



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lewis and Clark
National Historic Trail

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Lewis and Clark Trail News Release

For immediate release

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Corps of Discovery II on Lewis and Clark Trail with Umatilla

(Pendleton, OR) – As they had so often along the journey, the Lewis and Clark Expedition 200 years ago found local hospitality key to continuing what was now their return to the United States. From April 29 through May 7, Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future, will enjoy the hospitality of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla at Tamastsiht Cultural Institute and continue the commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

In the spring of 1806 as Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark brought their expedition upstream along the Columbia River. They met Walla Walla chief Yelleppit who urged his own people to share food and fuel with the travelers. He also traded Clark a beautiful white horse for the captain's sword.

But the most valuable item imparted to the crew during their few days among the Walla Walla and neighboring Yakama was information: news of an overland short cut that saved Lewis and Clark an 80-mile struggle from the Columbia up the Snake River back to the Clearwater River and their horses being kept by the Nez Perce.

Stories of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla will be highlighted at Corps of Discovery II when the nation's only mobile national park sets up at Tamastsiht Cultural Institute near the Wildhorse Resort just outside Pendleton. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission to Corps II is free.

Corps of Discovery II is not a celebration, rather a commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, said Betty Boyko, Assistant Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. "Corps II is an opportunity for people to hear many sides of the Lewis and Clark story.

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“This opportunity especially includes stories from a Native American perspective. These are stories of the impacts and consequences of westward U.S. expansion that followed Lewis and Clark and stories about the future of these and all Americans,” Boyko said.

Corps of Discovery II is a multi-station exhibit designed to get visitors involved in the Lewis and Clark story and show what life along the Trail was like before, during and after Lewis and Clark passed through. Corps II has a walk-through tent to provide an overview of the original 1803-06 journey. It contains maps, artwork, graphics and an audio program to describe the route across the continent, encounters between cultures, even details like what a soldier’s uniform looked like 200 years ago.

Corps of Discovery II has a replica keelboat, about two-thirds the size of the original watercraft Lewis and Clark had in their first year of the tour, from St. Louis to Fort Mandan. The exhibit has a 16-foot diameter Plains Indian lodge, or tipi, and an explorer campsite and 28-foot ponderosa pine dugout canoe. Steve Morehouse of the Bureau of Reclamation hosts visitors at the explorer camp. He does fire-starting demonstrations, shows tools and weapons of the early 1800s, often cooks corn meal mush and an occasional beaver tail for sampling.

The Tent of Many Voices is the heart of Corps II, said Kevin Crisler, manager of the exhibit. The nine-day venue reads like a Who’s Who of Lewis and Clark Bicentennial historians, tribal elders, musicians and storytellers. While at Tamastlikt, Corps II presenters include Tamastlikt Cultural Institute director Bobbie Conner, Rod Ariwite, Hasan Davis, Daniel Slosberg, Ritchie Doyle, Jack Gladstone, Alanna Nanegos, Cheryl and Gene Shippentower, Gary Lentz, Robert Miller, Jim Dillman, Jenny Barnett, Arleen Adams, Tom Bailor and Stuart Harris, along with National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers interpretive rangers.

Tamastlikt is the 82nd stop on the Corps of Discovery nationwide tour. More than 450,000 people have visited Corps II along the Lewis and Clark Trail between Monticello and the Pacific Ocean. The tour concludes this fall in St. Louis, 200 years to the date Lewis and Clark returned.

The Tent of Many Voices schedule is available online at www.lewisclarkandbeyond.com and is also available at Corps of Discovery II.

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