**Encounter at Nicháqwli**


This event is hosted in partnership with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Metro and the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce.

**Nicháqwli Events, Saturday, August 6, 2005**

**Dedicate a permanent monument to the people who lived in the Blue Lake area for centuries** before Lewis and Clark and whose lives were changed forever after first European contact. (at the Nicháqwli Monument site, 1:30 to 2 p.m.)

**Taste salmon cooked traditionally** around a fire tended by descendants of Oregon tribes who live in Multnomah County today. Indian tacos, frybread and other foods will be available for sale, 2 to 7 p.m.

**Listen to Eagle Beak Singers**, and watch exhibition dancers who pass on the songs and dances to new generations. Singing and dancing remain important community events.

**Witness tribal members weaving traditional baskets.** Materials such as cedar, juncus, tule and cattails are all materials found in the area and remain an integral part of native life today.

**See traditional stick games** being played by tribal youth. Stick game is a game of skill and wager traditionally used for entertainment as well as economics.

**Observe hand drums being made** by Jocelyn Kirk, a Chinook, Tillamook, Kalapuya and Paiute descendant enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

**Learn to make moccasins** with tribal member Jackie Provost. Moccasin making was one of the skills that the Corps of Discovery had to acquire.

**Sing happy birthday to Pomp**, Sacagawea’s baby who camped his way across the country with Lewis and Clark. His first birthday was at Fort Clatsop 200 years ago.

**Watch Alex Garibay, a world-class breakdancer** from Los Angeles, portray boatman François Rivet, who danced on his hands to fiddle music while the Expedition wintered at Fort Mandan. Rivet is buried in St. Paul, Oregon.

**Be the first to own the newest nickels** just released nationwide and first available to the Portland public at Blue Lake Regional Park from 1 to 4 p.m., West Coast Bank will exchange rolls of the new “Ocean in View” nickels for cash. This nickel will be officially released at the new Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Ilwaco, Washington August 5.

**Take a walk with expert naturalists** who know the plants and animals villagers used and Lewis and Clark documented: Western red cedar, camas, wapato, tule, willow, cattail, nettle, horsetail, alder, hazelnut, bracken fern, maidenhair fern and white oak acorns. Learn how Nicháqwli traders and gatherers brought back plants from other regions such as spruce roots to make fine baskets.

**Hold a condor egg** and see how these and other animals made the Columbia Gorge and Valley one of the richest natural settings in the world.

**And more demonstrations and exhibits!**
ENCOUNTER AT NICHÁQWLI

In Chinook WaWa language, this is pronounced “nee chalk lee.”

Guided by a native from a village known as Nicháqwli, William Clark and a small party of men headed down the Columbia in April 1806 to find a big river they had previously missed. Naming it the Multnomah River on their maps, it is known today as the Willamette.

From a map drawn by a native of Nicháqwli, Clark was able to learn the location of several villages along the river.

Blue Lake Regional Park is near the site of what was once Nicháqwli, a large native village whose people had been decimated by smallpox before Lewis and Clark’s arrival.

Today, we commemorate the meeting of the Nicháqwli villagers with Lewis and Clark.

Directions: Nicháqwli is located in Blue Lake Regional Park, between Marine Drive and Sandy Boulevard off Northeast 223rd Avenue. From Interstate 84, take the Fairview exit (14) and go north on 207th Avenue to Sandy Boulevard. Turn right onto Sandy and travel east to 223rd and turn left. Proceed north to Blue Lake Road and the park entrance.

TriMet bus service: Catch the summer Blue Lake Shuttle every 20 minutes between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays, to/from Gresham Central Transit Center (MAX Blue Line) with stops along Division Street and 223rd. Schedules available at www.trimet.org.

Dining and Lodging: For dining and accommodation options, contact the West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce, (503) 669-7473 or visit www.westcolumbiagorgechamber.com and Portland Oregon Visitors Association at www.pova.org.

Access: Open from 8 a.m. to legal sunset. Get in free with your annual pass or pay $4 per car or $7 per bus. Many of the park facilities are wheelchair accessible. For more information, call Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces at (503) 797-1850 or visit www.metro-region.org/parks.


Illustrations by Roger Cooke courtesy of Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Oregon. Photos courtesy of Brent Merrill, Toby McClary, Gentry Cutsworth, James Davis, and Metro.

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