

Washington State Chapter Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail* _____

* Optional. This will be included on the membership roster for e-newsletters and other chapter activity information.

Dues are \$15 per year. See back for more information about chapter membership and chapter contacts.

Who Are We?

The Washington State Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is one of more than 30 chapters seeking to stimulate public interest in the 1803-1806 journey of the Corps of Discovery.

The contributions to human and natural history made by expedition members are of great importance to Washington and our nation. Our chapter is an educational, non-profit group supporting public knowledge and awareness of the lasting heritage of the Lewis and Clark Trail within Washington and the Pacific Northwest.

Does exploring the Lewis and Clark Trail and learning about the Corps of Discovery sound like fun? If you are interested in any aspect of the expedition, or generally interested in history, join us!

Lewis and Clark: The Nation's Explorers

In May, 1804, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark set out from Camp DuBois on the Mississippi River with a company of men (and later one woman, Sacagawea), collectively known as the Corps of Volunteers for Northwest Discovery. The Pacific Ocean was their ultimate destination.

President Thomas Jefferson instructed the captains to keep journals detailing their day-to-day activities; the plants, animals, and geographical features they saw; and descriptions of the native peoples with whom they came into contact. These journals, kept by the captains and several of the enlisted men, are priceless for their detailed documentation of the watersheds of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers – areas then mostly unknown to Euro-Americans. These journals also make compelling human-interest reading. The hardships endured and obstacles overcome seem almost unbelievable to us today.



Lewis and Clark in Washington State

On October 10, 1805, the expedition entered today's Washington State at present-day Clarkston. They paddled down the Snake River to reach one of the major goals of the journey, the Columbia River. At this confluence, near today's Pasco, they spent several days creating maps, taking celestial readings and establishing relations with the local Native people.

Knowing they were getting closer to their ultimate goal – the Pacific Ocean – they paddled quickly down “*the great Columbia river.*” The Corps noted astounding numbers of salmon as well as the abrupt change in climate zones from the dry Columbia River basin east of the Cascade Mountains, to the lush forests west of the mountains. Indians along the river watched in amazement as the Corps dared to shoot the rapids of the mighty river.

Finally, on November 7, 1805, William Clark wrote: “*Ocean in view! O. the joy!*” The joy was short-lived, however, as the wet, exhausted explorers struggled to reach a suitable site for the last camp of their westward journey, a place known as “*Station Camp.*” From there, about half the men walked the last few miles to explore the beaches of the Pacific Ocean. They had finally reached their ultimate goal.

Soon, it was time to find a location for their winter encampment. As a superb example of the captains' fairness, they conferred with all the members of the group to determine where the party should spend the winter. This poll at Station Camp included Clark's black servant, York, and the young Indian wife of Charbonneau, Sacagawea. The weary Corps chose to build its fort on the south side of the Columbia River, near present-day Astoria, Oregon.

In March, 1806, the expedition began making its way back up the Columbia River on its return to the United States. Six months later, the men arrived in St. Louis to a hero's welcome – they had long ago been given up for dead. This small group of explorers had completed one of the most amazing expeditions in our county's history, exceeding even President Jefferson's expectations.

Why Are We Chapter Members?

Our members become involved for many different reasons. Most are simply interested in history, and some are scholars and historians studying the Corps. Still others are interested primarily in an aspect of the expedition, such as geography, weaponry, wilderness survival skills, flora and fauna, and interactions with Native Americans. And everyone enjoys the camaraderie! The appeal of Lewis and Clark spans all ages and interests. Our Chapter welcomes anyone who shares the desire to learn more about this national story.



Chapter Activities

The Washington State Chapter is one of many across the country that make up the Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail Foundation. Each chapter is governed by bylaws that require a minimum of four meetings per year. For our first meeting of each year (held at the Washington State Historical Society Museum in Tacoma) we gather to complete necessary chapter business and enjoy a program about some aspect of the expedition. A summer meeting is usually held at the Foundation's annual meeting. Spring and fall gatherings are held at different locations along the trail in the Pacific Northwest, often in coordination with the Oregon and/or Idaho chapters. These two meetings usually include activities such as hikes, tours, boat trips and campouts. All meetings are enjoyable, informative and thought-provoking. You are invited to join us.

For more information about the Chapter, the National Foundation, or Lewis and Clark history,
See our Web Site:
<http://wa.lcthf.org>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Washington State Chapter:
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Chapter membership dues are \$15.00 yearly for any person, family, firm, association, or corporation. Please make checks payable to Washington State Chapter, LCTHF.



THE WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

