

The Mother Lode

Rock-N-Water's 27 hour, one night 49er Fun campout for 4th Graders (our classic trip).

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 AM 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 including 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, Sutter's Mill, 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. An old time band joins us for campfire as we sing folk songs, learn some folk dances, sing worship songs, and 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. At least one of our guides will be in camp at night in case of emergencies; however 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 things you may get to experience 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. We pause mid-day for a fine lunch prepared by our wonderful cook, and after a few more adventures, we gather together for some last thoughts before waving goodbye by 2:30 PM.

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>

