

April 2, 2004

Teachers Eligible for Wallowa Workshop On Lewis and Clark among Northwest Indians

Scholarships to attend a unique multicultural workshop July 18-22, 2004 are available, thanks to grants received by Joseph School District. Focus is on lessons learned by Lewis & Clark and the native peoples they met 200 years ago that still apply to students today. Workshop presenters include tribal elders sharing traditional knowledge and regional teachers who have used these ideas at various grade levels.

Joseph School District, in partnership with area tribes, the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and the United Methodist camp at Wallowa Lake, will determine eligibility for the awards. Curriculum developed in the workshop will reinforce state standards in reading, math, social studies, and science. Participants will be encouraged to share their skills with faculty back home and will receive resources for classroom use. Two graduate credits from Portland State University are available for an additional charge.

The 5-day event is designed so teachers can bring their families for a vacation at Wallowa Lake near Joseph, Oregon with its outstanding cultural and recreational opportunities. A traditional pow wow that attracts tribes from the Northwest opens the workshop July 18. Low cost meals, lodging and camp participation fees are available for families as well as discounts at area attractions. The camp is located in the heart of the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area. Horseback riding, brass foundries, museums, boating and other tourism options make the Wallowas a premier family destination.

The workshop runs in tandem with the popular Hallowed Ground Camp offered at the United Methodist Wallowa Lake Camp since 1999. This multicultural program involves families from the Nez Perce, Yakama and Umatilla tribes together with non-Indian families from the Northwest to learn lifeways that have been passed down for centuries. Children and adults explore how native values and historical information are transmitted through language, games, crafts, music, storytelling, social activities, spiritual practices food preparation and other traditions. The experience includes a salmon bake prepared by tribal members. Much of the teacher workshop time is spent learning these same skills and exploring with other teachers how to build lessons for use with students back home

Grant funds used to support teacher participation in this workshop were awarded by the Oregon Heritage Commission through the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial in Oregon (LCBO) and the Wildhorse Foundation, charitable arm of the Wildhorse Resort and Casino and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is now underway with the 200th anniversary of the Corps of Discovery's encounters with Northwest tribes coming during school year 2005-2006.

Teachers will review the Expedition's experience in the Northwest and how to incorporate a variety of perspectives about its purposes and legacies.

For more information on the camp facilities, family costs and the Hallowed Ground program at Wallowa, go to www.gocamping.org or call Geneva Cook, 800-593-7539. Teachers interested in applying for a workshop scholarship should email Rhonda Shirley, Principal, Joseph Elementary School, rshirley@joseph.k12.or.us, or Larry McClure, Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, mcclurel@nwrel.org For information on Lewis & Clark Bicentennial activities in Oregon, go to www.lcbo.org

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For further information on the workshop, contact Larry McClure at 503-692-5489
mcclurel@nwrel.org

For information on LCBO and the Oregon Heritage Commission's Lewis & Clark initiative, contact Barbara Allen, execdir@lcbo.org

For information on the Wildhorse Foundation, go to www.wildhorseresort.com