

WHO WE ARE

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 matters relating to the 1804-1806 trek of the Corps of Discovery. The contributions to American history made by the expedition members, and events of time and place of the expedition are of historical import to Washington and our nation. We exist as an educational, non-profit group to encourage and support this stimulation and advancement of public knowledge and awareness of the historical, social and cultural significance and heritage of the Lewis and Clark Trail within Washington.

What We Do

Each chapter is governed by bylaws that require a minimum of four meetings per year. One chapter meeting is held during the annual meeting of the National Foundation, somewhere along the Lewis and Clark Trail. The chapter holds its winter meeting at the Washington State Historical Society Museum in Tacoma; other meetings are held at sites along the trail route.

WHY WE DO IT

Our members are here for many different reasons. Some are general history buffs, some are Lewis and Clark aficionados who can quote the journals at will and others are scholars and historians. Still others are interested primarily in an aspect of the expedition: geography, weaponry, wilderness survival skills, flora and fauna, interactions with native Americans, etc. The appeal of Lewis and Clark spans all ages and interests.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Washington State Chapter:

Rob Heacock, Membership Chairman
13908 E. 27th Ct.
Veradale, WA 99037
Phone: (509) 924-4020
e-mail: heacock1@mindspring.com

Web Page:

<http://wa-lcthf.org>

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

Washington State Chapter members should be current members of the National Foundation.

National Foundation:

Lewis and Clark Trail
Heritage Foundation, Inc.
P. O. Box 3434
Great Falls, MT 59403
Web Page:
www.lewisandclark.org

National Foundation dues are \$40 per year for individual, \$55 for family. Membership includes the quarterly magazine *We Proceeded On*. Send Foundation dues to above address.

The WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER



of the
**Lewis and Clark Trail
Heritage Foundation**

Washington State Chapter – Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____

*E-mail address: _____

*Optional—will be included with membership roster

See reverse side for detailed information about membership in the Washington Chapter and the National Foundation.

Lewis and Clark
America's Premier Explorers

In 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.

Their directive from President Thomas Jefferson instructed them to keep journals detailing their day-to-day activities, as well as plants, animals, geographical features, and descriptions of the native peoples with whom they came into contact. These journals, kept not only by the Captains but also by several of the enlisted men, are priceless for their documentation of areas then unknown to Euro-Americans—the watersheds of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers and the life found there. These journals also make compelling human-interest reading; the obstacles, which had to be overcome by the expedition, are seemingly overwhelming to us today.

Chapter Activities

The Washington State chapter was formed in 1997, during the Foundation's annual meeting in Stevenson, Washington. Since then, members have met at many sites along the trail.

Many members are experts in some aspect of Lewis and Clark and have shared their knowledge at our chapter meetings. The bicentennial observance bringing new attention to projects to commemorate the Corps in Washington.

Much good fellowship and fun has resulted from the formation of this state chapter.

Why don't you join us, and see what you've been missing?

Lewis and Clark in
Washington State

On October 10, 1805, the expedition entered Washington State at present-day Clarkston. A few days later, they reached one of the major goals of their journey—the Columbia River. At its confluence with the Snake River, near today's Pasco, they spent several days taking celestial readings and establishing relations with the local Indians.

Now they knew they were within a few hundred miles of the Pacific Ocean; they wasted no time in descending the Columbia. Along the way, they noted astounding numbers of salmon and also the abrupt change in climate zones: from the dry, barren eastern basin, to the lush forests of the west. The Indians along the river watched in amazement as the men dared to shoot the rapids of the river.

At last, on November 7, 1805, William Clark wrote: "*Ocean in view! Of the joy.*" The joy was short-lived, however, as the wet, exhausted explorers sought a place for their winter camp. An example of the captains' fairness as leaders: they consulted each member of the party—including the black man, York, and the Shoshone woman, Sacagawea—to determine where the party would spend the winter. The weary Corps chose to build its fort on the south side of the Columbia River.

In the spring of 1806, the expedition made its way back up the Columbia River, returning in September to St. Louis, triumphant in its accomplishments.

The Washington Chapter web site is:
<http://wa-icthf.org>