

The Double Jack

Rock-N-Water's two day, two night 49er Fun adventure that goes beyond The Mother Lode.

Teachers: Understandably you tend to like to have an idea of what is happening, and so we give you this rough outline of what *normally* happens. Please keep two thoughts in mind as you read this. One, we strive to customize each trip (based on schools, kids, parents, staff, weather...) so view this as a flexible outline. Two, we feel that there is a certain level of excitement that is lost once kids or parents know what to expect, so please take care to share only what is necessary

We meet each other at Gold Bug Park in Placerville as soon after 11:01 as possible (let the fun begin!). Everyone eats the sack lunches that they brought (please don't eat until we ask you to), and then we split up into smaller groups (typically 16-20 people per group). We then take each group through different activities that include touring restored gold mines, learning about mining, playing games, and hiking around the area.

From there we load up in your vehicles/wagons and caravan over to Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park for a tour of the gold discovery site and other wonders of this great park, which may include a look at James Marshall's cabin, a historic church, a graveyard and a jailhouse. We also take time for a short quiet time alone with God. There is a lot of hiking this first day, so come dressed appropriately.

Time travel will occur as we load back up in your wagons and head to our claim in Coloma back in 1854. Upon arrival at Rock-N-Water we take a little time for everyone to help get camp ready: prepping for campfire, helping with dinner, and setting up the tents you brought (or you could bring a tarp and sleep under the stars if the weather is nice).

After that comes dinner and dinner clean up, which is quickly followed by campfire.

Up to this point, the trip has been the same as "The Mother Lode." Here is where things start to change!

There is a different campfire program for each night. On both nights we do some old-time dancing and singing, as well as worship.

On one of the nights you help provide the entertainment; with the kids, parents, and guides sharing 1 to 5 minute skits, songs, poems, displays of talent, or stories. In this way we will be entertained as we were on the wagon trail, with everyone performing what they had to offer. (If you would like to have your class prepare for this campfire ahead of time, it would greatly add to the experience, as well as to the kids' anticipation of this campfire!) If not, the entertainment can be spontaneous, and our guides might have things planned that the kids can participate in. (If you have questions about this, ask us!)

On the other night, an old time band joins us for campfire and we have a hoedown! Then we listen to a story from one of our characters/guides as they help us to understand that God is more valuable than gold. This theme and other bible lessons are entwined throughout your time with us. It's now bedtime, and we say goodnight. We will look to teachers and parents to supervise the kids through the night and early morning.

After breakfast we split back up into our smaller groups and continue to learn what it was/is like to live in 1854 just after the height of the gold rush. Some of the things you may get to experience during this full day of fun include: gold panning, making rope, making bead necklaces, playing games, learning about Indians and what they ate, and taking a short hike and quiet time devotional. On this two night trip, activities may also include candle-dipping and leather working, as well as historic cooking, like grinding wheat and making ice cream. We will pause mid-day for a fine lunch prepared by our wonderful cook, then continue our adventures in the afternoon. We will be busy with fun activities until evening, when we will share another delicious meal together. Then off to campfire! After our second evening around the campfire, the day is over and everyone is really ready for bed. In the morning you will load everything back into your wagons before breakfast, and then after breakfast we will gather together for some last thoughts before waving goodbye by 9:30 AM.

TWO important reminders: 1) Arrive as soon after 11 AM as possible. 2) The best trips are the trips where parents get involved and seek to have a good time, so please help parents prepare by asking them to be an active part of the adventure.

You never know who you might meet in 1854 so come prepared for a journey through history, and along the way to gain a better understanding of the fact that:
God is more valuable than gold!



More resources online at: <http://www.rocknwater.com/resources/49erfun.htm>