

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fall-Themed Events throughout October at Columbia State Historic Park

Fall is in the air and Columbia State Historic Park is gearing up to showcase activities for the whole family. Beginning October 4th and 5th, visitors can take a tour of the cemetery during the annual **Stories in Stone** event. Visitors will be guided by costumed volunteers carrying lanterns. Several stops will be made inside the cemetery as the chosen characters come to "life" by the telling of their unique tales. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds benefit Friends of Columbia State Historic Park.

On Saturday, October 5th, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce will host the **31st Annual Fiddle and Bango** (yes, Bango!) Contest. Sign-ups for all six categories begin at 9:00 a.m. with the contest starting at 10:30 a.m. A chili cook-off will also be held this year. Visitors are encouraged to come out early to purchase tickets starting at 10:30 a.m. as quantities are limited.

The **29th Annual Harvest FestiFall** is on October 12th and 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Booths will line the decorated streets of Columbia as vendors offer arts and crafts for sale and demonstrations, photography and more. Local musicians will provide entertainment in the Gazebo, and the kids will enjoy having their faces painted, petting the miniature horses, and searching for the perfect Halloween pumpkin to buy.

Dress up the family on October 26th for **Trick or Treating** in Columbia from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and bring your carved pumpkin to the Columbia Museum at 5:30 p.m. to watch as the evening darkens and the pumpkins glow at the annual **Illumination of the Jack-o-Lanterns**. Winners will be acknowledged in several categories!

Join park staff and volunteers for a **Town Tour** at 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the season. The second Saturday of every month is a dedicated **Gold Rush Day** where volunteers in Gold Rush attire populate town and open various exhibits to answer questions and give more information on the California Gold Rush.

For more information about any of the above, please visit www.parks.ca.gov/columbia or www.columbiacalifornia.com. Questions can also be answered by park staff at (209) 588-9128 or through the Columbia Chamber of Commerce at (209) 536-1672.

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.