
MIDDLE MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE HIKES



Image Adopted from Thompson & West History of Sutter County 1879

2026-2027 FALL/WINTER

President's Message

BY GREG PAYNE

“Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes advances the understanding of the natural and cultural features of the Sutter Buttes through interactive educational activities for school children and the public.” That is our mission statement. It has been our direction since our guided hikes in the Sutter Buttes began almost 50 years ago. (For a brief history of MMIH, please see: [About Us](#) on our webpage).



miles into the Buttes on an unpaved road. As they step off the bus, you can see and hear their excitement. They learn about the native people who visited the Sutter Buttes and made mortar cups in the rocks for pounding acorns, the early settlers that came later and built the many miles of rock walls, the plants and the animals that are found in the Buttes, and the geologic history of this field of small volcanoes. Once these children have hiked here, we hope they learn how special the Buttes are and how we need to protect this natural resource.

When you go on a hike in the Sutter Buttes, we are not just offering a hike on a trail, a hike to the top of a mountain, or a hike through an oak woodland looking for birds or wildflowers. Our hikes are more than that. When you hike with us, we want you to learn about this tiny mountain range. We want you to get to know the Sutter Buttes: to know its history, how they were formed, what animals and plants can be found in the Sutter Buttes. We want you to know why the Sutter Buttes have been and are such a special place to so many different people: the Indigenous people who frequented the Buttes thousands of years ago, the early settlers of the 1800's, and the people who visit now.

On our hikes, whether it is a hike for school children or the public, we may stop and look at some andesite or rhyolite and talk about the geology of the Sutter Buttes. On a hike in spring, we may come across a plant with long wavy leaves, and you will learn about how the Indigenous people used the root of this plant to make a brush or help catch fish. That is why the word “interpretive” is part of our name.

Introducing the Sutter Buttes to our children is very important to us. We have an Education Program which offers field trips for 3rd and 4th grade classes. For some students, it is their first opportunity to be in nature, surrounded by trees and volcanic rocks and being able to listen to the sounds of birds like acorn woodpeckers and valley quail. They arrive on their school bus after traveling three

We want the general public to have the same opportunity as the students to hike and learn about the Sutter Buttes. On our weekend and charter hikes we try to include the same topics while still focusing on the reason for the hike whether it is a climb to the top of North Butte or a bird hike. It seems like on every hike there is at least one person who says, “I’ve been driving past the Sutter Buttes for many years on the highway, and I’ve always been curious about them and wondered what was here.” We try to satisfy that curiosity and educate as well. All the details about these hikes, our hike schedule, and how to sign up for them can be found on our website or elsewhere in this newsletter.

To sign-up for Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes E-Newsletters, please visit the MMIH website at: <https://middlemountainhikes.org>.

The Mission of Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes

Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes advances the understanding of the natural and cultural features of the Sutter Buttes through interactive educational activities for schoolchildren and the public.

Donations are welcome at MMIH, a 501c(3) non-profit organization. To donate send check to PO Box 3613, Yuba City, CA 95992-3613

Who We Are

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Inquiries may be directed to:

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Email:

contact@middlesmountainhikes.org

Phone/Text: 530-370-4777

Website:

<https://middlesmountainhikes.org/>

MMIH General Information

Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes provides access to privately owned ranch land of the Sutter Buttes.

Our guides share their knowledge regarding the origins and history of the Buttes hiking terrain. As a group you examine together the natural ecosystems and habitats of this small mountain range. The different territories of the Buttes provide a wide variety of hiking experiences.

MMIH offers a definitive guideline/chart of "One Boot to Six Boot" hike ratings pertaining to physical fitness (ability/agility levels) to help all hikers succeed with individually selected hike(s). This hike guideline/chart was specifically established by MMIH to assist hikers with choosing compatible hikes. (Our "Hike-Boot Ratings" chart is included in this newsletter and on the MMIH website).

All of our outings are educational/interpretive hikes. Note, the same hikes/outing are not offered every season. A typical day begins at 8:00 a.m. for hike meet and greet sessions and ends about 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated. Scheduled hikes usually proceed in all but the most severe of weather conditions.

All hike participants should be prepared for uneven footing, stepping over rocks and boulders, crossing streams, and hill climbing. Fall hikers are likely to encounter and contend with thistles and stickers. Spring hikers are likely to encounter wet, squishy, and ankle-deep grass. Poison oak is abundant, but you will be warned of proximity. Mosquitos are often present.

Smoking/vaping is not allowed on the Sutter Buttes privately owned properties. We do not hike on the Buttes working ranches in the summer because of serious threats of rattlesnakes and fire danger.

Rattlesnakes, though common in the warmer weather, are usually reclusive and inactive during our hiking seasons of fall/winter (combined) and spring.

Some hikes are acceptable for children, but most are not. There are no hikes appropriate for babies or toddlers. Hikes rated 3 or 4 Boot may be suitable for children 12 or older, but it depends on the child and hike. Please inform the Hike Coordinator if you are considering making a hike reservation which includes children.

Open Hikes are limited to approximately 20 unless otherwise stated. The hikes range from \$45 to \$55 per person. To sign up/register for open hikes, email: hike@middlesmountainhikes.org; or text/phone 530-370-4777 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Charter Hikes cost \$400 for up to 10 hikers and \$40 for each additional hiker, with maximum of 20. To arrange a charter (private/custom) hike, email charters@middlesmountainhikes.org or text/phone 530-301-7371 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The fall-hiking season is usually posted in early October (with hikes to begin in late October or early November), and the spring-hiking season is usually posted in early February (with hikes to begin in late February or early March). All hike information is available on the MMIH website at: middlesmountainhikes.org. For the seasonal hike schedule, updates/announcements, please subscribe to Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes e-Newsletters. Follow Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/sutterbutteshikes/>



Like Us on Facebook!



Education Program Notes

WRITTEN BY: EDUCATION HIKE COORDINATOR ~ KATHLEEN PAYNE



Photo by Greg Payne

Last school year we hiked with approximately 1,300 students, mainly 3rd & 4th graders. One class we hiked with stood out to us, and I'd like to tell you why. The students arrived as usual on a yellow school bus and joined our Trail 3 group. I asked the students "what do you call your teacher at school?" In unison, they announce the teacher's name to us. In response, I tell them, "For today we will call your teacher Golden Eagle, and they like to eat about 5 ground squirrels every day!" "Ugg..." they respond, the typical student crowd answer! From there, we hand out the students' nature name tags, and they start introducing themselves to one another. (Name tags i.e. Andesite, Rhyolite, Obsidian, Coyote, Fox, Blue Oak, etc.) These students were very patient while waiting, and I received many "thank yous" when I handed each of them a name tag lanyard to wear.

Next, we went over the field trip guidelines before heading out to hike for a few hours. Off we went, and immediately I noticed they were so cooperative, following our verbal instructions. We stopped to teach a

bit of geology and said to them, "this will be a fun day; you guys are very cooperative". Immediately one young boy raised his hand with his index finger extended. We thought nothing of it because of the smiles on their faces. Later we made another comment about their wonderful behavior and cooperation in following instructions. A couple of students raised up 2 fingers, like a "peace sign". Again, we thought nothing of it and kept on hiking, enjoying this large group of 4th graders.

While teaching about galls and how they are formed, the students were very attentive and engaged with us. Understanding galls is very complex, and this group of students was extremely interested. Before we headed off to lunch, we again made a simple comment, and immediately several hands went up with 3 fingers raised! We looked at the teacher, perplexed, and she said, "well, let me explain. We are working on giving and receiving compliments, and after 25 unsolicited compliments, we get a class party." That explained it! With our additional compliments from the day's field trip, a

class party was certainly forthcoming. Now that we were in the know, we paid closer attention. We noticed it wasn't just the compliments; it was the attitude of the students. They were very kind to one another, very cooperative and engaged. They seemed to love learning about nature and simply being kind while having fun! The entire day spent with this very amiable class left us feeling like we had 27 new friends, 4th grade size. They loved hiking with us, and we loved teaching them about nature.

Third graders bond quickly and are engaged, but we often need to work harder to keep the attention of 4th graders. This 4th grade group warmed our hearts. We saw the effects of teaching children to intentionally and meaningfully compliment another person. It helps them step out of their own comfort zone and embrace others with acceptance and kindness. What a concept; let me tell you, it works! I invite everyone to try it sometime. We have and with great success!

HIKE REGISTRATION

Online hike registration is simple and allows you to know immediately if you are able to join a hike; pay for your event, and receive a confirmation that contains a link to all of the hike details including meet-up time and place. Quicker and more straightforward than our previous systems.

We look forward to seeing you in the Sutter Buttes in the Fall/Winter Season of 2026-27! As always, thank you for joining us and supporting our efforts in education and natural history.

Some things to remember for this registration process:

- Payments in the new process are processed through PayPal, but you do not need a PayPal account – only a credit/debit card!
 - **VERY IMPORTANT** – You will receive 2 emails following your registration – both have a link to all your hike's details and meet-up information! If you don't receive the emails, please contact us.
1. On the home page, click on the center button - Sign-up for Hikes Here or click on Hiking the Sutter Buttes in the left menu (on your phone – the menu is at the top right).
 2. Navigate down the Hiking the Sutter Buttes page to Hike Registration Process.
 3. Follow the directions within the process – paying special attention to the Hike Events Boot Rating information. It is up to you to select a hike that is appropriate to your/your group's abilities.
 4. Select the Hike Event for which you would like to register, and click the Register Here button either on the schedule list or in the pop-out of the hike description.
 5. When you click the Register Here button, you will be taken to an external site to complete your registration and pay for your hike. The site is secure and used successfully by many organizations.
 6. You will complete basic information and add up to 5 additional hikers in one registration.
 7. There is a list of hikes on the next section – be sure to select your specific date and hike.
 8. Once you have selected your hike, you will need to enter contact information for yourself and any other hikers (or duplicate your own contact information for them).
 9. Next, you will review the liability release and hike policies and begin your payment.
 10. Payments are processed through PayPal; use your PayPal account or a credit/debit card to complete your order.
 11. Receive two emails confirming your registration – one confirms payment, the other your registration. Check your junk/spam folders if you don't receive them.
 12. If you have any issues, email hikes@middlemountainhikes.org.



Maps name the captivating 1.6 million-years old volcanic peaks as the “Sutter Buttes.” Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes offers homage to the indigenous name of the spiritually vital “Mountains in the Middle” rising dramatically from the center of the Sacramento Valley. Views from afar inspire closer visits through a 60-minute drive, 45-mile bike ride, or a memorable hike within the Buttes 10-mile-wide range.

Open-Hikes Schedule & Hike Descriptions

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION AT: MIDDLEMOUNTAINHIKES

Detailed hike and payment information emailed upon reservation. Unless otherwise specified in the following hike descriptions, the cost is \$45/per person; meet and greet time is at 8:00am with a 3:00pm ending time. Each hike is limited to approximately 20 registrants unless otherwise noted. All hikers are to carry a backpack containing: lunch, snacks, and water (for a day's hike). Wear hiking boots or strong/ tough/ sturdy shoes with good tread (no tennis shoes/sneakers)!

Note: Hiking/walking sticks are a great idea for all participants and are highly recommended!

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN

Dean Place 2 Boots 3 miles Mostly trails, one gradual climb, various haunted encounters

Experience the myths and characters that make up the haunted history of the Sutter Buttes. This is a moonlit walk and not for the faint of heart or those under 12. **Note: Please bring a flashlight or headlamp. DATE Saturday 10/24. Time 3:30- 9:00pm.**

GEOLOGY

Dean Place 4 Boots 5 miles 1000 feet elevation gain Various climbs, few trails, some sidehill walking, some very steep climbs

Learn about the exciting volcanic origins of the Sutter Buttes, with Volcanologist, Dr. Brian Hausback. Hiking the varied terrain of the Dean Place, he teaches us about the Buttes 1.6 million years of geological history with great technical knowledge and humor. **Note: Hiking boots are required for this hike and poles are recommended. Date: Saturday, 11/7.**

BROCKMAN RANCH ROAD RAMBLER

Brockman Canyon 3-4 Boots 4.5 miles 1300 foot elevation gain. Mostly on dirt road, uneven walking, hiking sticks a good idea.

Come amble and ramble along the ranch roads of the Brockman Ranch. We start on the south side of the Buttes and slowly work our way to a saddle between the peaks, allowing us to cross over to the north side. Enjoy nearly 360 degree vistas - a special Buttes moment. The trail descends and then climbs again to a different saddle and returns to south-facing hillsides. Because we will travel ranch roads, the footing, while still uneven, is less so than our typical animal trails. There is considerable elevation gain and loss on this hike but plenty of stops to explore and examine your surroundings. **Date: Saturday, 11/7 and 2/20.**

BROCKMAN CHALLENGE

Brockman Canyon 5 Boots 6 miles 1500 foot elevation gain Steep sustained climbing, mostly trails, some sidehills

Prepare for a strenuous hike with a steep ascent between the tallest ridge tops of the Brockman Ranch. The trail is narrow and traverses a precipitous incline with an elevation gain of 1,000 feet. At the hike's midway point, enjoy views deep

into the core of the Buttes as well as from mountain range to mountain range across the valley. **Note: Hiking boots are required for this hike and poles are recommended. Ridges can be windy. Date: Sunday, 11/8. ** Limited to approximately 15 hikers.**

SHAEFFER RANCH VALLEY

(new) 2 Boots 2-3 miles Little to no elevation gain, mostly trails

Join Ty Shaeffer on a gentle walk around the beautiful valley of his family ranch. This part of the ranch looks south into the heart of the Sutter Buttes and is framed by the East and West Ridges of the property. There will be little to no elevation gain on this walk, and it is a relaxed way to see the interior of the Buttes and experience the ranch through the eyes of a 6th generation landowner. **Note: While this is mostly on trails, nothing in the Sutter Buttes is completely smooth or level – if you enjoy your walking sticks, do bring them. Date: Sunday 11/8.**

SWAN FESTIVAL EVENTS

Join the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust for a weekend of wildlife viewing. Get outside and experience the wonders of the Sutter Buttes region with up to 16 guided tours that offer rich opportunities for wildlife viewing, nature walks, and scenic exploration. Go to California Swan Festival for more information and sign-ups. **Dates: Friday- Sunday 11/13-15.**

SPIRIT OF CONNECTION

2-3 Boots 3-4 miles Minor climbs some sidehill, slow walk, some trails

Take a walk on our sacred lands and feel the precious connection we have with all living things. This is a quiet and contemplative day and a unique perspective on the Middle Mountain. **Date: Saturday 11/14.**

NATURE IN THE BUTTES

Shaeffer Ranch 3 Boots 3-5 miles No trails, rolling hills, some sidehill walking

Learn about the exciting diversity of plants and animals found in the Sutter Buttes and examine the fascinating adaptations that allow them to survive. Plan to study nature and learn about the natural world in a beautiful outdoor setting. A nice optional bonus is to visit nearby Cordi Winery after the walk. **Date: Saturday 11/21.**

NORTH BUTTE SUMMIT

Dean Place 5 Boots 4 miles 1000 foot elevation gain Steep sustained climb but well-paced with sharp up and downhill sections. No true trails.

The Summit Ascent on the Dean Place is one of our most challenging treks. This route is a steep 1,000-foot push straight up North Butte. It is off trail and has no easy switchbacks. Hikers must be in extremely good physical condition and not suffer from vertigo. The views from the top of 1873 feet are spectacular and worth the effort! **Note: Hiking boots are required for this event; poles are strongly recommended. Bring gloves and be prepared to descend on your behind in some places. Dates: Sunday 11/22, 12/6 and 2/7. Saturday 1/2. ** Limited to approximately 15 hikers.**

SHAEFFER RANCH WEST RIDGE

Shaeffer Ranch 3-4 Boots 4-5 miles Elevation gain varies, no extreme climbs, sidehill and rocky in areas. Hiking poles recommended for some sections.

This hike gives you a wonderful exploration of the western side of the Shaeffer Family Ranch, a historical Sutter Buttes property belonging to the same family since the 1860s. Depending on visibility, the hike may include views of North Butte, Peace Valley, and the old Titan Missile Site. Both Mount Lassen and Mount Shasta are often seen in the distance on clear days. As you reach the edges of the ridge, there are some rockier slopes with lovely views – and great chances for bird spotting in the brush and along the rock walls. **Dates: Saturday 12/5 and 1/16.**

TRES PICOS

Dean Place 6 Boots 6 miles Few trails, steep climbs/descents, rocky with sidehills.

Our Tres Picos adventure on the Dean Place is for serious hikers able and willing to hike, climb, and summit the rugged, challenging, and daunting three peaks: North Butte, Old Man, and Pigeon Peak. Hikers must be in excellent physical condition. **Note: Hiking boots are required for this event; poles are strongly recommended. Bring a good supply of snacks and water. Date: Saturday 12/5. Time 7:00-5:00pm. ** Limited to approximately 15 hikers. Cost: \$55.**

DEAN PLACE EXPLORATION

Dean Place 3 Boots 4-5 miles 1000 feet maximum elevation gain Gentle pace, no groomed trails, some sidehill walking, hiking sticks a good idea.

Join your guide for an entertaining and educational hike at the Dean Place, exploring California ecology and the natural history of the Sutter Buttes. Learn about what makes the Golden State and this region so special. This guided hike is designed as an immersive learning experience, with frequent hikes to observe and discuss the plants, animals, geology, and cultural history that makes this landscape so unique. We will take our time as we move through the ranch, allowing space for curiosity, questions, and close observation.

Date: Sunday 12/6.

LOLLYPOP RIDGE LOOP

Brockman Canyon 5 Boots 6 miles 1500 foot elevation gain. Steep sustained climbing, mostly trails, some sidehills

Climb into the heart of the Sutter Buttes on this moderately strenuous hike through canyon, ridge, and rugged mountain terrain. We'll work our way up the canyon and tackle a steep climb to the ridge top, where we'll stop for lunch with spectacular views into the bypass and, on a clear day, all the way to Mount Lassen and Mount Shasta. From there, we'll follow a narrow and steep traverse before making a short, rocky descent back towards the trailhead parking lot. The scenery is rewarding, but this is a challenging hike. Expect some steep ascents and descents, a narrow trail, rocky and uneven footing, and exposed terrain. Participants should be comfortable hiking on steep, rugged trails and come prepared with sturdy footwear and plenty of water. **Note: Hiking boots are required for this event; poles are strongly recommended. Ridges can be windy. Date: Sunday 12/13.**

BROKEN TEACUP RIDGE

Dean Place 4-5 Boots 5-7 miles 1400 foot elevation gain Very few trails and some sidehill walking

Walk around the Dean Place - close to the ridgelines! Join your guide for a longer ridge hike and find yourself climbing at least four of our good hills. Don't be intimidated! This hike will go at a pace that encourages all hikers to join. It is definitely not a race to the top, but a chance to explore parts of the ranch that we seldom visit in one outing. We will start this hike earlier and allow more time to complete the route. Be prepared for a whole day in the hills with views in every direction. **Note: Hiking boots are required for this outing and hiking poles are a very good idea. Bring lots of water and plenty of snacks for this longer day. Date: Saturday, 12/19. Start time 7:30am.**

SHAEFFER RANCH EAST RIDGE

Shaeffer Ranch Boots 3-5 miles Gradual elevation gains, no improved trails, some sidehill

Hikers will explore the historical Shaeffer Ranch belonging to the family since the 1860s. This hike provides inland views of North Butte and Peace Valley, and weather permitting, Mount Lassen and Mount Shasta will be seen towards the northern horizon. Walk through blue oak woodlands and see rock walls that date back to just after the Gold Rush. Gently rolling hills and gradual climbs make for a great day in the Buttes without extremes. **Dates: Sunday 12/20 and 2/21.**

BIRDS IN THE BUTTES

Dean Place 3 Boots approx. 3-4 miles Minimal elevation change, mostly level, some trails, 1-2 gradual climbs.

Come share the uncommon opportunity to bird in the Sutter Buttes. You will explore various habitats on the Dean Place while looking for both resident and migrating birds with the opportunity for photography or use of a scope (if you bring your equipment). Please note, this is a slow, mostly level hike, that does not cover the range of territory of other hikes nor the depth of interpretation. It truly is a bird watching day. Beginning birders welcome! **Note: Be prepared to move slowly. Bring binoculars: cameras and scopes also welcome. Date: Sunday, 12/20. Time 7:30am-2:30pm.**

OLD MAN & THE ENCHANTED FOREST

(new) 4 Boots 4-5 miles approx. 1000-1200 foot elevation gain Variety of climbs, no groomed trails, some sidehill walking, hiking poles recommended

Explore the interior of the Sutter Buttes and see a side of the Dean Place not always included on other hikes. This hike combines varied terrain, changing landscapes, and spectacular views near one of the Buttes' summits. The route climbs through diverse habitats and offers opportunities to experience the unique flora and geology of this remarkable landscape. On clear days, we'll enjoy sweeping views across the Sacramento Valley, with the Sacramento skyline and Mount Diablo visible to the south. Along the way, we'll explore some of the more secluded and surprising corners of the Buttes, where shady woodlands and tucked-away landscapes create a distinctly different experience. **Note: This hike includes several climbs and varied terrain and off-trail hiking. Hiking boots are required, and hiking poles are highly encouraged. Date: Saturday 1/9.**

BROCKMAN WESTWARD ROLLER

Brockman Canyon 2 Boots 4-5 miles 500 foot elevation gain Mostly on dirt road, uneven walking, hiking poles are a good idea for the downhill

We'll get our hearts pumping with an initial climb uphill that smooths out into a rolling traverse along old ranch roads. The climb will reward us with picturesque views for the rest of this mostly out and back hike. This is a good alternative for a shorter hike with less climbing on this working cattle ranch. It is in full sun, so please plan accordingly. **Date: Sunday 1/17. Start time 9:00am.**

DEAN PLACE RIDGE

Dean Place 3-4 Boots approx. 5 miles Elevation gain varies, few trails

Enjoy a glorious day hiking the Dean Place. This hike affords views of the interior of the Buttes, neighboring peaks, and off across the valley – sometimes with Mount Lassen and Mount Shasta in the distance. Terrain is highly varied with some climbs and few trails. Varied microclimates offer differing flora and in springtime, the wildflowers can be spectacular. Learn about the history of this working cattle ranch while exploring the interior of the Sutter Buttes. **Note: Hiking boots are required for this hike and hiking poles can be useful. Date: Saturday 2/6.**

MOONLIGHT STROLL

Dean Place 2-3 Boots 3-4 miles 1-2 gentle climbs, uneven ground, some trails

Experience the change from daylight to evening on the Dean Place. Witness the sights, smells, and sounds of the encroaching night during a comfortable evening walk. Watch the moon rise and hike by its light as you walk among the shadowy oaks and wander the rolling hillsides. **Note: Hiking poles are good in the dark if balance is a concern. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Group may split into two smaller hikes depending on participants and guides. Date: Saturday 2/20. Time 2:00- 9:00pm.**



HIKE CANCELLATION POLICY

- **Cancellations Up To Two Week (14 days) Prior to Hike Date:** Refund of hike payment, less processing fee of \$5, or certificate (voucher) for a comparable-cost future hike to be applied with reservation within one year of issuance.

- **Cancellations Between Less Than Two Weeks and 72 Hours Prior to Hike Date:** Certificate for a comparable-cost future hike to be applied with reservation within one year of issuance.

- **Cancellations Within 72 Hours of Hike Date:** No refund or hike certificate issued.

HIKE/EVENT BOOT RATINGS

Hike/Event Boot Ratings are a guideline for helping you to choose an outing that matches your physical fitness/ability levels. Distance and elevation gain are dependent on the outing, the property, and the guide.

1 Boot = Easy: One to three miles and less than 300 feet elevation gain/loss.

2 Boot = Moderate: Two to five miles and generally less than 600 feet elevation gain/loss.

3 Boot = Moderately Challenging: Four to seven miles with the possibility of multiple elevation gains/losses of 600-800 feet.

4 Boot = Difficult: Four to seven miles and elevation gains/losses likely in excess of 800 feet.

5 Boot = Strenuous: Four to eight miles with multiple and/or significant elevation gains/losses in excess of 1,000+ feet.

6 Boot = Extreme: Five to fourteen miles with multiple and significant elevation gains/losses in excess of 1,000+ feet (miles determined by outing and weather).

2026-2027 FALL/WINTER SEASON HIKE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	HIKE NAME	RANCH	BOOT
10/24/2026	SATURDAY	HAUNTED HALLOWEEN	DEAN PLACE	2
11/7/2026	SATURDAY	GEOLOGY	DEAN PLACE	4
11/7/2026	SATURDAY	BROCKMAN RANCH ROAD RAMBLER	BROCKMAN CANYON	3-4
11/8/2026	SUNDAY	BROCKMAN CHALLENGE	BROCKMAN CANYON	5
11/8/2026	SUNDAY	SHAEFFER RANCH VALLEY	SHAEFFER RANCH	2
11/13/2026	FRIDAY	SWAN FESTIVAL EVENTS	GRAY LODGE	Varies
11/14/2026	SATURDAY	SWAN FESTIVAL EVENTS	SHAEFFER RANCH	Varies
11/14/2026	SATURDAY	SPIRIT OF CONNECTION	DEAN PLACE	2-3
11/15/2026	SUNDAY	SWAN FESTIVAL EVENTS	DEAN PLACE	Varies
11/21/2026	SATURDAY	NATURE IN THE BUTTES	SHAEFFER RANCH	3
11/22/2026	SUNDAY	NORTH BUTTE SUMMIT *	DEAN PLACE	5
12/5/2026	SATURDAY	SHAEFFER RANCH WEST RIDGE	SHAEFFER RANCH	3
12/5/2026	SATURDAY	TRES PICOS *	DEAN PLACE	6
12/6/2026	SUNDAY	DEAN PLACE EXPLORATION	DEAN PLACE	4
12/6/2026	SUNDAY	NORTH BUTTE SUMMIT *	DEAN PLACE	5
12/13/2026	SUNDAY	LOLLYPOP RIDGE LOOP	BROCKMAN CANYON	5
12/19/2026	SATURDAY	BROCKEN TEACUP RIDGE	DEAN PLACE	4
12/20/2026	SUNDAY	SHAEFFER RANCH EAST RIDGE	SHAEFFER RANCH	3-4
12/20/2026	SUNDAY	BIRDS IN THE BUTTES	DEAN PLACE	2-3
1/2/2027	SATURDAY	NORTH BUTTE SUMMIT *	DEAN PLACE	5
1/9/2027	SATURDAY	OLD MAN & THE ENCHANTED FOREST	DEAN PLACE	4
1/16/2027	SATURDAY	SHAEFFER RANCH WEST RIDGE	SHAEFFER RANCH	3-4
1/17/2027	SUNDAY	BROCKMAN WESTWARD ROLLER	BROCKMAN CANYON	3-4
2/6/2027	SATURDAY	DEAN PLACE RIDGE	DEAN PLACE	3-4
2/7/2027	SUNDAY	NORTH BUTTE SUMMIT *	DEAN PLACE	5
2/20/2027	SATURDAY	BROCKMAN RANCH ROAD RAMBLER	BROCKMAN CANYON	3-4
2/21/2027	SUNDAY	SHAEFFER RANCH EAST RIDGE	SHAEFFER RANCH	3-4

NOTE: *\$55 hike. All other open hikes listed are \$45.

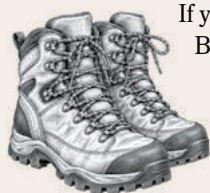
The approximate number of hikers (per hike) = 20. Summit & Tres Picos Hikes = 15.

The California Swan Festival is a Sutter Butte Regional Land Trust event.



What are you wearing on your feet?

Hikers – Look down!!!



If you join us for a Summit hike, Brockman Challenge, Ridin' Fence, Tres Picos or any other 4+ boot hike, we are requesting you wear boots or sturdy hiking shoes. Our guides for these hikes flatly say that 10 out of 10 hikers who wear wimpy footwear struggle on these routes. While all hikers are asked to wear boots or sturdy hiking shoes, those on the most challenging hikes must have solid footwear. Soft-soled running shoes are miserable to hike in, even if you walk in them daily. Open-toed sandals aren't appropriate for the terrain. Our hikes in the Sutter Buttes are not on smoothly groomed trails - level ground is rough and rocky, not just the hill climbs. We want you to have traction and stability as you move among rocks and up and down the slopes. Some routes remain slippery all year due to the texture of the terrain. Please plan for your own safety and to help make sure the day is good for everyone out with you. The Sutter Buttes may or may not be the Smallest Mountain Range in the world, but they are not the gentlest. Thank you!



Photo by Jonathan Beth

CALIFORNIA SWAN FESTIVAL

November 12-15, 2026

JOIN SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST FOR A WEEKEND OF WILDLIFE VIEWING ACROSS THE YUBA-SUTTER REGION!

What is the Swan Festival?

Get outside and experience the wonders of the Yuba-Sutter region with up to 16 guided tours that offer rich opportunities for wildlife viewing, nature walks, and scenic exploration.

Discover native flora and fauna, observe birds and other wildlife in their natural habitat, hike through the sacred Sutter Buttes volcanic range, and visit working farms.

All tours and hikes led by experienced and passionate local guides!

www.caswanfestival.com
(530) 755-3568



Join Us for the Kick-Off Party!

Friday, November 13, 2026
4:30 PM at Munger Family Vineyards

Join us for an evening of local food, wine, and connection with fellow conservation-minded community members—plus a silent auction, optional guided nature walk before the event, and a special cultural presentation by the Nisenan Tribe of Nevada City.

Sponsored by:

Kingsbury Inc., Sharon McCray, AgWest Financial, Sky Light Renewable Energy, The Kings Accountant, Montna Farms, Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes, TOR Broadcasting, Central Valley Joint Venture, River Valley Community Bank, California Rice Commission, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Sacramento Audubon, Cordi Winery, California State Parks

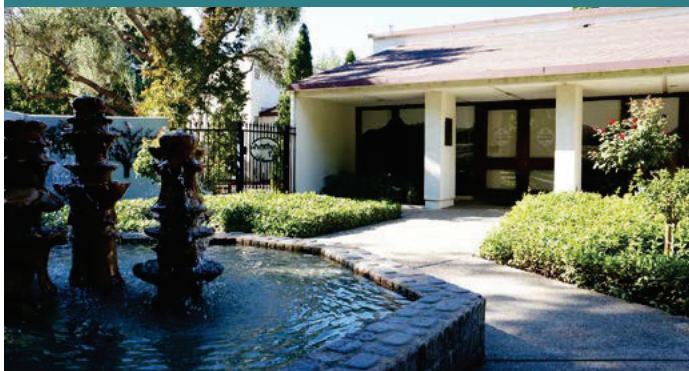
MMIH Gift Certificates are a great gift idea for hikers and nature enthusiasts!

TO SIGN-UP FOR MIDDLE MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE HIKES

E-NEWSLETTERS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

MIDDLEMOUNTAINHIKES.ORG

SUTTER COUNTY MUSEUM



Admission to the Sutter County Museum is free! Donations are welcome. To receive announcements about upcoming programs and events, register for the Museum's monthly e-Newsletter at www.suttercountymuseum.org.

Like & Follow the Sutter County Museum on Facebook & Instagram!

Contact Us

Thank you for reaching out to Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes! You may contact us:

- On our website: <https://middlemountainhikes.org>.
- By mail: PO Box 3613, Yuba City, CA 95992-3613
- MMIH Board President: president@middlemountainhikes.org
- Hope Spencer Open Hikes Coordinator: hike@middlemountainhikes.org or 530-370-4777
- Laura Lush, Charter Hikes Coordinator: charters@middlemountainhikes.org
- Margit Sands, Hike Program Director: allhikes@middlemountainhikes.org
- Greg & Kathleen Payne, Education Program Coordinators: education@middlemountainhikes.org

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For Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust information, contact SBRLT at: PO Box 3359, Yuba City, CA 95992-3359; Phone 530-755-3568; info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org; or sutterbutteslandtrust.org.