

Governor's Mansion Teacher's Guide



California State Parks
Governor's Mansion State Historic Park and
Sacramento Historic Sites Association
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Governor's Mansion SHP Teacher's Guide

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This guide may also be downloaded from the Internet at www.parks.ca.gov.

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Introduction

Welcome to the Governor’s Mansion. Built in 1877 as a private residence, this impressive house was home to two families before it became the Governor’s Mansion for the State of California in 1903. It is preserved by California State Parks as the historical backdrop for the stories of the thirteen California governors and their families who lived here. Today this special house museum attracts visitors from around the world.



**GOVERNOR’S
MANSION**
STATE HISTORIC PARK

The mansion is a treasure—a rich learning environment for those who are studying California’s exciting and colorful history. The mansion’s architectural features, designs and furnishings reflect how people and styles changed over time. It is a reminder of the past and an authentic legacy for the future.

The *Governor’s Mansion State Historic Park Teacher’s Guide* consists of a series of lessons that will assist in stimulating student interest in the Governor’s Mansion. Each self-contained lesson provides a pre-tour and a post-tour activity that will spark learning and enthusiasm. Some lessons include student worksheets, handouts and other material. Also included in the guide are architectural drawings and photographs of the mansion, the people who lived there, and their guests. All contents in the guide may be reproduced for classroom use.

Teachers are encouraged to adapt the lessons and activities to their classroom objectives. The lessons meet California State Education Content Standards for History-Social Science, English-Language Arts, and Visual Arts.





Special Instructions for Teachers

The Governor's Mansion State Historic Park is a wonderful field trip destination. This section provides information to help you plan and prepare for your visit.

Reservations

Park staff and docents lead free guided tours of the Governor's Mansion for school groups. These tours are offered several days a week at 10:20 am, 10:40 am, 2:20 pm and 2:40 pm. Call for current information. Due to the limited space within the mansion, tours are limited to 25 persons maximum. Groups **MUST** have a confirmed reservation. It is required that there be one adult for every 10 students, but you may have up to one adult for every five students. Extra adults may be charged the current admission fee.

To make a reservation for a free guided tour contact ReserveAmerica at (866) 240-4655. Spaces are limited so make your reservations as early as possible.

Groups that do not have confirmed reservations will be charged the current admission fee.

Accessibility

The original carriage house/visitor center has a unisex restroom that is accessible. The first floor of the Governor's Mansion is accessible by a 42-inch-long wheelchair lift on the exterior of the building. Captioned videos with visual access to the upper floors are available in the Carriage House. Please advise the guide in advance of any special needs.

Location/Parking

The Governor's Mansion State Historic Park is located at the corner of 16th and H Streets in downtown Sacramento. Metered parking is available on the street. The meters take quarters. Limited bus parking is available in front of the mansion on H Street.

Instruction

Please arrive at least five minutes prior to your scheduled tour. In the event of an emergency, call (916) 323-3047. Groups that are more than 15 minutes late will have their tour cancelled.

A brief orientation will be conducted in the Carriage House/Visitor Center prior to your tour. Please allow at least one hour and 30 minutes for your visit.



Museum Rules

The furniture and artifacts within the mansion are rare and valuable. Do not allow the students to touch or handle them. Repeated handling may accelerate deterioration and damage to the objects.

Flash photography is not permitted.

Food, gum and beverages are not allowed within the Governor's Mansion to protect the integrity of the artifacts. Please leave backpacks and lunch sacks in the bus or car.

It is not advisable for students to take lists of questions on the tour. Due to the sensitivity of the artifacts no writing implements are allowed.

Turn off all cell phones and pagers before the tour.