents that cell phones are not allowed at the Mission, they may leave them in their vehicles.

The side gate does not open until 9 a.m. Therefore, you should arrive at 9 a.m. and not before.

The students should NOT bring: money; any type of electronic: phone, ipad, game, etc.; any type of knife other than a butter knife.

We want to remind you that it is the responsibility of the class to return all the benches to the locations that they were in upon arrival. They must be moved to the correct location before the group can leave.

The students are responsible for raking the courtyard and the walkways of the courtyard **before** staff checks you out. The purpose of raking is to gather up and remove the small scraps of paper, onion/garlic peels, etc. Please explain that this is the purpose to those responsible for raking.

As expressed on the check out duty list, all dishes/cook ware must be on the wooden cooking tables for staff to inspect **BEFORE** being put away. And, all items must be thoroughly **DRIED** before being put away in the cupboards. (Except for the three wash tubs.)

The entire group of students, parents, and the teacher **MUST** be checked out by a staff person before departing.