

SAS Mariposa Archaeological Field Trip

October 17-19, 2025

Eleven SAS members participated in the Mariposa Archaeological Field Trip. It began in Mariposa with a visit to the old courthouse. Court is still conducted in second story of the old building. Next the group visited the location of Southern Sierra Miwok Village. They were honored to have Ron Good, an elder of the Mono tribe speak about the area. They explored several granite outcroppings containing pounding rocks that were used in the processing of



Miwok village site with pounding rocks

acorns. Four participants hiked through brush and over boulders along a stream to arrive at a cabin that was used by the occupant of the property until it was abandoned and is now in disrepair.



Mariposa court house

The highlight of next day was a guided tour of the Mariposa Museum. The gold rush was the main feature of this museum. The past came alive through the demonstration of the stamp mill and panning for gold. Finding gold specks was a highlight for several of the members. Visiting the cemetery and old downtown capped the mining experience in Mariposa. Two of the attendees visited Wassama Round House State Park and observed the Miwok round house and mortars.



Stamp Mill



Panning for gold

The next day the group traveled to another mining town, Coulterville. In route they stopped at Bear Valley, overlooked tailings of the Pine Tree Mine and stopped by the Merced River overlooking the Bagby ghost town. Coulterville's history as a mining town was brought to life through a guided tour of the Coulterville museum and a self-guided tour of the downtown and Chinatown. A few of the group ended the tour in Hornitos and viewed the ruins of Ghirardelli's plant dating back to the 1860's.

We thank Denise Ruzicka for organizing the amazing tour.



Pine Tree Mine tailings



Ruins of Bagby on Merced River



Coulterville museum



Coulterville main street