



Environmental Living Program Parent Information

This handout is for all parents who are participating in the Environmental Living Program (ELP) at Sutter's Fort. Firstly, thank you very much for volunteering to help with ELP; this program requires strong parent support and so your help is invaluable. By volunteering your time and energy, you are helping to create an experience that your child and his or her classmates will treasure and remember for the rest of their lives. Thank you!

This handout contains lots of information that will help you prepare for your ELP. However, there are other documents that you should also have received by e-mail such as the Fort Parking Map, Clothing Information, and the ELP Resource List. Please review these documents as they will help you and your child prepare for your ELP.

The extent of your duties depends on in what way you have chosen or been assigned to help. The majority of parents who help with ELP are usually assigned to run or help run a station. If you are one of these parents, the following information will help you understand what your responsibilities will be. If you have a different task, check with your teacher or group coordinator to learn what that entails.

Workshops

If you have been asked to help run a station, you will be required to attend a workshop a few months before the ELP date in order to be trained in how to run your station. You will receive more specific instructions about the workshop from your teacher or group coordinator. You do not need to wear period clothes to this workshop.

Please print and bring the information handout for your station to the workshop. Alternatively, you can access it online on your mobile device at the training. The handouts are available as PDFs at the following website: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27955.

ELP Day

On your ELP day, the majority of parents are required to arrive at 8 AM to start setting up their stations. If you have items to unload (overnight gear, food, station items) please drive up the dirt driveway off of L Street up to the South Gate of the Fort. As you drive up, please drive as far forward as possible to allow for as many people to pull behind you on the driveway as possible. For example, if you are the first one at the Fort, please drive past the South Gate until you are almost at the street again. Once you park, begin unloading your gear. We will have carts to help you bring items into the Fort. There will also be Fort staff to direct you where to take your gear.





Once your car is unloaded, please go park. Consult the parking map that your teacher or group coordinator sent you to learn where to park. Once you have parked, walk back to the Fort and begin setting up your station. Once you have set up your station, see if there are still others who need help unloading or setting up.

If your station has an inventory binder, please go through the inventory list inside it. All you are required to do is to make sure the numbers that are listed match up with what you have at your station; you do not need to write in the inventory binder. If you don't know what some of the items are or the numbers don't match up, please inform Fort staff.

At 9 AM, Fort staff will call a morning meeting. Everyone needs to attend this meeting. At this meeting, you will learn more about the process of the day and the rules and guidelines of the Fort. This meeting will last 15 minutes. After the meeting, you may go back to your station for any last minute setup until the students arrive at the Fort, usually in horse-drawn wagons. Please consult the Morning Meeting Information handout that was sent to you by your teacher or group coordinator if you would like to learn about the rules before the morning meeting.

When the wagons arrive with the students at the Fort (usually by 9:45 or 10), everyone will go greet them and Fort staff will set up several picture taking opportunities. After all of the pictures, the parents and students will go to their stations. You will stay at your station throughout the day while the students rotate from station to station. Your teacher or group coordinator will give you a schedule of the station rotations so you know for how long you have each group and where they go after your station. There will be a cannon demonstration at noon, followed by lunch.

Stations generally end at 5 PM. If you are at a station with an inventory binder, please do not pack up your items until our Evening Coordinator goes through the inventory list with you. If you don't have an inventory binder, you may begin packing up your station items and even putting them away if you know where they go. But please do not leave your station until you have been checked off by our Evening Coordinator.

Evening plans vary greatly by school so please consult with your teacher or group coordinator to learn what you will be doing after you are done with your stations. At night, most of the children and adults will sleep either in the Distillery Building or outside in the yards. Non-period tents are allowed and are usually set up after evening activities have concluded. No tent stakes are allowed. All parents and children must be out of the Fort no later than 9 AM the following morning; consult with your teacher to learn about your group's plans for the following morning.

Additional Hints and Guidelines

- Wearing sunscreen on your ELP day is strongly encouraged.
- Don't bring valuable items to your ELP day as they might get lost or damaged.





- If the station to which you are assigned for your ELP day is inside one of the Fort rooms, please only use those items designated for ELP use. Do not move or remove any items in the room. If you have questions about whether an item or items may be used, please ask Fort staff.
- Everyone participating in ELP must be in period clothes. Anyone not wearing period clothes must pay the normal entrance fee. The only exceptions are the designated photographers and parents assigned to the modern kitchen only.

If you have any questions, please ask your teacher or group coordinator. If you need to contact the ELP Coordinator at Sutter's Fort, please email Jared.Jones@parks.ca.gov or call (916) 323-8112.

Thank you!

