Corps of Discovery II returns from Pacific to Vancouver winter

(Vancouver, WA) – The Lewis and Clark Expedition had voted and were building Fort Clatsop in the wind and rain of northwest Oregon. Two hundred years later, Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future leaves the coast for urban America and a two-week stay along the Columbia River.

Corps of Discovery II closes out its 2005 season Nov. 28 through Dec. 11. The giant tents of Corps II will be set up near the O.O. Howard House on the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

Corps II will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with a special opening ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Nov. 28. Admission is free and there is plenty of parking nearby.

“We’ll be back on the trail next spring but Vancouver begins our return trip to St. Louis,” said Betty Boyko, Assistant Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Corps of Discovery II. “We’ll have two weeks to explore Lewis and Clark with thousands of students during the weekdays and thousands more visitors from the Vancouver-Portland metro area on the weekends.”

Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future has a variety of exhibits and hands-on activities as well as the “Tent of Many Voices,” a 40- by 70-foot tent with seats for 150 to 175 visitors and programs that explore the epic American story of Lewis and Clark.

Corps II includes a walk-through tour, with audio or printed script, that offers visitors an overview.

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of the original 1803-06 journey from Monticello to the Pacific Ocean and return. Corps II also has a 2/3 scale keelboat, a 16-foot diameter Plains Indian lodge and an explorer camp complete with a 28-foot dugout canoe.

“We’ll have an all-star line-up of presenters in the Tent of Many Voices, including Dakota Goodhouse, George Shannon descendant Josh Loftis, Allen Pinkham, Hasan Davis as York, Nellie Boyd, Clint Brown, Gary Lentz, Roger Wendlick, Bob Miller, Barb Kubik, Robert Carriker, Pat Courtney Gold, Cliff Snyder, Gary Lentz, Louie Pitt and Keith Bear,” Boyko said.

“It’s really difficult to highlight even a few of our speakers in Vancouver,” said Kevin Crisler, manager of Corps of Discovery II. “We’ll have tribal stories from across the Lewis and Clark Trail with a special focus on the Coastal, Columbia River and Columbia Plateau nations. But we’re also going to have Lewis and Clark historians, expedition re-enactors and several programs about the landscapes of the Trail from conservation groups and other state and federal agencies.”

The list of historians scheduled for the Tent of Many Voices include David Nicandri of the Washington State Historical Society, Chet Orloff and National Park Service Corps II lead ranger Warren Kasper as well as Louis and Marilyn Malatare, Bobbie Connor and Cecilia Bearchum.

The Tent of Many Voices schedule will be available online at www.lewisandclarkgnet.com and www.nps.gov/lecl and at Corps II.

Corps II is largely staffed by the National Park Service but involves more than two dozen federal agencies, 41 Indian nations, 18 Lewis and Clark Trail State Commissions, dozens of state and local agencies, non-profit groups and thousands of individual volunteers. More than 400,000 people have visited Corps II in 72 cities near and along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Editors: for photos and video tape call Jeff Olson 402-689-7431 or email jeffrey_olson@nps.gov
For further information about Corps II and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial please visit us at www.nps.gov/lecl or www.lewisandclark200.org or www.lewisandclark200.gov or www.lewisandclarkgnet.com

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Lewis and Clark Trail Media Advisory

Release date: Advisory Only; not for public release
Contact: Jeff Olson, Public Information Officer
Phone number: 402-689-7431 – cell; 402-661-1820 - office
Date: November 22, 2005

Big tents of Corps of Discovery II go up Saturday at Ft. Vancouver

Who: Crews from the National Park Service, Legacy Transportation and the Washington National Guard.

What: Set up the big tents of “Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.”

Where: Parking lot next to O.O. Howard House, Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

When: 1:30 p.m. Nov. 26 is the best time to see the big tents go up. Set up for Corps II is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 26 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 27.

Why: Corps of Discovery II is the premiere exhibit on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail during the 2003-06 Bicentennial of the original Lewis and Clark Expedition. Vancouver is the 74th stop on the 2003-06 nationwide tour.

Note: Corps II will be open to the public Nov. 28 through Dec. 11. Admission to Corps of Discovery II is free. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with a special opening ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Nov. 28.