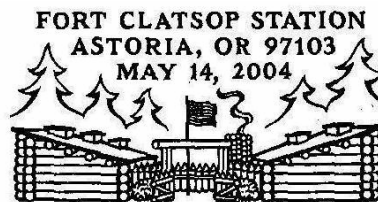
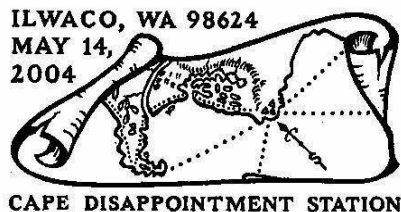


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Cape Disappointment & Fort Clatsop to host May 14 dedication ceremonies
LEWIS AND CLARK BEGIN NEW JOURNEY ON USPS COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

WASHINGTON – Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the leaders of the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark expedition, will begin a new journey May 14 when the U.S. Postal Service issues three commemorative postage stamps honoring each adventurer and their joint command to map and explore the lands west of the Mississippi.

Cape Disappointment State Park in Ilwaco, WA, and Fort Clatsop National Memorial in Astoria, OR, are among the 11 sites along the route of the Lewis & Clark expedition that will host Friday, May 14, Official First Day of Issue ceremonies for the stamps. (The other nine event locations are listed below.) The events are free and open to the public.

The Cape Disappointment event will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the Fort Clatsop ceremony at noon, as announced today by Ilwaco Postmaster Karen Harrell and Astoria Postmaster Kevin Romeyn. Complimentary bus transportation between the two locations and from designated parking in Astoria to Fort Clatsop will be available on May 14; details on the transit plans will be provided in coming weeks.

“We are thrilled to be among the 11 locations along the Lewis & Clark trail where these beautiful stamps will be unveiled and sold for the first time on May 14th,” said Harrell.

“These historic stamp dedication events are a once-in-a-lifetime chance,” added Romeyn, “for the residents of our area -- as well as the many visitors we know will join us on May 14th -- to witness a First Day of Issue ceremony for not just one U.S. postage stamp, but three.”

Official First Day of Issue postmarks -- sought after by stamp collectors and history buffs -- will be available at both ceremonies. In addition, a pictorial postmark celebrating Cape Disappointment and Fort Clatsop’s part in Lewis & Clark’s journey has been created for each event by retired U.S. Mint sculptor/engraver Thomas Rogers of Long Beach, WA. (Rogers’ postmark artwork is reproduced above.)

The stamps commemorating the bicentennial of the Corps of Discovery will be available nationwide on May 15th.

May 14 marks the bicentennial of what became known as the Corps of Discovery – an expedition from the mouth of the Missouri River near St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean and back. President Thomas Jefferson instructed Lewis and Clark to follow the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, and locate, if it existed, the elusive Northwest Passage.

“The Lewis and Clark expedition was a daring effort to chart the new territory of the United States – the Louisiana Purchase,” said Patrick R. Donahoe, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, U.S. Postal Service, who will dedicate the stamps in Hartford, IL. “And it is today one of America’s greatest stories of adventure. The Postal Service takes great pride in sharing the often-epic, often-inspiring history of our great land, through postage stamps.”

To commemorate the bicentennial of the official launch of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the U.S. Postal Service will issue three 37-cent self-adhesive stamps. One stamp features an image of the two valiant leaders of the expedition standing on a promontory surveying the countryside, available in a pane of twenty stamps. The two additional stamps feature individual portraits of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark painted by Michael J. Deas in a style reminiscent of early 19th-century portraits of the two explorers. Ten each of these stamp portraits are included in a special 32-page prestige booklet entitled “Lewis & Clark: The Corps of Discovery, 1804-1806,” available for \$8.95. In addition to the stamps, the booklet contains informative text, historic illustrations and scenic photographs. Ron Fisher, a Lewis & Clark enthusiast who visited many of the expedition’s sites and first wrote about the Corps of Discovery in 1970, wrote the text.

To see all three of the Lewis & Clark stamps and other images from the 2004 Commemorative Stamp Program, visit the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop and click on “Release Schedule” in the Collector’s Corner.

IDAHO – 11 a.m.
Pink House Recreation Site
4815 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544

IOWA – 11 a.m.
Southern Hills Mall
Center Court
4400 Sergeant Rd.
Sioux City, IA 51106

MISSOURI – 11 a.m.
Frontier Park
Lewis and Clark Monument
1000 Riverside Dr.
St Charles, MO 63301

NEBRASKA – 10 a.m.
Lewis and Clark Landing
375 N 6th St.
Omaha, NE 68102

OREGON – Noon
Fort Clatsop National Memorial
92343 Fort Clatsop Rd.
Astoria, OR 97103

WASHINGTON – 9 a.m.
Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center
Cape Disappointment State Park
Ilwaco, WA 98624

ILLINOIS – 10 a.m.
Camp River Dubois
Festival Grounds
Number One Lewis and Clark Trail
Hartford, IL 62048

KANSAS – 10 a.m.
Atchison Riverfront Park
1st & Commercial St.
Atchison, KS 66002

MONTANA – 11 a.m.
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
Interpretive Center
4201 Giant Springs Rd.
Great Falls, MT 59405

NORTH DAKOTA – 1:30 p.m.
Fort Mandan
2 miles west of the
ND Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center
Highway 83 & 200A
Washburn, ND 58577

SOUTH DAKOTA – 11 a.m.
SD Capitol Building Rotunda
500 E Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501