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# Lewis & Clark Trail News

Bringing the Trail to Life

February 8, 2025

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"At the Yellowstone" Livingston, Montana



*Richard Hunt*  
*Executive Director*  
*Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance*

## TEAM KENTUCKY<sup>®</sup>

I'm happy to announce that we have entered into a partnership with the State of Kentucky Department of Tourism and they have become our first State level financial sponsor for the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience.

Kentucky played a vital role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition, serving as a key recruitment and preparation site. William Clark, who co-led the journey, spent much of his early life in Kentucky, and it was at the Falls of the Ohio near Louisville that he and Meriwether Lewis met to plan the expedition. Many of the Corps of Discovery's most

### Quick Links

[Registration is Open for  
2025 Kansas City Annual  
Gathering](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

[2024 Impact Report](#)

[Photo Contest](#)

[Montana Capitol Tours](#)

[Hatfield Futures Project](#)

[National History Day](#)

[MO River Adventure Camp](#)

skilled members hailed from Kentucky, including Sergeant Charles Floyd, the expedition's only casualty, and York, Clark's enslaved man, the "tenth young man from Kentucky" .

The state also holds significant historic sites tied to the expedition. Big Bone Lick State Historic Site was visited by Lewis in 1803 and Clark in 1807 to collect fossils for President Jefferson. Historic Locust Grove was home to Clark's family and a gathering place for expedition members. The Filson Historical Society preserves expedition records, ensuring Kentucky's contributions to this historic journey remain well remembered.

Join the  
Alliance

Support the  
Alliance



Watch  
[Nez Perce Trail  
Part 1](#)

In the first episode of this archival three part video, Sandra McFarland, now Administrator of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail, takes us on a journey through the incredible history of the Nez Perce Tribe and their interactions with Lewis and Clark.

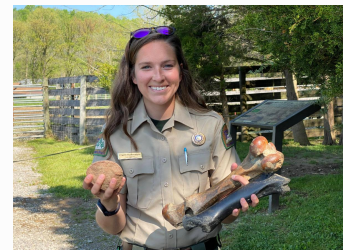
In the fall of 1805, as the Corps of Discovery passed through Nez Perce lands, the Tribe provided essential aid



Watch  
[Rocky Mountain Rendezvous](#)

A rendezvous was a time when fur trappers and Native Americans could exchange verbal notes about the wild countryside they had journeyed through—important information that helped early settlers traveling into the American West.

Dr. Jay H. Buckley, associate professor of history at Brigham Young University, is the author of insightful books about early explorers: William Clark, Indiana Diplomat; By His Own Hand?



Watch  
[Living the Dream](#)

Claire Kolkmeier grew up loving this park and now is living the dream working at the Park Interpreter and Bison Caretaker at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site near Union Kentucky.

Enjoy meeting Claire and learning about her passion for history and interpretation.

to the explorers when they were on the brink of starvation.

The Mysterious Death of Meriwether Lewis; and Zebulon Pike, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West.

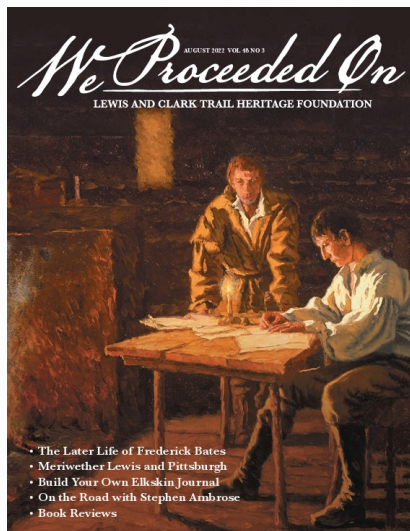


For 50 years, the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance has published *We Proceeded On*—a quarterly journal named after the Captains' habit of concluding many journal entries with this inspiring phrase. Known among LCTA insiders as "WPO," this esteemed publication has become a cherished source of insightful research, compelling stories, and fresh perspectives on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

As an LCTA member, you'll receive each new edition of *We Proceeded On*, connecting you to this legacy of exploration and discovery.

Browse this complimentary previous edition and experience this rich archive for yourself—you may find it's just the inspiration you need to [join](#) and receive the latest issue!

### Read the article ["The Elkskin Journal"](#)



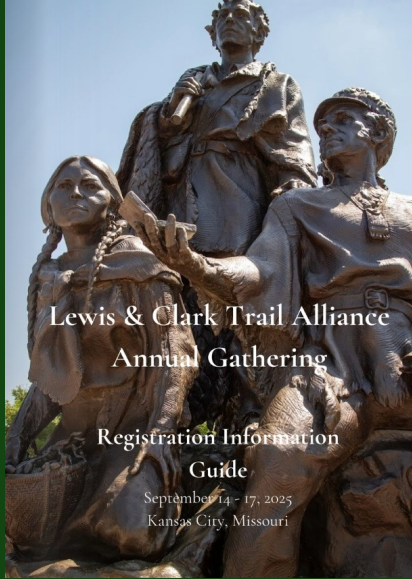
Read the August 2022 Issue  
[We Proceeded On](#)

*As Meriwether Lewis and William Clark journeyed across the American continent, they mapped new terrain, documented wildlife, and recorded encounters with Native American nations in a series of notebooks. Thomas Jefferson's instructions to them were clear: "Your observations are to be taken with great pains & accuracy, to be entered distinctly, & intelligibly for others as well as yourself,... several copies of these, as well as of your other notes, should be made at leisure times, & put into the care of the most trustworthy of your attendants, to guard, by multiplying them, against the accidental losses to which they will be exposed."*



Thinking about Kansas City?





Kansas City is a hub of culture, history, and hospitality, all nestled in the Heart of America. Travel here is easy and convenient with our brand new airport, or enjoy the drive and explore additional sites along the Trail on your way.

We can't wait to welcome you to this special event and get ready to celebrate the enduring legacy of Lewis & Clark with us this September!

[Annual Gathering Registration Guide](#)

## Jefferson River Canoe Trail Acquires New Campsite!



The Jefferson River Chapter has completed acquisition of its newest campsite on the Jefferson River Canoe Trail, a recreational trail along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The 4.43-acre property is a fragment of the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad right-of-way. It is located four miles downstream from Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park, and twenty-six miles upstream from the confluence of the Jefferson and Madison rivers that comprise the beginning of the Missouri River.

This is the third property purchased by the Jefferson River Chapter, and the ninth campsite along the canoe trail, which includes four campsites designated on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands and two campsites on state lands. The new campsite sits only one

mile downstream from the existing Brown Bear campsite on BLM land, making it a duplicate campsite. However, an old channel of the Jefferson River loops around the new property, adding approximately 8 acres of de facto state land around the parcel, including a substantial duck pond.

By walking across the adjacent BNSF Railway spur line to Harrison, used only about twice a year by trains, visitors can access 160 acres of state land, which otherwise has no public access. For the price of four acres, the Jefferson River Chapter has effectively secured 172 acres of public access.

A longtime chapter supporter offered a \$10,000 challenge match, and other chapter members rose to the challenge, completing the match over a two-month time period. Added to a nest egg of funds already in the bank, the chapter was able to finalize the purchase at the end of January.

The chapter will name the site and establish a formal campsite there, including historical signage about the Lewis and Clark Expedition's experiences in the immediate vicinity. The Jefferson River Chapter is seeking to acquire additional properties to provide convenient camping along the entire length of the Jefferson River. Once complete, all properties will be handed off to the BLM or other public entity for long term stewardship. Chapter members are planning a canoe expedition to visit the new campsite this spring.

## Jefferson River Chapter

### New LCTE Trip Inspirations



**Roche Jaune (Yellowstone)**

Check the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience Events page to find additional festivals, programs, and events along your route. On July 3, 1806, after nearly three years of exploration, the Corps of Discovery divided to cover more ground. Clark led his detachment...

**Stops:** 5  
**Travel Distance:** 371.43 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)



**Nebraska**

Embark on an unforgettable journey along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, following the path of the famed Corps of Discovery as they navigated the Missouri River and encountered new landscapes, wildlife, and cultures. Check the Lewis and Clark...

**Stops:** 8  
**Travel Distance:** 191.58 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)




**Pierre to Bismarck**

Check the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience Events page as you plan your visit to find additional festivals, programs, and events along your route. This is another route that deserves additional time. Consider breaking it into two - three days...

**Stops:** 8  
**Travel Distance:** 193.09 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)

### Check out all the Events on the LCTE Calendar




**Youth Wilderness Survival Workshop (Ages 10-16)**

**Date:** March 8, 2025  
**Time:** 12:00 pm  
**Location:** John James Audubon State Park, U.S. 41, Henderson, KY, USA ([View on Map](#))

Would you know what to do if you were lost in the wilderness? Have you made a fire without matches, or built a temporary shelter? Youth ages 10-16 may attend this hands-on survival workshop on Saturday, March 8, from Noon to 3 P.M. Hike-preparedness and basic survival skills will be...

<https://parks.ky.gov/events/youth-wilderness-survival-workshop-ages-10-16-3976>




**Rivers in My Veins:**

**Date:** March 11, 2025  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Location:** Columbia River Maritime Museum, Marine Drive, Astoria, OR, USA ([View on Map](#))

Ford Room at the Columbia River Maritime Museum Kara Briggs is a resident of the Tulalip Reservation and a Sauk-Suiattle citizen and Yakama direct descendant. Her debut book of poetry, Rivers in My Veins, follows her graduation from the Institute of American Indian Art with a Master of Fine Arts....

<https://www.crmnm.org/upcoming-events.html>



**2025 Missouri Conference on History**

**Dates:** March 12, 2025 - March 14, 2025  
**Location:** Adams Pointe Conference Center, Northeast Coronado Drive, Blue Springs, MO, USA ([View on Map](#))

DISCOUNTED EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION open now 2025 Missouri Conference on History March 12-14, 2025 Adams Pointe Conference Center in Blue Springs, Mo. — The sixty-seventh annual Missouri Conference on History welcomes anyone interested or involved in the teaching of history, historical research, historical preservation, or any other professional application of history...

<https://shsmo.org/mch/>

## Grant Opportunities for Alliance Partner Organizations

[Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation](#) - grants where a small amount of money might make a large difference.

[National Endowment for the Humanities](#) - public impact projects at smaller organizations

[Ash Grove Charitable Foundation](#) - primary consideration to capital building and renovation projects

[Northwestern Energy](#) - local museums, libraries, cultural centers

[Dr. Scholl Foundation](#) - civic and cultural

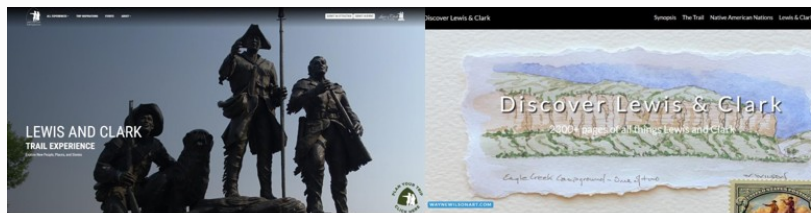
[High Stakes Foundation](#) (Montana only) - vibrant, interconnected communities

[US Forest Service](#) - community wildfire defense grants

[Hopa Mountain](#) - Connecting with our Homelands: for Indigenous organizations and schools

[Oregon Humanities](#) - Public Program Grants

## Our Network of Online Resources



[TRAVEL](#)

[EDUCATION](#)

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[lewisandclark.org](http://lewisandclark.org)



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