Dear friends,

We invite you to join us at this year's Fort Ross Festival scheduled for July 26, 2014. While international politics have steered us towards holding a more old-school event - we won't have a big stage this year - we offer a wonderful day of activities and music, and our first-ever international food bazaar and beer garden. The park is looking fantastic right now with new ADA trails, a well-tended historic orchard (thank you Renova Fort Ross Foundation!) and of course the replica windmill and fur warehouse. Please bring your friends and family out to enjoy a day in the fresh air. Let us celebrate Fort Ross’ long history that exemplifies how diverse people can and should live together.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer season,

Sarah Sweedler
Fort Ross Conservancy President & CEO
sarahs@fortross.org

Saturday, July 26: Fort Ross Festival
10 am - 6:30 pm

Come celebrate the international flavors and cultures at Fort Ross Festival 2014. This year's event will highlight the Kashaya, Russian, Alaska Native, and California ranch era people who have called Fort Ross home over the centuries. We'll offer costumed historical vignettes, hands-on crafts, militia cannon firings, music & dance from numerous cultures, an international food court – and our first-ever beer garden!
12pm - 5pm Beer garden, where we'll be pouring local beers from Lagunitas, Anchor Brewing and North Coast Brewing Company. We'll also offer kvass and Sonoma's own hard cider.

Food vendors: BBQ Smoke House, Ultra Crepes, Raymond's Bakery, Nimble & Finn's Ice Cream and Juice Runners

The day offers plenty of family-friendly activities:

- Clip-clop down old Highway One on a traditional horse and carriage with Stone Horse Carriage
- Try your hand at historic crafts like basket-making, rope making, felting, spinning
- Enjoy the live farm animals
- Welcome the visiting Alaska drummers Sngagim Axasniikangin, dream dancers in Unangam Tunuu (Aleut Language), and watch them demonstrate their drum-making skills
- Hear the Kashia describing their language and use of native plants
- Watch Russian House Kedry perform traditional song and Russian crafts.

Fort Ross Festival 2014 will be a one day event with all performances in and around the compound.

$20 per car (includes $8 State Parks fee).
Food and drink purchased separately.

Questions? Email us at info@fortross.org, call us at 707/847-3437, or check out our website at www.fortross.org. If you'd like to volunteer at the festival, email us - four hours of volunteering gets you free admission to the event.

California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact (707) 847-3437.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Fort Ross Conservancy and California State Parks at Fort Ross would like to build connections with local artisans and craft persons. We invite you to demonstrate your craft expertise during our various events at Fort Ross State Historic Park.

If you volunteer as a crafts demonstrator or any other capacity for a total of 24 hours within a calendar year, you can receive for the next calendar year a California State Parks pass that provides free day-use entry to many Sonoma and Mendocino County California State Parks.
Fort Ross holds two big celebrations each year, Fort Ross Festival on July 26, 2014, and Harvest Festival on October 18, 2014. On these days visitors from the extended Bay Area and from places as far as Alaska, Washington, DC and across Russia come to Fort Ross to celebrate the diverse culture and history of this early California settlement, with Alaska Native, Kashaya Pomo, Coast Miwok, and the Russian presence. These events include historic re-enactments, international musicians, & hands-on crafts, all set within the 19th century Russian settlement. We also have smaller events throughout the year where we could always use an enthusiastic helping hand! Our events calendar is at www.fortross.org/events.htm.

We need volunteers to help us bring the day to life through historic reenactments, historic crafts, logistics (if you would prefer not to be in costume), bookshop assistance, event support, and many things in between. It’s a great crowd of people and we all enjoy learning and working together.

Some of the volunteer positions for the fort compound we are hoping to find are: Candle makers, basket makers, blacksmith, tinsmith, weavers, felters, knappers, animal care, and traditional woodworkers, but we are open to hearing about any craft expertise you can share. For certain crafts a materials stipend may be available. Please contact Robin Joy Wellman, CSP interp at robinjoy.wellman@parks.ca.gov or call 707-847-4777 for questions and/or to sign up.

To volunteer as an non-costumed 'Event Volunteer' with ticket sales at the entrance, bookshop assistance, or work in our first-ever Beer Garden and international food bazaar, please contact Special Events Manager Sondra Hunter at sondrah@fortross.org or call 707-847-3437 for more information.

Volunteers keep our parks thriving. We’d be grateful to see you at Fort Ross in 2014.

Sincerely,

Sondra Hunter - Special Events Manager - Fort Ross Conservancy
Robin Joy Wellman - State Park Interpreter - California State Parks