

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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Get in the holiday spirit at Columbia State Historic Park!

Getting into the holiday spirit, Columbia State Historic Park is decorated for the Christmas season and will host a variety of events throughout the month of December.

Starting the season off, the Columbia City Hotel Restaurant will host the **30th Annual Victorian Feast**. The feast will run from December 7th-8th and 14th-16th beginning at 6 pm each evening, and will include a melodrama featuring Mark Twain, Christmas carols, a five course meal and fine wines. Everyone is encouraged to come in historic costume or formal attire. Make your reservations now. Also, be sure to check out their New Year's Eve event. For more information about festivities or to make reservations call 209/532-1479.

The weekends of December 8th & 9th and 15th & 16th the Columbia docents will be out in costume for **A Miner's Christmas**. Sit around a campfire drinking hot cider or coffee and join in conversations with miners as they roast chestnuts. Children can make some favorite crafts of the 1850s and keep an eye out for Father Christmas as he wanders the streets looking for good boys and girls!

The Columbia Chamber of Commerce will present its sixth annual **Merry Merchants** celebration. Merchants will be open until 8 p.m. Friday, Dec.14, for stress-free shopping and the serving of traditional food and drink such as roasted chestnuts, gingerbread and hot chocolate. Father Christmas will greet visitors at the Tibbits House with freshly-made gingerbread. Local children and others will be singing Christmas carols, and visitors can take a free carriage ride on Main Street, then stroll over to Columbia House Restaurant to see the gingerbread houses on display. Anyone who would like to enter the free gingerbread house contest should deliver it to the Columbia House by 5 p.m. Dec. 14. Judging is at 6 p.m. Call Carolyn Prindle at 588-9704 for more information on the contest.

Nelson's Candy Kitchen will demonstrate **Candy Cane Making** during the December weekends through December 18th.

Businesses are generally open from 10:00-4:00 each day and admission to the park is free. Come enjoy the old fashioned holiday spirit and shop the many businesses and restaurants.

For more information on any of the above, please visit the Chamber of Commerce website www.columbiacalifornia.com, the Columbia City Hotel website www.cityhotel.com, and the California State Parks website www.parks.ca.gov/columbia or call the park office at (209) 588-9128. For directions go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/Lat_Long_Map/?page_id=552.

Columbia State Historic Park, located in Tuolumne County, is designated as a National Historic Landmark District, and has been preserved to tell the story of the towns which arose during the California Gold Rush to serve the needs of miners. California State Parks has restored and continues to preserve over 30 of the original brick buildings along the town's Main Street.

Columbia State Historic Park annually hosts over 400,000 visitors, presents school programs for over 10,000 4th graders, and is a major tourist destination in Tuolumne County. Its many historic-style stores and restaurants are run by over 20 Concessionaires whose businesses, along with park staff and volunteers, help recreate the experience of the California Gold Rush for visitors from around the world.