



## Environmental Studies Program Program Summary

Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Studies Program (ESP) at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. This is a very special program that is based on the popular Environmental Living Program (ELP). Unlike ELP however, this program is not an overnight experience; it is a daytime only program and runs for nine hours, from 8:00am until 5:00pm. The program allows students, along with their teacher and trained parent assistants, partake in the various activities, trades, and entertainment of the era. The program is highly flexible, giving teachers the ability to create their own unique experience; requires strong parent support and participation; and is a fabulous teaching tool based upon students learning through first-hand interaction and hands-on experiences.

### **Requirements and Restrictions**

- The program is available to public, private, and home school groups.
- The program is limited to a maximum of 100 student participants; however, we recommend that in order to optimize the experience of participating students, the number of students be kept between 30 and 70.

### **Participation**

- The program starts at 8:00am and ends by 5:00pm the same day.
- On an ESP day, the children arrive in the morning dressed in period clothing. They spend the day in small groups rotating every half hour or so between various stations run by their parents. At the stations, they learn about and participate in many of the jobs that would have been performed at the Fort between 1839 and 1850, such as trapping, weaving, and baking.

### **Application and Selection Process**

- An application completed by a teacher is required to participate in ESP.
- Applications are only accepted January through June for the following school year.
- Please submit only one application per number of days you plan to participate; if you have two classes but want them to come on the same day, please only submit one application.
  - In the past, ESP applications were placed in the order that they came in and dates were selected on a first-come, first-served basis. However, they will now be selected by random lottery draw, the same manner as ELP applications (additional information available).
- Available ESP days are most Mondays from January to early June.

### **Cost**

- The program participation fee is \$500. The program fee covers up to 65 students; each additional student is \$3 (maximum of 100 students).





- A nonrefundable \$100 deposit is required by the time of the ESP Teacher Workshop in order to secure your place in the program.
- There are other costs (food, project supplies, entertainment, etc.) that you will incur.
- The full amount of these additional costs depends on what you decide to do with your ESP. Most schools end up paying between \$800 and \$1300.

### **Training Workshops**

- There are three ESP workshops throughout the year, one Teacher Workshop and two Parent Workshops (additional information available).
- The Teacher Workshop will be held on a Saturday in September. It is MANDATORY for teachers who wish to participate in ESP to attend; if the teacher, or an assigned representative, is not present, their spot is forfeited..
- The Parent/Teacher Workshops are held on Saturdays throughout the rest of the school year. Schools do not need to come to more than one of these and will be assigned a specific one depending on their chosen ELP date. Every station MUST have at least one trained parent.

### **CA State Social-Science Standards**

The Environmental Studies Program covers many components of 3rd-5th grade Social Science curriculum. Below are just some of the standards ESP covers:

- 3.2 Students describe the American Indian nations in their local region long ago and in the recent past.
- 3.3 Students draw from historical and community resources to organize the sequence of local historical events and describe how each period of settlement left its mark on the land.
- 4.2 Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods.
- 4.3 Students explain the economic, social, and political life in California from the establishment of the Bear Flag Republic through the Mexican-American War, the Gold Rush, and the granting of statehood.
- 5.8 Students trace the colonization, immigration, and settlement patterns of the American people from 1789 to the mid-1800s, with emphasis on the role of economic incentives, effects of the physical and political geography, and transportation systems.

We appreciate your interest in the Environmental Studies Program. If you have any questions, please contact us at (916) 323-8112 or [Jared.Jones@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Jared.Jones@parks.ca.gov). Applications are available at the Fort or online at [www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort](http://www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort) and [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org) under the Environmental Studies Program heading.

