

# Fort Ross Conservancy - *What We Do*

**Fort Ross Conservancy** is a 501(c)(3) and California Cooperating Association that supports Fort Ross State Historic Park and Salt Point Park in Western Sonoma County, California.

## Events

With support from our sponsors, FRC organizes numerous annual events to help promote Fort Ross and engage with our wider community. Many of these events are attended by visitors from around the globe. Please contact us if your organization would like to donate or sponsor an event.

**May:** We support **Alaska Native Day** to educate the public about the skilled Alaska Native population that worked at Fort Ross, and to acknowledge the important sacrifices that the Alaska Natives made during the Russian era.



**June:** We assist the Kashia Pomo Indians in organizing Kashia Day. FRC has deep admiration for the Kashia, the First People who lived on these lands for centuries, and we strive to support their modern-day presence at Metini (Fort Ross). FRC has also helped the Kashia organize and fund a multi-city tour of Russia.



**July:** We organize **Fort Ross Festival**, a family-friendly affair that brings well over a thousand people to our park for a cross-cultural day of historic crafts, entertainment, and food. The Russian, Kashia Pomo Indian,



and Alaska Native communities participate. This family-friendly event includes a Russian-style windmill demonstration, Kashia dance, hands-on Russian and Alaska Native crafts, historic reenactments, and more.

**October:** We celebrate the abundance of the season at **Harvest Festival**, starting with a morning of apple picking in the historic orchard, and followed by fabulous wine tasting from the Fort Ross-Seaview Wine Growers, seasonal food, and entertainment.



**October:** Fort Ross' history as a peaceful 19th century settlement provides a positive and symbolic backdrop for shared US-Russia relations, and Fort Ross Conservancy strives to continue that tradition by organizing **Fort Ross Dialogue**, an independent forum where Americans and Russians meet in a constructive atmosphere to encourage conversation and collaboration.

**Fort Ross Dialogue Overview  
2016 program**

**Year-round:** FRC organizes smaller lectures and hand-on events throughout the year. We have organized Plein Air and Seafood Foraging workshops, lectures series related to the cultural and natural history of the area, and more.

## Education

FRC manages two educational programs for youth.

Our **Marine Ecology Program** is a citizen science, environmental educational and monitoring program for teachers, middle school and high school students, and parents. Our MEP was developed to complement our Marine Mammal Monitoring program in which participants collect data for our specific



section of coast marine wildlife, and track changes in populations of the marine mammals. This program offers hands-on activities that allow students to build skills in scientific observation, data collection, and scientific analysis.

**Environmental Living Program** is an overnight experience for 4th through 6th grade children that teaches the cultural history of the Russian settlement through role-playing and problem solving. Each student and chaperone spends several intense weeks ahead of their visit taking on a persona of someone who lived at Colony Ross during the Russian era. Each student comes to the park dressed as his or her character and then spends 24+ hours living life in the historic compound where they cook, gather, stand guard, sleep, and otherwise work together as a colony.



## Preservation

Through grants and donations, FRC fundraises to preserve the historic buildings at Fort Ross. We have successfully funded efforts to preserve the **replica windmill**, the ranch-era **Call House Museum**, the **Rotchev House** (a National Landmark structure built by the last manager of Fort Ross), the water well in the historic compound, and many



other projects. We have also funded and coordinated the preservation and restoration of the **Historic Fort Ross Orchard**.

## Administration

FRC manages and staffs two Visitor Centers, runs the Fort Ross Bookshop, oversees the firewood fund, coordinates our very-important volunteers, handles all social media and tourism outreach, and manages the **www.fortross.org** website. Contact FRC CEO Sarah Sweedler at **sarahs@fortross.org** for more information.