



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lewis and Clark National
Historical Park

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Lewis and Clark National Historical Park News Release

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Public Invited To Help Make History: Help To Prepare The Final Logs For Fort Clatsop Fort Walls Are Taking Shape Meyer Memorial Trust Provides Grant For Special Educational Programming Information and Educational Programming Starts This Weekend

This weekend the weather outside may be frightful. But in the main arena of the Clatsop County Fairgrounds the sight will be delightful. Thanks to the help of over 260 volunteers and skilled workers from the National Park Service the walls of the new Fort Clatsop are taking shape. This weekend volunteers are needed to help prepare the last 50 logs that will be used in the construction of the new Fort Clatsop exhibit.

“This weekend is a great chance for parents, grandparents and kids to come out and be a part of rebuilding Fort Clatsop.” said Chip Jenkins, Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. “People can come and work for 20 minutes or two hours, as short or as long as they like. We just want people to feel a part of the fort rebuild.”

To help connect people to the rebuilding of Fort Clatsop the National Park Service has partnered with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and Meyer Memorial Trust. A generous grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust in Portland enabled the SCA to deploy a three-person intern team to the park to coordinate public education and involvement efforts in the rebuilding of the fort. The intern team will be on site for six months, its members hail from Portland, Maryland, and Massachusetts. Crew members are available for interviews.

This weekend the SCA interns will be offering the first of ongoing education and information programs talking about the history, design and techniques used in building Fort Clatsop. These will be:

Saturday, Sunday and Monday (January 14, 15, &16)

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Main Arena of the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

“We hope that people will come out to see the work that is going on, take pictures, ask questions and watch history in the making.” Said Jenkins. “You do not have to work on the logs to visit the fort construction site. And, with the help of the SCA Interns we do hope that you have fun.”

The Student Conservation Association is a national organization dedicated to serving youth, the land, and community through hands-on conservation service. SCA programs foster youth leadership, inspires lifelong stewardship and citizenship, and enhances outdoor-related benefits to communities.

Work on fitting the logs together to create the walls of the new fort is proceeding on schedule. The walls of the enlisted men’s quarters are now head high and work on this structure should be completed by the end of January. Work has also begun on the officer’s quarters and should be completed by the end of February. Once each structure is completed the walls will be disassembled and trucked to a plant to be treated with preservatives. Once the treatment is completed the logs will be trucked to the Fort Clatsop unit of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and they will be assembled to build the new Fort. The walls are expected to be assembled in time for the Return Home commemoration scheduled for the weekend of March 23rd. The public will be able to come to the park, see the fort and watch the onsite construction. The fort exhibit is expected to host ranger lead programs for the peak summer season.

People are invited out to the Clatsop County Fairgrounds to see the construction underway, talk with park staff and help with the work.

The Clatsop County Fairgrounds are located approximately 4 miles south of Astoria on Hwy 202. From Hwy 101 roundabout on the west end of Astoria take Hwy 202 south. Follow the signs to the Fairgrounds.

If you have a group that you would like to bring to work on the fort reconstruction people should contact the Fort Rebuild Project Manager, Pete Field, at (503) 861-4402 to schedule a time and work out logistics. Volunteers are also needed to help with the interpretation and answering questions. If people are interested in helping to volunteer either at the Fairgrounds or at the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center to help with public information please contact the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Volunteer Coordinator, Sally Freeman at (503) 861-4424.