

# Lewis and Clark Heritage Day commemorates 1805 encampment near modern-day Pasco

Ever wonder what Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark experienced when they camped at the confluence of the Columbia and Snake Rivers near Pasco 198 years ago? Bring your imagination and curiosity and participate in the Lewis and Clark Heritage Day, “Down the Great Columbia,” on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Sacajawea State Park in Pasco. This event commemorates the Corps of Discovery’s encampment from Oct. 16 through 18, 1805, at the confluence of the two rivers.



The Lewis and Clark Heritage Day is free and open to the public. Battelle is a corporate sponsor of the event.

Lewis and Clark Heritage Day will feature living history presentations, first-person interpretations, entertainment, music, a hands-on kids’ camp, American Indian cultural dance, guest speakers, mountain-man and tribal-skills demonstrations, nature walks and food vendors. Opening ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. and will be highlighted by a living history presentation, featuring the arrival of the Corps of Discovery at the confluence at 10:45 a.m. The living history presentation will include first-person re-enactors portraying Captain Meriwether Lewis, George Drouillard, Patrick Gass, Joseph Whitehouse and John Shields — all members of the Corps of Discovery.

In October 1805, an estimated 200 Native Americans greeted the Corps of Discovery at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers in October 1805. While in the midst of these Sahaptian-speaking peoples, the explorers traded goods, purchased food, cataloged the local dialects, repaired their equipment and explored the Columbia River to the mouth of the Tapteal (known today as the Yakima River). It was also at this site that the expedition members knew for the first time since entering uncharted territory exactly where they were — they had found the object of their journey, the great Columbia River.

Lewis and Clark Heritage Day is a project of the Tri-Cities Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council, a program of the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau. For more information, visit [www.downthegreatcolumbia.com](http://www.downthegreatcolumbia.com). For information on other Lewis and Clark-related events, visit [www.VisitTri-Cities.com](http://www.VisitTri-Cities.com). ■