

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

Story Ideas – Vol. 1

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Education Program *(October through May)*

The Interpretive Center's Education Program hosts more than 6,000 school children each school year. The program provides students with a structured tour through the Center, as well as hands-on activities that give students tangible products to take home. It always provides good visuals to go with your story.

Art Exhibit by Western Heritage Artists during CM Russell Auction *(March)*

The Western Heritage Artists (WHA) presents an art exhibit during the auction; in addition, 15 artists do a quick draw while the audience is invited to watch up close. The finished, framed artwork is auctioned immediately, with a portion of the proceeds donated to the non-profit Lewis and Clark Interpretive Association (LCIA). The WHA also has speaker, on a topic related in some way to the Interpretive Center themes. As a non-profit partner of the Center, the LCIA helps support Center interpretive activities -- as well as managing the Portage Cache gift store in the Center.

Center Volunteer of the Quarter

(after the end of each quarter, in January, April, July, and October)

Each quarter, the Interpretive Center accepts nominations from volunteers and staff for " Volunteer of the Quarter." A Volunteer Recognition Committee composed largely of volunteers reviews the nominations and decides whether to make an award to one of the nominees. The award is intended for volunteers who go beyond their normal duties to provide outstanding service in support of the Center's mission. In the lobby hangs a plaque with names of past recipients of the award.

Summer Camps for Kids *(June, July and August)*

Each summer, the Interpretive Center presents Dugout Days Camps in July and early August. The emphasis changes from year to year. Past emphases have included language, wildlife, customs, and the Louisiana Purchase. The half-day camps allow children to explore many of the same situations the Lewis and Clark Expedition encountered 200 years ago, and the children take home souvenirs they make during the camp.

Profiles of Volunteer Skills Demonstrators

The Interpretive Center has many skilled volunteers who generously share their experience with visitors. Two examples: a volunteer who typically demonstrates flint knapping in the lobby of the Interpretive Center on Saturdays during the winter, sharing his knowledge of the art, the technique, the history and the relationship to the Indians in North America at the time the Lewis and Clark Expedition passed through what now is Montana; and a volunteer who typically demonstrates on Thursday afternoons the sewing skills of the early 1800s.