

News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
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Contacts:
Kathy Gallup at 916-323-2015
or Pati Brown at 916-417-1159

Sutter's Fort Invites the Community to Celebrate "A Simple Emigrant Christmas" on December 12 *Docents & Guests to Participate in Activities & Decorate the Fort's Holiday Tree 1840s-Style*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (November 6, 2009) -- Popcorn and cranberry stringing. Candle dipping. Crafting paper cut-out ornaments. Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) invites the community to step back in time for "A Simple Emigrant Christmas" on Saturday, December 12 to celebrate a variety of early holiday traditions and cultural activities similar to what California's early Emigrants experienced in the 1840s.

In fact, Sutter's Fort was one of California's early gathering places where different cultures came together to share and experience differing holiday traditions, many of which are still celebrated today. As part of "A Simple Emigrant Christmas," families and friends are encouraged to visit this historic gathering place where costumed docents will interpret and demonstrate the many different Christmas traditions that were celebrated by the early immigrants at Sutter's Fort. Also, docents and guests will work together to decorate the Fort's holiday tree using only materials available in the 1840s.

Sutter's Fort SHP is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays and admission is as follows: \$6.00 for adults; \$4.00 for youths ages 6 to 17 and free for children 5 and under. Regular admission prices apply for "A Simple Emigrant Christmas" and more information about the event or other activities can be obtained by calling 916-445-4422 or visiting www.parks.ca.gov.

About Sutter's Fort State Historic Park

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the Friends of Sutter's Fort, the historic site is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located in midtown Sacramento on L Street between 26th and 28th Streets, the Fort offers special events and living history programs throughout the year. Established in 1839 by Swiss immigrant John Augustus Sutter, Sutter's Fort was at the center of a flourishing agricultural empire named New Helvetia (New Switzerland.) This empire established Sacramento's earliest settlement and the first non-Indian settlement in California's Central Valley. For more information, call 916-445-4422 or visit www.parks.ca.gov and click on "Find a Park."

**For Special Events at the Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks,
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