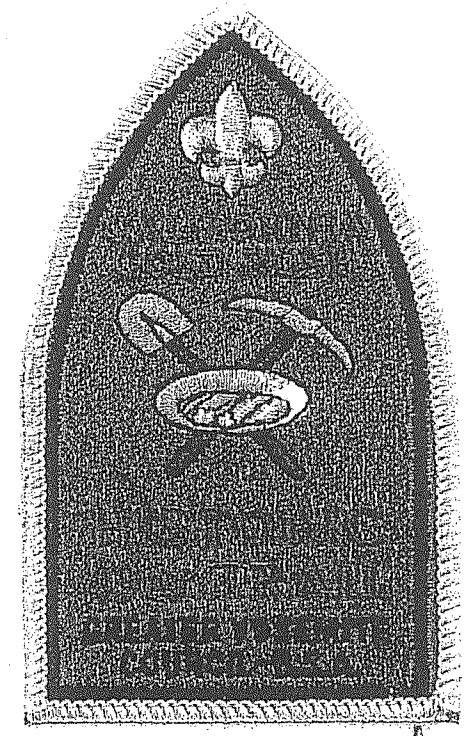


CALIFORNIA

# GOLD RUSH

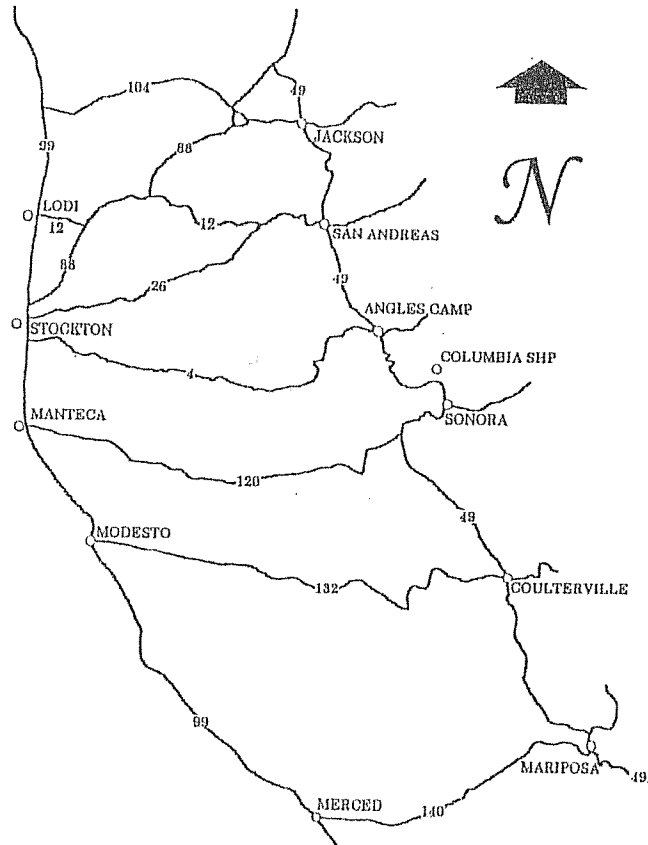
## Historic 49er Trail



Presented by:

The Greater Yosemite Council

Boy Scouts of America



Answers:

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

List the question (a-f) and answers for the two museums you visited:

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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of boys \_\_\_\_\_ Troop \_\_\_\_\_

ouncil \_\_\_\_\_

ate requirements completed \_\_\_\_\_

Number of patches requested \_\_\_\_\_

X \$1.75 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount due \_\_\_\_\_

Scout Leaders Signature

## Gold!

The cry heard 'round the world transformed California from a territory newly liberated from Mexico to a major State on the west coast of the United States.

It all started in 1847 when Captain John Sutter, needing lumber for his building projects in what is now Sacramento, entered into a partnership with James Marshall to build a sawmill. They chose a site in Coloma, 45 miles up the American river from Sutter's fort. Marshall was to build and operate the mill while Sutter provided provisions, tools, teams and contract laborers composed mainly of retired members of the Mormon battalion.

Then, on January 24, 1848, Marshall found gold in a tailrace at the mill site. He and Sutter tried to keep the discovery a secret, but word soon leaked out.

By the end of 1849 the population of California had grown by 100,000 people. Within 5 years 1 in every 90 Americans lived in California. All this growth occurred despite an estimate that 1 in 5 miners died within 6 months due to accidents, disease or violence.

Cities sprang up virtually overnight then, when the gold ran out, disappeared just as quickly. History records 546 different mining towns, 300 of which have since vanished.

Gold fever was so bad amongst the population that ships were left rotting in San Francisco bay, the San Francisco newspaper 'The Californian' suspended publication, and the military lost entire units to desertion.

And who could blame these people for leaving? A miner making \$8 a day (about \$160

in 1997 dollars) was doing eight times better than his coal-miner counterpart in the East.

However, most miners never got rich. Picks and shovels costing \$1 could rise to \$10 in one month's time. Gold mining pans, costing 20¢ in the east, were \$16 in gold country. Eggs could cost \$3 each and milk was just not available.

When most of the fever ended California was a state and agriculture had replaced gold as the major source of income.

Following are the requirements to earn the California Gold Rush Historic 49er Trail patch. As with any Scouting activity, Scout shirts should be a minimum uniform requirement.

1. Visit Columbia State Historic Park and find the answers to the following questions:
  - (a) What sound does a good anvil make?
  - (b) Name given Columbia's first fire engine.
  - (c) Where did the fire engines get their water?
  - (d) How many years was Columbia school used?
  - (e) Why did they have to stop using the school?
2. Visit any two of the following museums and answer the corresponding question. These museums are small, one requires admission, the rest request donations, and all would like advance notice for large groups.

### Amador County Museum

225 Church St., Jackson 209 889-6386

10am-4pm Wed.-Sun., closed Mon. & Tue.

Note: Working scale model of Kennedy mine runs on the half hour on weekends, by appointment weekdays.

- (a) Whose diary documents the discovery of gold at Sutters Mill?

### Calaveras County Historical Complex

Historic Main St., San Andreas 209 754-1058

10am-4pm daily

- (b) What infamous criminal was jailed here?

### Angels Camp Museum

753 S. Main St., Angels Camp 209 736-2963

10am-4pm daily Mar.-Nov.

10am-4pm weekends Jan.-Feb., (closed Dec.)

Entry fee reduced to 50¢/ea. for Scouts.

Note: Includes working scale model of Carson Hill stamp mill and many horse buggies.

- (c) How many stamps are in the model of the Carson Hill mine?

### Tuolumne Co. Museum and History Center

158 W. Bradford Ave., Sonora 209 532-1317

10am-4pm Sun.-Fri., 10am-3:30pm Saturday

- (d) What's the nickname for extremely high grade ore?

### Northern Mariposa County Museum

10301 Hiway 49, Coulterville 209 878-3015

10am-4pm Wed.-Sun., Mon. & Tue. By appt.

- (e) What was the claim to fame of the rail line used by Whistling Billy?

### Mariposa Museum and History Center

5119 Jesse St. Mariposa 209 966-2924

10am-4:30pm daily Mar.-Oct.

10am-4pm weekends Nov.-Feb., (closed Jan.)

Note: A full size working stamp mill is on display. If you want to see it work, advance reservations and \$30 are required.

- (f) Name the process of using mercury to capture extremely fine gold.

3. Historic markers are located on roadsides, in parks or on buildings. They document cities, some long gone, historical buildings, and gold rush personalities. Read 5 and list their titles.
4. Name the 2 main methods of mining gold.
5. Do one hour of service at Columbia SHP, a museum you visit or somewhere in the Mother Lode (this should be prearranged).
6. Camp at least one night in the Mother Lode. (Cub Scouts can skip this requirement)