



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Lewis and Clark Trail News Release

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Corps of Discovery II opens 2006 tour in St. Helens, OR

(St. Helens, OR) – The original Corps of Volunteers for Northwestern Discovery spent most of March 1806 in final preparation for their return to the United States. Those final days at Fort Clatsop meant wind, rain, hail and snow, making moccasins, the never-ending search for food and one of the low points of the journey, the theft of a Clatsop canoe.

These and other stories of the Lewis and Clark Expedition unfold at Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future on the waterfront at Cowlitz and Strand in St, Helens March 13-20.

Led by the National Park Service, Corps of Discovery II will be on the St. Helens riverfront to join the regional “Campfires and Canoes” bicentennial commemoration where additional waterfront activities are planned with a gala dinner, vendor booths and school tours.

“The first three years of Corps of Discovery II have been packed with adventure but there is more awaiting us as we make the return trip to St. Louis,” said Betty Boyko, Assistant Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Corps of Discovery II. “Our line up of speakers in the Tent of Many Voices, new ranger program and meeting new visitors to Corps II really illustrates what lies ahead for the final leg of our journey across America.”

Admission to Corps II is free. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

The Tent of Many Voices is a spotlight for Bicentennial commemorative programs. The big tent seats up to 165 people in its winter configuration. Corps of Discovery II also has a walk-through exhibit that gives visitors an overview of the 1803-06 expedition.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Programs in the Tent of Many Voices bring to life more than 200 years of history and culture of people living along the Lewis and Clark Trail before, during and after the 1803-06 expedition.

In St. Helen's, Corps II speakers include Lewis and Marilyn Malatare of Toppenish, WA, award-winning storyteller Ed Edmo who is from Warm Springs, Oregon and Shoshone-Bannock. Roger Wendlick of Portland portrays George Druoillard, the lead hunter of the expedition and visitors will hear from Ray Gardner, vice president of the Chinook Nation and longtime educator Cliff Snyder of the Chinook Nation. Amy Mossett of Bismarck, N.D., will be interpreting Sacagawea, local historian R.J. Brown will share stories of expedition member George Shannon, Mike Iyall of the Cowlitz Nation will bring stories of Cowlitz history and culture. There are programs on the rebuilding of Fort Clatsop and much, much more.

Corps II also has a two-thirds size keelboat where visitors can sample what life was like for the crew during the journey from St. Louis to Fort Mandan and return. The 16-foot diameter Plains Indian lodge or tipi is another interpretive station where NPS rangers give programs about life along the trail. Corps II has an explorer camp where park ranger Steve Morehouse of the Bureau of Reclamation demonstrates skills Expedition members brought to or learned while on the 1803-06 journey. Morehouse has a 25-foot dugout canoe that has been in the water at points along the entire Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

The Tent of Many Voices schedule is available online at www.lewisandclarkgnet.com and www.nps.gov/lecl and at Corps II.

Corps II is led by and largely funded by the National Park Service but it involves more than two dozen federal agencies, 41 Indian nations, 18 Lewis and Clark Trail State Commissions, dozens of state and local agencies, non-profit groups and thousands of individual volunteers.

The exhibit is on a four-year tour of the United States that began in January 2003 at Monticello, the home of President Jefferson. More than 425,000 people have visited Corps II in 75 cities near and along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Editors: for photos and video tape call Jeff Olson 402-689-7431 or email jeffrey_olson@nps.gov

For further information about Corps II and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial please visit us at www.nps.gov/lecl or www.lewisandclark200.org or www.lewisandclark200.gov