



Gateway to the Rockies

A Bicentennial Gathering
Lewis and Clark County, Montana 2005

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COMMEMORATING LEWIS AND CLARK IN HELENA THIS JULY!

HELENA, MONT., June 2, 2005— The Lewis and Clark Trail Bicentennial Commission of Lewis and Clark County and the Helena National Forest is pleased to announce this summer's local Lewis & Clark bicentennial commemoration, "The Gathering- A Gateway to the Rockies Bicentennial Gathering" will be held at the Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds from July 9-17.

The "Gathering" will include the National Park Service's Corps II traveling museum and exhibit hall. The Corps will be open daily from noon to 8pm. Corps II provides a comprehensive overview of the 1803-06 Lewis & Clark Expedition with an audio-accompanied exhibit of artwork, maps and graphics. Rangers from the National Park Service and other Federal partners enhance the Lewis & Clark story for visitors at a replica keelboat, an Indian lodge and an explorer campsite. Also featured is the "Tent of Many Voices", a 200-seat performance venue where life along the Lewis & Clark Trail comes alive through storytelling, song and dance, panel discussions, living history presentations, lectures, film and personal interaction.

Other planned events include a free evening family concert featuring Rob Quist and Jack Gladstone in Odyssey West on July 9 at the Fairgrounds. A Native American Indian Art Market will

be open at the Fairgrounds July 9 and 10. The following weekend, July 15 and 16, there will be an Outdoor Exposition.

The Legendary Mission Mountain Wood Band will be dusting off their well-worn guitars, warming up their vocal cords and planning a party unlike any this State has seen since the last time they played at a benefit concert in Libby, Montana in 2003. On July 15, the Gathering will host a special Lewis and Clark bicentennial concert featuring the Wood Band's in their only fourth reunion in 22 years. And keeping with the spirit of Lewis and Clark- only beer from Helena's Lewis and Clark brewing company will be sold at the concert. Tickets for the concert sell for \$30.00 and include admission to the Mount Helena Music Festival occurring in Helena the same weekend, July 15-17. Tickets are on sale at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena at (406) 443-0287 or www.myrnaloycenter.com.

The Helena National Forest will be hosting a series of guided hikes to Lewis & Clark Pass and interpretive programs at Aspen Campground and Meriwether Picnic Area. On July 16, the Forest Service and community partners will host "*Musical Currents- A Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Concert in the Gates of the Mountains*". This unique event will blend performing arts with the natural and historical values of the Gates of the Mountains by featuring a variety of performances along the river from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. The main concert will begin at 7:00, featuring the Fiddlin' Foresters and Rob Quist and Jack Gladstone in *Odyssey West* at Meriwether Picnic Area beach. Whether you choose to ride the tour boat or take your private craft, it's sure to be an enjoyable afternoon and evening. For more information call the Helena National Forest at 449-5201.

You are invited to be a part of Helena's official Lewis & Clark Bicentennial commemoration. You won't have to travel far to experience some exciting and educational programs this summer! If there is one place where the whole of Lewis & Clark's expedition can be efficiently experienced, it is in Lewis

& Clark County, Montana! For information on how you can be involved by volunteering or by becoming a sponsor, please call Mary Lou Garrett at 442-2674 or Amy Teegarden at 495-3747.

For more information contact Mary Lou Garret at 442-2674 or Amy Teegarden at 495-3747.

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