THE GOLD RUSH



San Francisco Maritime National Park Association
Teacher's Manual

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SAN FRANCISCO
MARITIME NATIONAL PARK
ASSOCIATION

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to the amazing Gold Rush Program, and thanks for choosing to attend! This manual contains everything you'll need to prepare your class for your field trip. We are very excited about our new location in Mare Island! If you have any questions that are not addressed in this manual, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Thanks!

Laura DeFelice,
Education Director

Contact Information:

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Program Location: Mare Island Coal Sheds
850 Nimitz Ave.
Vallejo, CA 94592

What to Expect

"From Boston to St. Louis, from Florida to Minnesota, thousands were already laying plans, outfitting wagons, buying ship's passage, and weaving fantasies of the wealth they would glean from the new El Dorado. The day of the forty-niners was upon the nation. The greatest and most anarchic gold rush in the history of man had begun." Story of the Great American West, p. 185

Overview

Your adventure begins in the year 1849. Vallejo is little more than a small settlement nestled along the northern edge of San Pablo Bay. Just a few years later, its proximity to the bay would make it a strategic site for naval development, and by 1854, Mare Island—just across the strait—would become home to the first U.S. Naval Shipyard on the West Coast.

Meanwhile, California is transformed by the discovery of gold in the Sierra Nevada foothills. "Gold fever" spreads like wildfire across the globe. San Francisco, once a quiet village, explodes into a booming port city. In 1849 alone, over 500 ships carrying more than 40,000 hopeful "Forty-Niners" arrived in the Bay Area—men and women from all walks of life chasing dreams of fortune.

Your crew of gold seekers arrives in San Francisco after a grueling journey aboard a clipper ship from the Atlantic coast, having braved the treacherous route around Cape Horn. They find San Francisco too chaotic and send the crew upriver closer to the inland route to the gold fields. Travel-weary and wide-eyed, they disembark along this deep-water channel in the north bay and are buzzing with anticipation.

Rumors of gold drift through the salty air, but opportunities abound beyond the hills. Will they strike out for the mountains, join the maritime trade, or set up shop in the growing towns to supply the endless wave of newcomers? With the city behind them and California ahead, your crew must decide which path to pursue.

Cast of Characters

Today may be your lucky day. Down the pier lies the tall ship *Balclutha* and the lumber schooner *C.A. Thayer*, ready to take on crew and cargo for their next voyage. The first person you meet is a sailor has been sent down to fetch a handful of able-bodied seamen, but stumbles upon your group of greenhands and enlists you instead. Onboard is the captain, waiting for the new crew, as well as a local merchant, with whom the captain is doing business. The captain is unimpressed with the sailor who's brought you aboard, but is willing to keep you on for a half-day's work and possibly make sailors out of you yet.

The captain needs an experienced crew to sail up and down the California coast, transporting lumber and "forty-niners. Taking you around the vessel, extolling the virtues of a life at sea, the captain is eager to have you remain aboard rather than head for the risky possibilities of the gold fields or the dull existence of a landlocked merchant. "Anything," they say, "is better than having your feet stuck in clay." Ah, it's a sailor's life!

The merchant, of course, believes they have the best job in California and will do just about anything to convince you of it. "You have job security. You can have a family and a warm, dry place to live. You can even have a dog who will sleep by the fireplace or at the foot of your feather bed." What riches you might scramble for in the fields, you can easily make in the newly booming city. All you need are mathematical skills and general know-how, both of which they are willing to share with you should you choose to work for them. "Anything," they say, "is better than being a sailor or a miner," and a gold pocket watch in their coat proves it.

The sailor who met you on the pier also believes in this easily come by fortune. Life at sea has been hard, and the sailor is eager to stake a claim in the foothills, where gold is "lying like dust on the ground". "Extolled in the virtues of striking out into the world of adventure and assured you to follow, you will find fresh air and gold aplenty." – *Bliss Carman*

At the conclusion of the program, you will have to decide on your destiny. Will you sign aboard the ship as crew and earn your way as a seaman? Or head for the Gold Country and try your luck with the miners? Or will you remain in town and keep shop for the merchant?



Goals

The Gold Rush p r o g r a m is an exploration into the lives of sailors, miners, and merchants at the turn of the last century, presented through experiential education. Throughout the 4-hour program, students explore maritime history by becoming "sailors" themselves; as they learn the language of the sea, the life of a miner, and how to become a part of this history. By requiring the students to be active during the program, emphasis is placed on building self-esteem, a sense of responsibility, respect, and cooperative learning skills. These skills are not just valuable on the vessel or in the classroom, but throughout the students' entire lives.

The program also strives to increase participants' awareness of early California history and the maritime industry, and to introduce them to the similarities and differences between their daily lives and those of historic sailors. Through this, we hope to help them better understand the continuum of history, so they will see themselves as part of history, not just as observers. By actively participating in a program at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, we foster their individual responsibility in supporting our National Park system and the preservation and protection of our collective cultural and natural history.

Standards Met

The Gold Rush program teaches students about one of the most significant periods in California's history through a direct, fully immersive experience. They also learn about the periods preceding and following the Gold Rush, including its significant impacts on the state's development, through discussion and demonstration (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4). The Gold Rush activities teach students more than history, as they are often challenged to think critically and mathematically to complete specific tasks (4.OA, 4.OA.3, 4.MD, 4.MD.2, 4.NBT, 4.NF, 5.NBT, 5.NBT.7, 5.NF.6).

Furthermore, this program facilitates in-class discussions of various earth science standards, as students learn the importance of such knowledge for the successful mining of gold (4-ESS2-2, 5-ESS3-1, 5-LS2-1, 4-ESS3-2).

Once the students choose their preferred Gold Rush profession, they learn about their own outcomes and discuss these results, along with their historical implications, with the ship's captain (SL4.1-6, SL5.1-6, L4.1-6, L5.1-6).

What will be your students' fates on this living history adventure?

Standards Directly Addressed	Standards Supported
HSS4.1, HSS4.2, HSS4.3, HSS4.4, 4.OA, 4.OA.3, 4.MD, 4.MD.2, 4.NBT, 4.NF, 5.NBT, 5.NBT.7, 5.NF.6, SL4.1-6, SL5.1-6, L4.1-6, L5.1-6	4-ESS2-2, 5-ESS3-1, 5-LS2-1, 4-ESS3-2, RL 4-8, RI 4-8, RF 4-8, W4.1-10, W5.1-10, W6.1-10, W7.1-10, W8.1-10

Preparing For The Trip

Student and chaperone preparation is a crucial component of the Gold Rush program. There are several key factors that both parties should be aware of to ensure a successful program.

1. The students should have an understanding of the Gold Rush. They need to be familiar with the effects of the discovery of gold on California's growth and development, as well as how the news of the discovery spread throughout the world. They should also be able to discuss the hardships of a journey overland and compare that to the hardships of a journey by sea. Background information and a glossary of nautical and Gold Rush terms can be found in the Supplemental Information packet, which may be used to help you set the tone before you arrive.

2. To provide students with the full benefit of experiencing the Gold Rush, the program is set in both a historical location and time period. Once they walk through the entrance of the coal sheds and out to the ships, the students will interact with instructors pretending the year is 1849. Students and chaperones must adhere to this premise during the program.

3. **Students should be divided into three groups before you arrive**. Each group should have a student leader, and each student should have a nametag.

4. Each student and adult should bring their own sack lunch, marked with their name. There will be a lunch break midway through the program. **Please keep student and adult lunches separate.**

5. **During your 30-minute lunch, our staff are on their lunch break. Please remain in the designated lunch area, and a staff member will come to escort you back to the ship.**

6. Our programs run rain or shine. If inclement weather is expected, please allow extra time for transportation and arrival. **We will provide foul-weather gear to students/adults who need it,** but as this takes time away from the program, we ask that you plan accordingly by being on time. If it is raining on the day of your program, please call the Education Director at (415) 561-6662 ext 5 prior to your arrival at the Coal Sheds.

7. The following are known as "contraband" and are **not allowed on the program**: Cellular phones, electronic games, cameras, gum, candy or other snacks (outside of the lunch area). ***This includes Teachers and adult chaperones.*** Contraband items will be collected by the staff and kept until the end of the program. Only one adult, the "Historian" is allowed to carry a camera and take photographs. The teacher may have their phone on silent in case the school needs to contact you.

Roles of the Teacher and Adult Chaperones

Teachers: The teacher may also be known as the "Guest of the Captain". While the adult chaperones will be assigned to a single group of students, the teacher has the flexibility to roam around the ship and observe the program in its entirety. Once the program begins, it is essential that the teacher stands back and does not assist the students or provide them with answers in any way, so they may benefit from working together with our instructors to find answers to their questions. While the teacher is asked to adhere to the same rules of conduct as the adult chaperones, they may always call and discuss with us in advance any aspects of the program that may need adjustment due to special needs.

Adult Chaperones: Adult Chaperones, known on the program as Tall Sailors, act ONLY as safety officers for the students. A Tall Sailor may be a parent, guardian, or any responsible adult permitted by your school to act in this capacity. The role we ask them to play, and the requirements involved are unusual and challenging. **We strongly recommend that you choose adults who you know will be comfortable with the surroundings and the goals of the program**.

We ask that you bring **one** Tall Sailor for each crew. We recommend three Tall Sailors, one Teacher, and one Historian (photographer). One-on-one aides are also allowed. The maximum number of adults, including teachers, allowed to attend our program is seven; however, **the more Adults you have, the harder it is for them to melt into the background.**

Please bear the following in mind when selecting adult chaperones for your program:

1. **Tall Sailors do not assist or communicate with the students in any way except to prevent accidents or unsafe behavior**. Their vocabulary is limited to a single word, **"Avast",** which is a warning to the students that they are doing something that may be unsafe. If a Tall Sailor has a concern, they are welcome to ask for assistance from the instructors by saying "a private word" to the nearest staff member, who will handle the issue.

2. Tall Sailors must **not** be assigned to the same crew as their child. If a child has special needs that require a one-on-one aide, please contact the Education Director to discuss.

3. Tall Sailors must arrive on time and remain with the program at all times.

4. The historian is the **only person who may carry a camera.** This is an optional role (photography is not necessary), but if you choose to have one, the historian will be responsible for taking all photographs and videos of the voyage. Although the teacher can certainly fulfill this role, if necessary, we strongly encourage teachers to plan to have another parent accompany them to take care of all the details surrounding the program's photography.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT PARENTS KNOW THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERACT WITH THEIR CHILD OR ANY OF THE STUDENTS DURING THE PROGRAM OR THE LUNCH BREAK. This program is designed to foster students' problem-solving and communication skills and works best when students can think for themselves. Tall Sailors will be on hand to ensure the safety and well-being of students but WILL NOT be allowed to interact with them unless there is an illness or safety concern.

The Trip Checklist

Upon receiving your contract:

_____Contact all participating adults. You will need one adult for each of your three groups, plus an optional Historian (photographer) and the teacher – a total of five adults (you are allowed a maximum of seven). Please make sure the adults know that once the program begins, they are there for **SAFETY ONLY and will not be placed in the same group as their own child.** You should also begin to discuss transportation needs.

_____ If you have students with special needs that may require consideration, please get in touch with the Education Director at (415) 561-6662, ext. 5, to discuss an appropriate plan of action. Our aim is for every student to have a positive, worthwhile experience, and knowing about special situations in advance helps us immensely.

_ _ _ _ Review your funding needs. Funds may be available through parents, the PTA, student fundraising efforts, community service organizations, business or corporate grants, or, if your school is Title 1, you can apply for a scholarship from us at least 60 days before your program date. Our funding is limited.

One month before your trip:

_____ Send the required paperwork home with the students (Liability and Media Release Form)

_____ Implement pre-trip lesson plans (optional, but very beneficial for the students).

Two weeks before your trip:

_____ Collect the forms (at the end of this manual)

_____Email Education Director at education@maritime.org with the final count of students and adults attending. **Payment must be made in full before the program date.**

One week before your trip:

_____ Divide the students into three groups of approximately equal size and select (or have them select) a group leader (Mate) for each. **Print Crew List (names of students and their assigned crew)**

_____ Review with your students:

- appropriate clothing for the weather – Vallejo is very hot in the shoulder seasons and cold during winter months – dressing in layers and closed-toed shoes is recommended
- behavioral expectations onboard the ship and on the pier
- the concepts of role play
- Bring a lunch and a refillable water bottle.

Teacher Field Trip Checklist

Travel Plans

- **Arrival:** Plan to arrive **no later than 10:00 A.M.**
- **Departure:** Program ends at **1:45 P.M.** — depart early to avoid traffic.
- **GPS Address:**
  Mare Island Coal Sheds
  850 Nimitz Ave, Vallejo, CA
  Google Maps Link
- **Note:** Mare Island Causeway Bridge is **under construction** (1-lane). Add **10–15 mins** for delays.

24 Hours Before

- If **rain is forecast**, ensure all students have **rain gear & warm layers**.
- Double-check travel time

Day of Trip

- Every participant is required to bring **their own lunch and water**.
  ➤ **Not an option to eat off-site** for anyone who is attending the program (drivers who are not needed are welcome to explore the island but should not interfere with the program once we start.
  ➤ Tall Sailors' lunches **must be packed separately** from their children's.

Upon Arrival

1. Take the FIRST **left on Nimitz Ave** after crossing the bridge.
2. Follow signs to **Coal Sheds** – **free parking is plentiful in the Coal Sheds lot**.
3. Keep **valuables hidden or bring them with you**; the National Park Service or San Francisco Maritime National Park Association is not liable for theft/vandalism.
4. Walk your group to the **Coal Sheds entrance**.
5. **Public restrooms** on the left – have **everyone use them**! **Mandatory!**
6. **The teacher only** walks directly to the **ships** to check in with the costumed staff who will be there to greet you.
7. Students & Tall Sailors (after restroom):
   - Walk toward the **ships/water** – DO NOT BOARD THE SHIPS
   - Line up in **3 crew lines**, with **Tall Sailors at the end of the line**.
   - **Do not block the entrance to the restrooms or the businesses nearby.**
   - **Once our crew sees you in line, they will greet you, and the program will begin.**

Teacher Brings

☐ Crew List
☐ Liability release forms (**students + adults**)
☐ Payment (mailed ahead, or bring a check for any approved extra students)

Questions? Call: (415) 561-6662 ext 5

Arrival and Parking Instructions

The cooperation and timeliness of all adults are requested to prevent unnecessary delays. **Please note:** We cannot make up for time lost due to arrival delays. Therefore, in the event of a delay, some activities may need to be removed from the program or shortened.

The program officially starts at **10:00 am**, so please allow enough time for the commute, parking, unloading students, and re-grouping as a class.

If it is raining while you are still in transit, please call our education director's office at (415) 561-6662 ext 5. It is essential to keep the students and their gear dry before the program begins.

Buses can park in the same lot without requiring any parking permits, lists, or other documentation.

MAP -- COAL SHEDS—850 Nimitz Ave. Vallejo, CA





SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

EDUCATION PROGRAMS RELEASE FORM, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND LIABILITY WAIVER: **REQUIRED**

All participants in activity programs of the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association (the "Association") must agree to the provisions below. These programs may include boating and other potentially hazardous activities, all of which are at the sole risk of participants.

In consideration of my or my child's participation in Association programs, now or in the future, I agree on behalf of myself and my child to assume all risks of accident, injury (including death), or illness arising out of or in connection with participation in those programs. I further agree on behalf of myself and my child to forever waive and release all claims and causes of action against the Association (including its officers, trustees, employees, and agents) and the National Park Service, a Bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior (including its officers, employees, and agents), for any and all liabilities for injury (including death), illness, or damages arising out of or in connection with participation in those programs. This assumption of risk and liability waiver shall bind the members of Participant's family and Participant's heirs, personal representatives, and assigns.

I understand that this is the sole and exclusive agreement with the Association regarding assumption of risk and liability waiver, that this agreement supersedes all prior or subsequent discussions, representations, or agreements about those subjects, and that this agreement may be modified or waived only by a writing signed by an officer of the Association that makes specific reference to this agreement.

_____
Print Participant's Name (child or chaperone)

_____
Signature of Participant (if 18 years old or older)

_____
Print Parent or Legal Guardian Name

_____
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian (if Participant is less than 18 years old),
on my own behalf and for Participant

_____
Date

We request that all parents agree to the above provision and sign below to acknowledge their agreement. A child without a signed release form will not be allowed to participate in the program.

SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME
NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

PROGRAMAS EDUCATIVOS

FORMULARIO DE DESCARGA DE DEMANDA O DERECHO

Todos los participantes en los programas de actividades de la Asociación del Parque Nacional Marítimo de San Francisco (la "Asociación") deben aceptar las disposiciones siguientes. Estos programas pueden incluir la navegación y otras actividades potencialmente peligrosas, todas ellas bajo el único riesgo de los participantes.

En consideración a mi participación o la de mi hijo/a en los programas de la Asociación, ahora o en el futuro, acepto en mi nombre y en el de mi hijo/a asumir todos los riesgos de accidente, lesión (incluyendo la muerte) o enfermedad que surjan de o en relación con la participación en dichos programas. Además, acepto en mi nombre y en el de mi hijo(a) renunciar para siempre y liberar todas las reclamaciones y causas de acción contra la Asociación (incluyendo sus funcionarios, fideicomisarios, empleados y agentes) y el Servicio de Parques Nacionales, una Oficina del Departamento del Interior de los Estados Unidos (incluyendo sus funcionarios, empleados y agentes), por cualquier y todas las responsabilidades por lesiones (incluyendo la muerte), enfermedades o daños que surjan de o en conexión con la participación en esos programas. Esta asunción de riesgos y exención de responsabilidad obligará a los miembros de la familia del participante y a sus herederos, representantes personales y cesionarios.

Entiendo que este es el único y exclusivo acuerdo con la Asociación en lo que se refiere a la asunción de riesgos y la exención de responsabilidad, que este acuerdo sustituye a todas las discusiones, representaciones o acuerdos anteriores o posteriores sobre estos temas, y que este acuerdo puede ser modificado o renunciado sólo por un escrito firmado por un funcionario de la Asociación que haga referencia específica a este acuerdo.

Fecha del Program: _____

Nombre del Participante (hijo/hija): _____

Nombre del Pariente: _____

Pedimos que todos los parientes acepten las provisiones mencionadas y firmen abajo para reconocer el acuerdo. Un niño sin el Formulario de Descarga de Demanda o Derecho firmado por un pariente no participará en el programa.

Firma del Pariente Fecha

SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION
MEDIA RELEASE

For the purposes of fundraising and public awareness, the San Francisco Maritime National
Park Association uses photographs and videos of the program in action. These materials may be published in print or made available on our website. Such publications are a very important part of our fundraising efforts.

Your child's image may appear in such photos or videos taken by the adult chaperones or our official photographers. We are sensitive to privacy issues, and therefore, specific names of participants and their school addresses will not be disclosed.

CIRCLE:
I grant / do not grant [Please Circle] permission for my child's image to be used in print publications produced by either the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association or San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

I grant / do not grant [Please Circle] permission for my child's image to be used in e-mail updates or the website produced by either the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association or San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

Name of Participant/Student _____ School _____

_____ Date:_____
Signature of Parent /Guardian

_____ Date:_____
Signature of Participant
(If participant is over the age of 18 – Adult Chaperone/Teacher)

ASOCIACIÓN DEL PARQUE NACIONAL MARÍTIMO DE SAN FRANCISCO
COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

Con fines de recaudación de fondos y concientización pública, la Asociación del Parque Nacional Marítimo de San Francisco utiliza fotografías y videos del programa en acción. Estos materiales pueden publicarse en formato impreso o estar disponibles en nuestro sitio web. Dichas publicaciones son una parte muy importante de nuestros esfuerzos de recaudación de fondos.
La imagen de su hijo/a puede aparecer en dichas fotos o videos tomados por los acompañantes adultos o nuestros fotógrafos oficiales. Somos sensibles a los temas de privacidad, por lo tanto, no se divulgarán nombres específicos de los participantes ni las direcciones de sus escuelas.

MARQUE CON UN CÍRCULO:

Otorgo / No otorgo [Por favor marque] permiso para que la imagen de mi hijo/a sea utilizada en publicaciones impresas producidas por la Asociación del Parque Nacional Marítimo de San Francisco o por el Parque Histórico Nacional Marítimo de San Francisco.

Otorgo / No otorgo [Por favor marque] permiso para que la imagen de mi hijo/a sea utilizada en boletines por correo electrónico o en el sitio web producidos por la Asociación del Parque Nacional Marítimo de San Francisco o por el Parque Histórico Nacional Marítimo de San Francisco.

Nombre del Participante/Estudiante: _____Escuela: _____

_____Fecha: _____
Firma del Padre/Madre o Tutor Legal

_____Fecha: _____
Firma del Participante
(Si el participante es mayor de 18 años – Acompañante Adulto/Maestro)