

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



TEACHER'S WORKSHOP

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22, 2005; 9 a.m-5 p.m.

BLACK DIAMOND MINES REGIONAL PRESERVE

SPONSORED BY

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT AND

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

To celebrate National Earth Science Week 2005, NCGS and the Educators Academy of the East Bay Regional Park District, are co hosting a very special day for teachers at Black Diamond Mines near Antioch. From the early 1860s to about 1904, the Mount Diablo coalfield was the site of a flourishing coal mining operation. Five major towns emerged in the coalfield and for a time formed the major population center of Contra Costa County. Over 4 million tons of coal were mined in this area and provided a major source of fuel to the emerging industrial facilities of Bay region and beyond. The increasing costs of mining and the importation of coal from other places led to a rapid decline of the mining operations. Although the towns were abandoned, the records of life in the mining towns are preserved in the historic Rose Hill Cemetery over looking the town site of Somersville. Exotic trees mark the former home sites and waste piles and tunnels indicate the site of the old mines. Later, from the 1920s to the 1940s, the area was mined again, this time for silica sand for glass making by the Hazel Atlas Glass Company of Oakland. The Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve was set aside to protect this area rich in Geology and mining history and it is a popular place for school field trips.

The day will begin at 9 a.m. with an orientation and slide presentation in the underground theatre in order to introduce the teachers to the Geology and cultural history. This will be followed by an underground mine tour through a portion of the Hazel Atlas Mine led by geologists from NCGS and naturalists of the East Bay Regional parks. A barbecue lunch will be provided to participants by the NCGS. The lunch will be followed by a walk through the Somersville townsite and a visit to the Rose Hill Cemetery where teachers will learn about the way of life for the families who lived in the mining towns. Participants will receive a teacher's guide and other materials that will be useful in bringing class groups to the park.

The cost of the field course (Course 9369) is \$49 (Alameda/Contra Costa County residents, \$51 non-resident. 1 academic unit is available (add \$49). *The NCGS will provide a \$15 subsidy to each teacher the morning of October 22, 2005.*

***Call** (510) 636-1684 between 8:30a.m. and 4p.m., Monday through Friday. Have the course numbers and your credit card ready.

***Download, complete, and mail or fax** the [enrollment form](#) (31k Adobe Acrobat PDF, 1 page, 8.5 x 11 inches). Fax to (510) 635-5502.

Mail to:

Educators Academy
Reservations Department
East Bay Regional Park District
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