

GREAT FALLS PORTAGE COMMORATIVE AWARD PATCH

PORTAGE ROUTE CHAPTER

LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

“The mission of the LCTHF is: As Keepers of the Story – Stewards of the Trail, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. provides national leadership in maintaining the integrity of the Trail and its story through stewardship, scholarship, education, partnership and cultural inclusiveness.”

The Portage Route Chapter supports this mission in the area of the Missouri River in and around Great Falls, Montana.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Boy Scouts of America and the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation was signed on August 6, 2007. The purpose of this memorandum was to establish a general framework for cooperation between the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., and the Boy Scouts of America. Through this MOU the Foundation and BSA will collaborate on projects and programs that interpret the stories of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and provide stewardship of the Lewis and Clark national Historic Trail.

The Lewis and Clark Trail also is an auto route with distinctive road signs that follows the water route taken by the Corps of Discovery, mostly along the Missouri River. In Montana, the Portage Route follows the trail of the expedition from the area of Lower Portage Camp westward to the White Bear Islands and Upper Portage Camp.

The Portage Route Chapter wants to inspire the Boy Scouts to learn more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition by offering an embroidered patch. By way of an agreement with the Montana Council, BSA, this patch can be earned by Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Explorers and Venture Scouts. Requirements to earn this patch follow and should be completed with certification by the scout leader. An application form is attached.

Requirements

To earn this patch you must complete the following:

You must complete ONE of the following Requirements: #1 or #2 or #3

You must also complete Requirement # 4

You must also complete at least four (4) of Requirements #5 through #20

Learn about two Lewis and Clark historic sites in the Great Falls area, keeping a journal in which you write what you learned about their locations, the dates that Lewis and Clark visited that site, what you think about the events that happened there. Record in your journal the any other observations. What significant events, in your opinion, happened at the site?

1. Visit a library or the internet and learn about the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls, MT. Learn about Giant Springs, the large natural spring discovered by Lewis and Clark. Find information on the Great Falls, Rainbow Falls, Colter Falls, Crooked Falls and Black Eagle Falls. Review Captain Lewis' comments on each of these sites. Research Lewis' Grizzly Bear encounter. Review Lewis's predicament and note your thoughts in your journal.

2. Learn about their portage from their Lower Portage Camp below Belt (Portage) Creek all the way to White Bear Island. Discover the significance of Portage Creek. See if you can identify the area on the west side of the creek 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles upstream from the mouth of the creek where they took the dugout canoes out on the bank to dry. Record your feelings about how difficult it would be to move a 2 or 3-thousand pound cottonwood dugout up the hill to the open prairie. What can you find out about the terrain and how it would influence the men's route as they transported the loads across the prairie. Can you locate their upper portage camp at White Bear Island. Why do you think they named it White bear Island? Can you tell how long they maintained this camp. Did they camp here again in 1806?

3. Learn about the Great Falls of the Missouri at Ryan Dam by visiting a library or the internet. Read Lewis' journal entry for June 13, 1805 and try to visualize his discovery of the falls. Learn about Lewis's stay at the Great Falls of the Missouri. What was his impression of the Falls? Learn about the Sulfur Springs that was near their lower portage campsite. What was the significance of the spring. Whose life was saved by its water? See if you can locate the physical site of the spring. Use the internet to gain information on these areas. Google Earth has an interesting offering to help you visit these sites.

There are a lot of publications, books, pamphlets available at schools and libraries as well as a wealth of information on the internet. The entire set of Lewis and Clark Journals is available at <http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/>

4. Maintain a journal of your Lewis and Clark experiences much the way the early explorers did. This will give you as well as others a valuable reference when reflecting back on your experiences. This journal will also help validate the requirements for this

badge as it provides a written record of your accomplishments that you can share with your adult leaders and Scout officials. Be sure you record in your journal what you have seen and learned.

5. What was the biggest challenge faced by the Corps of Discovery in completing the portage of the falls? Do you think it was the steep terrain, lack of having horses to pull the loads, lack of a good trail to follow, weather, or other influences?
6. What were some of the biggest adverse impacts faced by the expedition during their stay in the Great Falls area. Was it wildlife such as buffalo, wolves and grizzly bears? Was it the weather? What do you think the biggest challenges were? Why?
7. Give an overall assessment of the 33 days spent in the Great Falls area. Tell what was accomplished and what made it easy or difficult. Explain why you feel that way.
8. Relate how the 1805 terrain impacted the expedition during their portage of the falls. Where were the steep areas? What creeks did they have to cross in transporting their baggage and supplies from Lower Portage Camp to White Bear Island.
9. Relate how the weather impacted the expedition during their visit here. Was it hot, cold, windy, rainy, clear, or cloudy? Can you find the temperatures and other weather conditions that were recorded during their visit here?
10. How did local wildlife impact the expedition during the visit? In your opinion, what was the greatest danger faced by the explorer's encounters with wildlife. Was it buffalo, wolves, mountain lions, or bears? What kinds of bears were found here?
11. Tell about how insects impacted the expedition during their visit. In your own opinion, what was the worst insect that the men encountered?
12. Where did the expedition find food in this area? What kinds of food did they bring with them? What kinds of natural food were available in this area?
13. State how water impacted the expedition during their visit. Talk about both the Missouri River water and its impact on progress of the expedition. Also talk about where they found good drinking water. Was there a lot of fresh drinking water along the portage route? Why or why not? Where was good drinking water found along the portage route?
14. Tell about Lewis' iron-framed boat. What was its intended purpose? Who designed it? Where was it built? Can you list the dimensions? What was it covered with? Why did it fail?

15. Did they cache any items here for their return trip? How many caches? Where were they located? What was stored in them? Did they recover the articles on the return trip? Were there any damaged items? What was damaged? What was the cause of the damage?

16. Tell about new discoveries made at this juncture of the expedition. In your opinion, what was the most significant thing the expedition discovered here?

17. What was the long-term impact on the State of Montana concerning wildlife discovered and/or encountered during their visit in the Great Falls area?

18. Tell about life-threatening encounters during their visit here. What do you think was the most dangerous situation the explorers faced? Why?

19. Describe the numbers and kinds of animals noted in the area during their 1805 visit. Did you know that the animals found here would someday be recorded as official animals of the State of Montana? Name them. Also note what different species were found here for the first time and list them.

20. Were the men glad to return to this area in 1806? Why or why not? What did they find here on their return trip that they had missed so greatly on their trip to and from the Pacific coast? In your opinion, list at least two major differences between their 1805 and 1806 visits to this area?

There is an annual Lewis and Clark Festival in Great Falls every summer. It is usually held the weekend of the last Saturday and Sunday in June. You can find information on this event on the internet. Google the information you need. Ask an adult or another knowledgeable person to help you if you need it. Find information on uniforms of the time, military camps, black powder guns, and old time music of fife-and-drum corps. If possible, you should arrange your Troop calendar to include a weekend camping trip to experience outdoor living.

Your journal will become a valuable keepsake of your experiences in regards to the Lewis and Clark Trail. In addition to a journal, you may wish to keep a scrapbook or notebook of materials, informational leaflets, notes and other materials you acquire as reference material for future public presentations. Be willing to share what you have learned with others during the third century of the Legacy of Lewis and Clark. Who knows? You'll most likely be able to enjoy the 250th anniversary of the expedition in the years 2053-2056!

Many of these requirements will fulfill requirements of many merit badges, trail patches, service hours, etc. Be sure to check the merit badge requirement book to see what else you have fulfilled by doing the work for this patch.

The application form for the Portage Route Chapter (Great Falls, MT) embroidered patch is part of this package of information. Please keep a copy of your approved application form you send to the Chapter when ordering the patch.

Geography

Geography plays a very important role in what Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery had to deal with on their route from St. Louis to the Pacific coast. President Jefferson wanted information about the geography of the Louisiana Purchase and whether or not there was a water route to the Pacific Ocean. Natural sciences also were to be studied.

If you look at the terrain the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery traveled between its start to its final destination at the mouth of the Columbia River, they spend time on rivers, plains, mountains and back again to rivers. The variety of terrain covers coastal plains to high mountain passes and everything in between. The geography at Great Falls greatly influenced the change in actions that the Corps of Discovery was faced with in 1805 as they had to transport people, baggage and canoes across miles of prairie, all without the benefit of horses.

In Montana, the Lewis and Clark Trail transitioned from a water route to mountains to plains from 1805 until their return to this area in 1806. Along the Lewis and Clark trail the highways across the state and across the country are marked with emblems showing the silhouettes of the two explorers. In addition, in Great Falls, Montana, the Rivers Edge Trail follows the Missouri River route from Sulfur Springs all the way to the Sun (Medicine) River, a handy hiking trail for Scouts to follow. The trail is paved on both sides of the Missouri River in many areas and there are interpretive signs to help explain the history.

The Great Falls Portage Route Chapter territory lies within the Montana Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and these instructions are aimed at Scouts from the Great Falls area as well as any scout in the country that has the opportunity to visit our region. Do not let distance discourage Scouts from other cities and states from making an effort to earn the Portage Route Chapter embroidered patch. It is available to all who qualify.

Following is some information and websites on the sites of Lewis & Clark in Montana. You can search for Lewis and Clark and find a lot of websites.

Begin by obtaining a copy of the Montana State Highway map. You can find one at this web site that will work very well for you. http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/maps/montana_map.shtml

www.lewisandclark.org The website for the National Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

<http://lewisandclarktrail.com/section3/montana.htm> This website will provide you with a lot of information about Lewis and Clark in Montana.

A very good way to discover Lewis and Clark on the internet is to simply “google” the information you’re looking for. Start out with “Lewis and Clark” and take it from there. You can add state names or place names. You can also list specific events or peoples’ names. The internet offers a huge amount of information.

PORTAGE ROUTE CHAPTER AWARDS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Portage Route Chapter (Great falls, MT)

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

The following Cub Scout/Boy Scout/Varsity Scout/Explorer has completed the following list of requirements and has hereby earned the Portage Route Chapter Recognition Patch

Name: _____ Scout's Rank _____

Unit Number: Pack _____ Troop _____ Crew _____ Post _____

Scout's Address:

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please list which requirements and the date they were completed:

Number 1, 2 or 3 (required for all applicants) Date Completed: _____

Number 4 (required for all applicants) Date Completed: _____

Number _____ Date Completed: _____

Certified by Scout Leader Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: Street: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Please attach copies of the Scout's journal for each requirement or email them (Copies will NOT be returned with the patch). Patches cost \$5.00 each. Price includes shipping/ mailing/handling costs. Make checks payable to: Portage Route Chapter.

Send money and completed forms to:

Portage Route Chapter, LCTHF
PO Box 2424
Great Falls, MT 59403-2424

Questions can be emailed to Don Peterson dpete@bresnan.net

