

Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor

CIVIC CENTER AUTHORITY



POST OFFICE BOX 501 • WILLOW SPRINGS, ILLINOIS 60480

www.civiccenterauthority.org

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March 1, 2017

Dear Principals and Teachers,

The Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority extends this invitation to you and your students to attend our "School Day" as part of *A River Thru History - the Des Plaines Valley Rendezvous*, at the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Columbia Woods in Willow Springs. This is our 27th Rendezvous. **"School Day" is Friday, September 8, 2017 from 9:30am to 2:00pm** (schools may stay an hour or so later if they like, however re-enactor camps will begin to close at 2pm).

A River Thru History – the Des Plaines Valley Rendezvous is a "living history" re-enactment of an event that would have occurred along the Des Plaines River prior to 1848. The Rendezvous participants are in historically accurate clothing and shelters. We expect to have about forty encampments and demonstrators. The students, parents and teachers will be immersed in a rich discussion of history, social customs, and the skills and items that were necessary to survive on the frontier. The time period we encompass with the Rendezvous is from the period of early exploration, through the fur-trade era, to the early colonization of our area, approximately 1660 to 1848. This material is appropriate for most **4th, 5th and 6th grade classes** studying American and local history. Our capacity is limited, so participation in "School Day" is by invitation only. We continue to direct our focus toward making this a truly educational event.

If your school plans to participate in the Rendezvous School Day, **please fill out the attached form and if possible, return it before July 1, 2017**. Space is somewhat limited because of the physical limitations of the encampment. **Therefore, reservations will be on a first received, first reserved basis (we often don't fill up so please send even if after July 1)**. Once your school is registered, we will send you a confirmation letter with additional information.

It's Free - there is no fee this year! In addition, each student will be given one free "student" pass so that they may return with their families on Saturday, Sept. 9th or Sunday, Sept. 10th when the Rendezvous is open to the general public.

If you have questions, please call Mark Bosse at 708-551-2509 (days).

Sincerely,

Mark Bosse

Rendezvous Director

I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority

Board Member

Sponsored by:



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www.ariverthruhistory.com
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A River Thru History - the Des Plaines Valley Rendezvous

School Day 2017 Registration Form

My class would like to attend the Rendezvous School Day on **Friday September 8, 2017**.

School Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact person- name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address*: _____

**We promise email addresses will only be used for Rendezvous correspondence*

Approximate number of students attending: _____

Approximate number of adults attending: _____

Estimated number of buses: _____

Note: Any adjustments at the start of the school year are fine.

Notes:

1. Attendance is limited. Reservations are accepted on a "first come - first served" basis.
2. A confirmation notice will be mailed to you to confirm your reservation.
3. An event information packet will be mailed to you prior to the event.
4. Please plan on having 1 adult for each 8 to 12 students.
5. Arrival and departure should be **by BUS only**. The logistics of School Day and the site prohibit the use of personal vehicles. Parents and chaperones must be on the bus.
6. Schools can break for lunch at any time. You can either bring your lunch or purchase lunch from a variety of food vendors selling "period correct" food for a reasonable price. In most cases, lunch with a drink will be less than \$7. Please note that only period correct drinks are available such as lemonade, ice tea, cider, cocoa, root beer, coffee, etc.

Please return this form to:

Attn. Mark Bosse

A River Thru History – the Des Plaines Valley Rendezvous

I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority

P.O. Box 501

Willow Springs, IL 60480

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development of the Heritage Corridor..."*

Last year at the River thru History Rendezvous students from various schools were searching for the answers to these types of questions:

Des Plaines Valley Rendezvous Questions for Students

Student Name: _____

1. What is a voyageur? _____
2. What did the voyageurs want to trade for beaver furs? _____
3. What is a portage? _____
4. Why was canoe travel on the Des Plaines River so important? _____
5. What hand tools were used to make a canoe paddle? _____
6. Who are recognized as the first two Europeans to travel through Illinois, and what river did they paddle? _____
7. Why did the Jesuits priests, a missionary order, first come to North America? _____
8. Father Jacques Marquette's journal is a primary source document. Why are there no primary source documents for his exploring partner Louis Joliet? _____
9. What was the job of a blacksmith? _____
10. Who is regarded as the first permanent resident and founder of Chicago? _____
 Check here if you met the person portraying him at this year's Rendezvous
11. What does the "Land of Healing Waters" refer to and why did Potawatomi and other Native Americans come to this area looking for it? (Tip: ask at Historical Society tent) _____
12. What did a hunter and trapper hunt and trap? _____
13. Where does clay for pottery come from? _____
14. Why did early pioneers turn their fresh apples into apple butter? Why not just store them in a root cellar? _____
15. Why did the women wear wool, even in the summer? _____
16. Did Wolves once live in Illinois? _____
17. How old is basket weaving? _____
18. Why did Native Americans tell stories? _____
19. What material was used for taxidermy? _____
20. What was ash cake used in baking made of? _____
21. In finger weaving what is a tump line? _____
22. Who belonged to the Militia and where did they train? _____

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SPECIAL INVITATION TO EDUCATORS:

After *School Day* ends on Friday the event will open to the general public for the weekend – Saturday, September 9, and Sunday, September 10, 2017!

Even if your school chooses not to participate in a field trip during school day on Friday, we invite each of you to attend with your family/friends on Saturday September 9 and Sunday September 10, 2017. The Event is held at Columbia Woods in Willow Springs. Access is by Free Shuttle only. Please plan to park at the UPS service lot at 75th Street and Willow Springs Road.

You can scope out the Rendezvous for your school for future years, or just attend and enjoy this unique cultural event. Although the event spans a wide time frame, we try to maintain historical accuracy while providing good “period correct” food and great entertainment!

The location of the event, on the banks of the Des Plaines River in Columbia Woods, was chosen to look like an actual Rendezvous encampment that could have been held annually in this same area prior to 1848. If you're lucky you'll be standing next to the river when voyageur canoes land and unload their goods for trading at the Rendezvous. We have several cannoneers that liven things up from time to time with cannon firing demonstrations. And then there is Andy (“Andre”) Talley, French Voyageur and “story teller”, who finds a crowd and starts weaving together a tale that kids love and you can't walk away from. Learn how the bear lost his tail. Hear the amazing story of a frontier hunter who gets sleepy and what happens to him. Learn history first hand by talking to Jean Baptist Du Sable (Chicago's first resident). If you happen to see him wandering around the camp he will tell you how he came to the Chicago area from Haiti to seek his fortune as a merchant trader. You and your family will actually feel like they met the “real” Du Sable.

There is a small entry fee to cover the costs of running the event, but I think you will find it is well worth it.

Feel free to pass this letter on to others. Hope to see you there...

Mark Bosse
Rendezvous Director
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority Board Member

For location maps and more information see our website.

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