

The Maidu Discovery

Rock-N-Water's 5-6 hour Living History Adventure for 3rd Graders

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.

You and your class will arrive at our camp as close to 9:01 AM as possible (let the fun begin!). Soon after we meet, we will "time-travel" back to 1830, where our staff portrays members of the local Nisenan Native American tribe. The fun starts right away, as we split up into smaller groups (typically 12-15 people per group). We then take each group through different activities that the Nisenan would have done in their daily lives, such as tracking, gathering food, playing games, and creating handcrafts. It's all from a Christian perspective, as we learn how we can be constantly appreciative and give thanks to God for all He provides.

We take a break around noon to eat a fine lunch prepared by our wonderful cook. After lunch, there are more activities, including a quiet time devotional before we wave goodbye by 2:30 PM.

Pretending is a fun and exciting element of this adventure, and one which enables the kids to feel that they have really experienced history firsthand. We obviously only pretend to time travel back to the 1830s, and we only pretend to be the Nisenan tribe which lived in Coloma. Although the staff of Rock-N-Water have very little Native American heritage, we have a great deal of respect for the Maidu Nation and many of their ways. On this day we learn some of the skills the Nisenan tribe used, and we intentionally admire some of their attitudes from a Christian perspective. For example, their instinctive desire to appreciate everything they interacted with in nature is a great example to us. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 admonishes us to give thanks in all circumstances, and we hope that your students will return to modern times with passionate appreciations for all that our God has allowed them. Even considering it all joy when they encounter various trials. Our hope and prayer is for that perspective to stay with them as they trust Jesus all their days.

TWO important reminders: 1) Arrive as soon after 9:00 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 pre-gold rush California, so come prepared for an adventurous journey through history, and along the way to develop a deeper appreciation of our great God as we spend time in His creation!

More resources online at: <http://www.rocknwater.com/living-history/maidu-discovery/>

