

# The Prospector

*Rock-N-Water's 26 hour, 1 night 49er Fun trip for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders - that does not visit Sutter's Mill*

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.

Time travel will occur as we load up in your wagons and caravan 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).

Before too long, we split back up into our smaller groups and participate in several fun activities that show your students and parents 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 bead necklaces, playing games, and learning how the local Indians lived.

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 for more activities that may include hand-dipping candles, working an old-fashioned printing press, making rope, and taking a short hike and quiet time devotional. We finish up the activities mid-day in time for a fine lunch prepared by our wonderful cook, and then we gather together for some last thoughts before waving goodbye by 1:30 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>

Note: Some teachers choose to make a quick visit to Marshall Park to see Sutter's Mill on their way home. If you choose to do this, you might need to make a reservation with the park. Call us with questions or if you want us to take care of that for you.