



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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“Arrival at Camp River Dubois” Event December 14-15 at Lewis and Clark State Historic Site

Commemorates the arrival anniversary of the Expedition



HARTFORD, Ill. - The 216th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition’s arrival at their Illinois winter encampment will be celebrated during “Arrival at Camp River Dubois” scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15 at the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site in Hartford, Illinois. Activities will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. inside the Interpretive Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Reenactors and demonstrators will interpret what life was like for the Lewis and Clark Expedition while wintering at Camp River Dubois from December 1803 to May 1804. Exhibitor Bob Mitchell will display rocks and minerals as encountered by the explorers. Mark West will exhibit 18th and 19th century antique tools, while Steve Bollini will present preserved examples of wildlife observed on the trail. Ken Porter will exhibit frontiersmen artifacts such as hand axes, beads, and navigational equipment, while Ken Gaffney will be carving stone pipes in the period style. Dr. Imes will also present on medical tools and practices of the early 19th century.

Reenactors will also portray fully equipped soldiers from the past for demonstrations. The War of 1812 artillery unit will display and interpret their cannon and equipment. Some of the Expedition soldiers went on to serve during this conflict. Ed Dulaney of the First Royal Regiment of Foot will be presenting on Colonial Wars and Western Expansion.

Lewis and Clark State Historic Site is located in Hartford, Illinois. The Interpretive Center and reconstructed Camp River Dubois reveal the important role that Illinois played in the Corps of Discovery's preparations as they wintered from December 1803 to May 1804. The site is open during the summer from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Current winter hours are Wednesday – Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lewis and Clark State Historic Site is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. It is supported by the Lewis and Clark Society of America.



Reenactor demonstration (2018)

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