

Bring History Alive !

Take a day trip back in time to 1820's Mexican California and discover everyday life at the Mission.

Students may live the past by taking on the roles of people who lived in the area during this time. The program at the Sonoma Mission follows the curriculum guidelines set by the State of California for the Mission period. Contact us at (707)938-9560 for more information. For an overnight experience during the Rancho period contact the Petaluma Adobe at (707)762-4871.



To Enroll

If you are a teacher interested in being in the database for reservations, please mail the following information to the Mission: Full name, School name, School address and phone number, your home address and phone number.

Mission San Francisco Solano
114 E. Spain St.
Sonoma, CA 95476



Environmental Studies Program

Mission San Francisco Solano, Sonoma State Historic Park

The Opportunity of a Lifetime



*Experience a day in 1820's
California*

The Environmental Studies Program (ESP)



History of the Mission

Established on July 4, 1823, Mission San Francisco Solano was the twenty-first Mission in California. Not only was the Mission the last to be built, it was also the only Mission built during Mexican rule. In its most prosperous year, 1832, there was over 10,000 acres of land and over 900 Native American workers in residence. Secularized in 1834, it served as the local parish church until 1881 when the building was sold to allow construction of a larger Church a few blocks away.

The Program

The ESP program is a rewarding hands-on interpretive living history program for children in the 4th grade. We invite educators to enroll themselves in this one of a kind fieldtrip. The program allows students, teachers, and parent supervisors to work and learn in the courtyard of this historic mission. During the ESP, the students will do work and activities that the neophyte Native Americans toiled at back in the days of the Mission's past such as: candle making, basket weaving, spinning, wool, and preparing period meals.

The program requires extensive preparation by the teacher and the students. At the Mission, teachers will be working with the parents of their class to create their unique experience. Park employees assist with set up and monitoring the program. Teachers accepted in the program are required to attend a Teachers Workshop held in once a year. A teacher may have a program date for three consecutive years and then is required to take a year off. Following that year, the teacher may enroll as a new teacher and repeat the process.

Important Information

- ◇ The program is designed for fourth grade level children.
- ◇ The ESP is an all day program designed to be held 9 am– 3pm.
- ◇ The program fee is \$250.00, of which \$50.00 is a non-refundable deposit due at the time of reservation.
- ◇ There is a mandatory Teacher Workshop with a separate \$10.00 fee.
- ◇ There is a maximum of 40 students and 10 adults for the program..
- ◇ The reservation is held with the teacher, not the school..
- ◇ Parent involvement is required.
- ◇ Scholarships are available for those that qualify.