

BOOK OF DREAMS



Clockwise from top, Alex Kastanis, Kayla Gibson and Stephen Vang know they'll be cozy when they spend the night at Sutter's Fort with their classmates. Their school, John H. Still School, received 33 sleeping bags for its living-history excursions.

A MIDWINTER NIGHT'S DREAM

udging from the season's cold start, it will be pretty chilly when fourth-graders from the John H. Still School sleep over at Sutter's Fort in the middle of winter.

Last year, students came without sleeping bags and had to share blankets. They'll be cozy this year because the south Sacramento school received a set of 33 new, brightly colored sleeping bags.

Many of the children who attend the south Sacramento school don't have their own bags. The school's new collection of bags will help this year's young pioneers as well as those who make the trip in years to come.

DREAM:
■ 33 sleeping bags at \$50 each: \$1,650

In January, two classrooms of kids will spend the night in the fort after a day of hands-on learning about pioneer life in John Sutter's day.

The children have been preparing for their trip.

A map on a classroom wall shows how the students are keeping track of the route taken by Patty Reed, a Donner Party member who was their age when she arrived at the fort more than 150 years ago.

They also have been weaving pouches that they will use to hold "Sutter Bucks" to make purchases at the fort.

When they return from winter break, they will take on the names of historic figures who once lived at the fort, and will play those characters on their field trip.

For some of these children, it will be the first night spent away from home, said Joy Redmon, a teacher who remembers visiting the fort as a child and being envious of the kids who got to sleep overnight.

"They'll remember this trip forever. I'm sure," Redmon said of her students.

Their memories will be warm ones, thanks to the new sleeping bags.

"A Midwinter Nights Dream" Sacramento Bee, Dec 24 2000 page 72

