



Lewis and Clark
National Historic Trail

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

from the Superintendent

In spite of the pandemic, 2020 has been a good year for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Nearly all the projects and activities we hoped to work on are still on track. The pandemic has upended *how* we do business much more than it has actually stopped us from *doing* business.

While we continue to stay in touch with our friends and partners along the Trail and participate in meetings and events, this is now done exclusively through electronic means without the benefit of travel. The most notable change in our operation has been the monthslong closure of the Omaha Visitor Center and our Western National Park Association (WNPA) Bookstore. This association is an outstanding partner and friend, and the closure of this and many of their other facilities is creating a significant hardship for them and a loss for the public (www.wnpa.org).

I am pleased that all of us at the Lewis and Clark NHT have been able to avoid illness due to the COVID-19 virus. I sincerely hope this is true for all of you. While all of us have faced many challenges the past year, I know that our success along the Lewis and Clark NHT is due to the work of our great staff and our many amazing partners.

As you look through this year's annual report, I hope you will take note of the wide variety of projects and partners that make up the Trail. While things *are* challenging right now, when I look back at the many years of achievements and the shared successes, I cannot help but be optimistic looking forward. Please stay safe, stay healthy, be kind to each other, and take a minute to review our 2020 annual report.

Thank you!

Mark Weekley, Superintendent

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail



ON THE COVER.
Ponca State Park, NE.

Greetings

from the Lewis and Clark
National Historic Trail Team

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail's weekly *Free Coffee Friday* gathering goes virtual and socially distant for the first time.



A Day in the Life of a Social Distancing Ranger

The rangers at Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail perform many different tasks and fill various roles. For me, a Park Guide, a normal day working in the Visitor Center included assisting visitors, performing information desk duties, and delivering interpretive programming. All this changed for employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. A day in the life of a social distancing ranger looks rather different for me in this new normal.

My workday starts at about eight in the morning, with me booting up my work laptop. I also fire up my AVAYA software, which allows me to receive Visitor Center phone calls through my work computer. I'll answer several calls throughout the day, reply to numerous information requests, and fulfill mail-in Junior Ranger packets. I'll work on a project in the morning, perhaps helping another LECL employee by editing a document. In the afternoon, I might work on researching, writing, rehearsing, and recording an interpretive video to put up on our YouTube channel. These videos are a good way to engage with the public in lieu of more traditional programming, and fulfill the mission of the Trail.

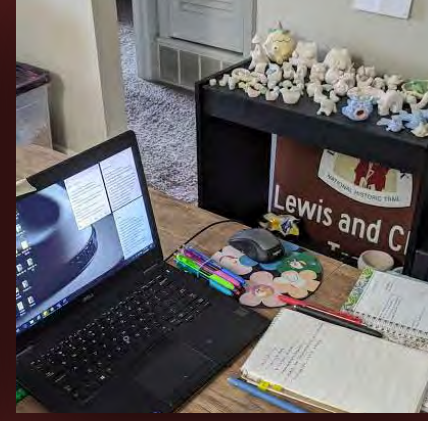
—Nathaniel Hess, *Park Guide*

Changing Course

Omaha, Nebraska is home to Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail's Headquarters and Visitor Center. In a normal year, park rangers offer interpretive programming, special events, and outreach to the Omaha area. However, this year, like many other people, the Visitor Center staff had to quickly change course and adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the Visitor Center remained closed for most of the year, staff continued outreach efforts and created virtual interpretive programming, gave virtual tours, and attended virtual community events. Staff also created programs for home school groups and local school districts.

—Neal Bedlan, *Senior Leader of Interpretation*

Workstations clockwise from top left, Senior Leader of Interpretation Neal Bedlan, Superintendent Mark Weekley, Ed Tech Shannon Smith, Senior Leader of Business Services Miki Keck, Volunteer and Partnership Specialist Ashley Danielson's dog Clay, Visual Media Specialist Caitlin Campbell.





Hasan Davis guides a conversation about York, Equity, Race, & the Lewis and Clark Story

On July 2, 2020 more than 90 participants tuned in for a Trail Talk webinar with living history actor and activist Hasan Davis. For more than 25 years, Davis has studied and portrayed York, the only African American member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. For this Trail Talk, Davis joined Interpretive Specialist Karla Sigala for a dialogue exploring York’s legacy and how it relates to calls for racial equity today. As both an enslaved man *and* a valued member of an iconic American expedition, York and his story carry

opposing truths that are sometimes hard to hold at once. Davis helped unpack the topic with help from questions by Sigala and webinar participants. This study of history helped build an understanding of how we arrived at this moment of racial reckoning in the U.S. and how we might proceed on from here.

— Lewis and Clark Trail *Interpretation Team*

▶ **Check it out:** youtube.com/lewisandclarknhtnps



Trail Talks *in 2020*

- **April.** Adapting to Social Distancing
- **May.** Interpretive Products
- **June.** Education Tools
- **July.** York’s Legacy with Hasan Davis

partner

Keeping *in* Touch

There’s no doubt about it—in this year of social distancing, we missed our partners along the Lewis and Clark Trail. But as we packed up our offices and settled into the new norm of working from home, we noticed something—we were getting better at communicating digitally. As we practiced web-based conferencing, we became excited by the new opportunities to connect with our partners from Pittsburgh to the Pacific.

In 2020 we were proud to offer a variety of web-based seminars and meetings. The Interpretation Team hosted Trail Talks to check in with sites along the Lewis and Clark Trail and to provide partners with new resources. The Integrated Resource Stewardship Team used web conferencing to further the goals of the Geotourism Program. Though we may occasionally forget to mute our mic, or may still fumble when sharing our screen, we are proud to have learned new technological techniques for connecting 4,900 miles of Trail.

Geotourism Program: 2020 Update

Geotourism is tourism that sustains or enhances the geographic character of a place, its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents. Geotourism encompasses a range of travel including culture and heritage, history, food, nature, adventure, the outdoors, water, music, and the arts.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown travel, we toured the Eastern Extension of the Trail for face-to-face community outreach resulting in 32 new listings on our geotourism website (www.lewisandclark.travel) by March. We assisted Solimar International in the development of the Community Partners Program which resulted in 210 listings for the Eastern Extension in FY 2020. Trailwide the Community Partners Program resulted in 53 new community partners, combining local tourism and heritage representatives for cultural tourism promotion.

In partnership with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), we added a very strong team of personnel to the Geotourism Program which focused on Tribal Nations and businesses' content development. AIANTA helped customize Solimar's materials to

reach Tribal Nation Cultural Heritage audiences. Together we developed and jointly presented five webinars reaching a combined audience of 420 stakeholders. All together we more than doubled the number of published sites on www.lewisandclark.travel (525) as well as our number of Trail contacts (1,005) due in part to these partnerships.

The Geotourism Program is building community partnerships for Tribal Nations, tourism, and beyond. Many additional community types are emerging along the Trail based on common interests that include recreation, education, resources stewardship, and citizen science agendas. This is an exciting organic outcome, one we hoped would take place.

—Dan Wiley, *Senior Leader
Integrated Resources Stewardship*



**Historic
& cultural sites
and businesses in
your community can
register by visiting:**
lewisandclark.travel



promote

Geotourism Strategic Communications Plan GOALS FOR 2021

- **Building unity & buy-in** throughout the communities that lie along the Lewis and Clark Trail to create stewardship and advocacy once the website is promoted to the public
- **Remain engaged** with community partners and nominees by creating rich content via local storytelling and educational seminars
- **Inspire travelers** along the trail to visit the sites/attractions represented and create an environment that allows them to become stewards of the Trail

Photo: David Andew/NPS. Lewis and Clark Traveling Exhibit on National Mall in Washington, D.C. *Common Ground* National Park Service Spring 2003 Issue.

Protecting *the Commemoration*

In 2003, during the commemoration of the Corps of Discovery Bicentennial, thousands of hours of stories and lived experiences across the country were recorded via the Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future's Tent of Many Voices.

2020 brought an increased need to have videos made available to the public and so a Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail working group formulated a plan to get 1,659 discs of those videos out of the archives and into the public domain.

The group worked together to find a way for some of the videos to be edited into a manageable size, to be made accessible for those with limited vision or hearing, to be made viewable by modern web browsers, and to be housed where they could be easily accessed by the viewing public. When this monumental task is completed, the videos will be hosted on npgallery.nps.gov.

—*Cultural Resources & Interpretation Working Group*



Waysides from left:
Cape Disappointment State Park, WA. Spirit Mound, SD. Niobrara State Park, NE.

Connecting *on Compliance*

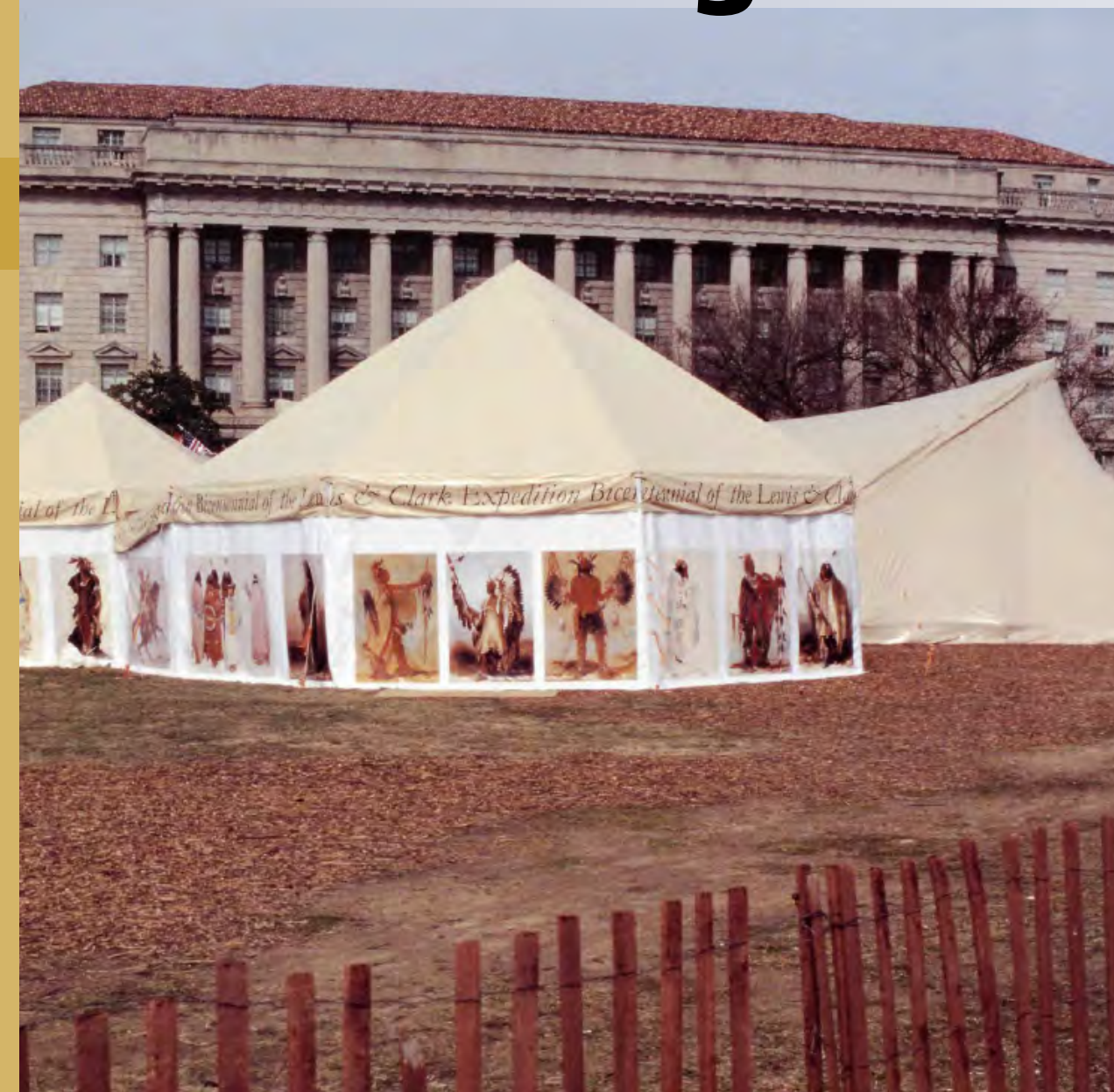
At the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, we think compliance work is pretty cool. Compliance directs us to consider a few basic questions before proceeding on. What do we want to do? Why do we want to do it? Will there be any negative outcomes if we do it, and – if so – how can we mitigate those outcomes? Most importantly, compliance makes us look at a project and ask, “Is this the right thing to do?”

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) are essential to our compliance work. The laws compel us to determine whether a proposed action will harm a historic resource or the environment. (And like math class, we must show our work to demonstrate how we arrived at the answer.)

In 2020, every state and Tribe along the Lewis and Clark Trail was invited to the biennial meeting to review projects undertaken by the National Historic Trail. For most NPS units this kind of consultation requires just a few State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. But with 4,900 miles of Trail winding from Pennsylvania to the Pacific, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is no ordinary unit in the National Park Service.

For this 2020 meeting, the first since the extension of the Trail to include eastern sites, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail office sent out invitations to 78 Historic Preservation Officers. These Historic Preservation Officers joined Trail staff via teleconference to discuss and connect.

—Ryan Kephart, *Cultural Resources Program Manager*





protect

Left: Riverfront Park, Leavenworth, Kansas. Photos © Jimmy Mohler. Updated artwork by Karla Sigala, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Paid for and managed by the Kansas Bicentennial Commission under the leadership of Karen Seaberg. Installation coordinated by Jimmy Mohler, Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

▼ One of eight updated panels in Park County, MT. Photos © Jeanne Souvigney ▼ Weston, MO



▼ Installation day in Parkville, MO

▼ Riverfront Trail, Omaha, NE. Coordinated by Big Muddy Workshop, Inc.



This year, waysides across the Trail were brought back to life.

Leading up to and during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial (2003-2006), hundreds of interpretive wayside exhibits were funded in part by the National Park Service to help tell the Lewis and Clark story. A wealth of research, artwork, and stories were beautifully and expertly captured in these exhibits. Today, you can find them in communities and along roadways across the Trail. Unfortunately, time has taken its toll. Most are at the end of their life cycle and have fallen into disrepair.

Some communities and organizations are well positioned to take on a complete replacement effort and have begun to do so. But

many lack the monetary or technical resources to take on such a project. To alleviate the burden, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail has taken multiple approaches to help replace and update interpretive wayside exhibits.

One such approach was to partner with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. In 2018 we entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the Foundation to help fund the replacement of these exhibits. The Foundation has expertly used their existing Lewis and Clark Trail Stewardship grant program to select applicants and issue awards.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail offers technical assistance in updating—or redesigning—the exhibit, preparing the digital files for fabrication, and guiding the installation process, including estimation, bidding, and fabrication. It is our hope to make our way to more and more communities in the coming years.

—Karla Sigala, *Interpretive Specialist*



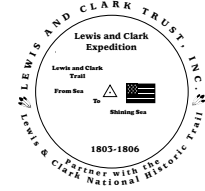
Wayside Replacement Checklist

- ✓ Track down the old design file.
- ✓ Update artwork, maps, photos and information.
- ✓ Consider replacement of exhibit base.
- ✓ Determine materials and printing options with the best value and longevity at the site.
- ✓ Prepare print-ready design files.
- ✓ Coordinate printing and installation with fabricator, installer, and site manager.
- ✓ Organize design files and installation records for future reference.

★ **Are you interested in replacing a wayside at your site?**
 Contact Interpretive Specialist Karla Sigala at Karla_Sigala@nps.gov.

Working Together *to Commemorate & Protect*

We thank all of our partners for their work in 2020 to commemorate and protect the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The list below is merely a snapshot of the many organizations we are proud to work with.



Lewis and Clark Trust Annual Meeting took place virtually on October 31, 2020.

Working with Partners in 2020

partner



City of Parkville, Missouri wayside exhibit replacement

INSTALLATION COORDINATION: Jimmy Mohler (left) Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation member and volunteer

INSTALLATION ASSISTANCE: Aaron Schaffner (right), City of Parkville Parks Division
BASES PAINTED BY: Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation volunteer Kelly Taylor

UPDATED ARTWORK DESIGN: Karla Sigala, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail



Honoring Tribal Legacies Internal Workshop

DATE AND LOCATION: February 2020. Montana

PURPOSE: Developed a plan for ten new Teachings (curricular units) to be developed for K-12 and teacher preparatory classrooms; utilizing the Honoring Tribal Legacies frameworks

PARTNERS & PARTICIPANTS: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, University of Oregon, National Indian Education Association, and curriculum designers from across the Lewis and Clark Trail



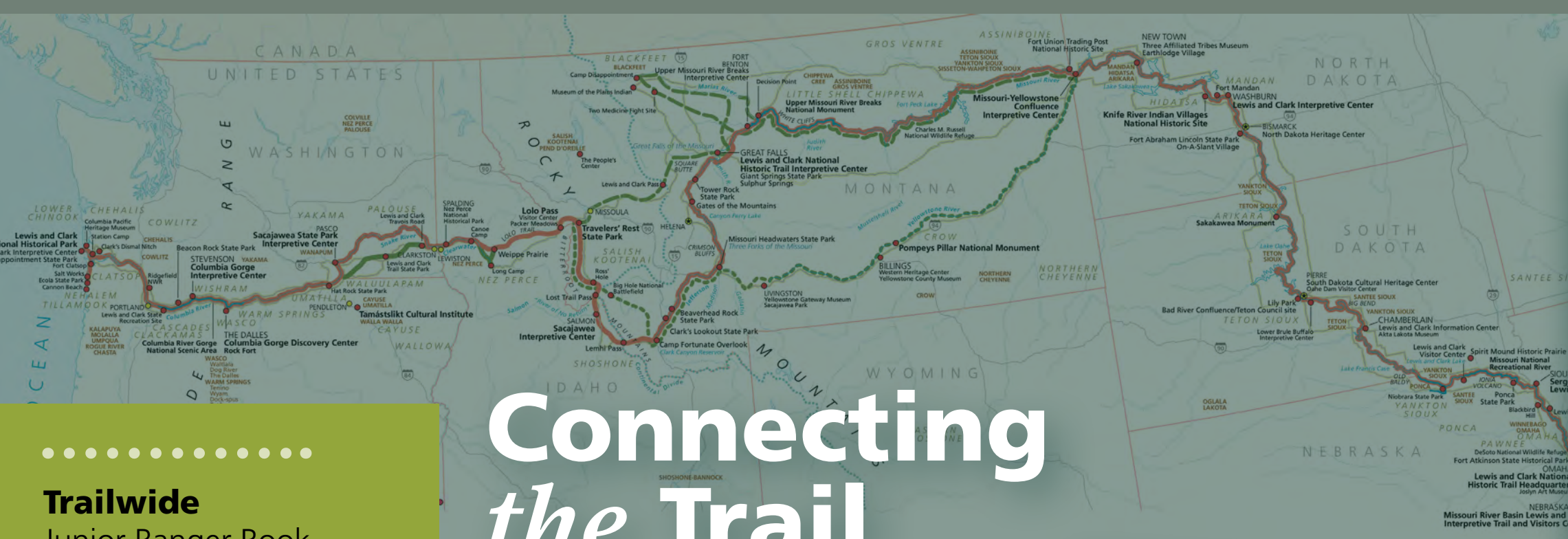
City of Leavenworth, Kansas wayside exhibit replacement

PAID FOR BY: Kansas Bicentennial Commission under leadership of Karen Seaberg

INSTALLATION COORDINATION: Jimmy Mohler, a member and volunteer for the Missouri Kansas Riverbend Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

INSTALLATION ASSISTANCE: Chris (left), Leavenworth Parks and Recreation

UPDATED ARTWORK DESIGN: Karla Sigala, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail



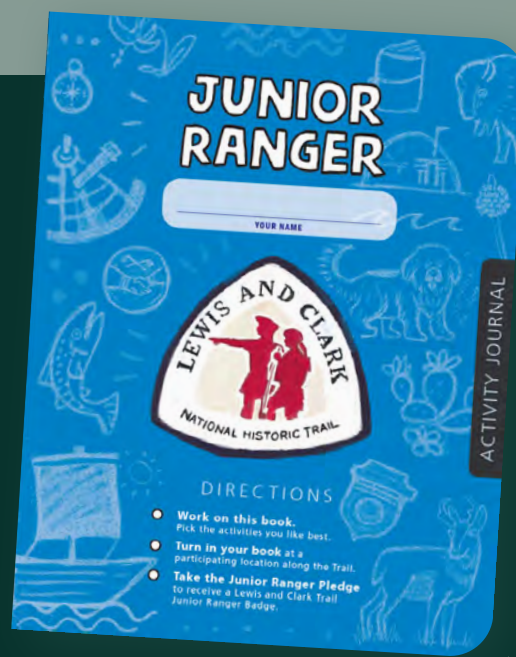
Connecting the Trail

Trailwide Junior Ranger Book Timeline


- ✓ **Spring 2020.** Call for Input from National Park Service Interpreters with Tribal affiliation
- ✓ **Summer 2020.** Book map of proposed activities created. First draft reviewed
- ✓ **Fall 2020.** Book testing begins with pilot book draft
- **Winter 2021.** Editing based on in-the-field feedback
- **Summer 2021.** Official Trail-wide program kickoff

TRAILWIDE JUNIOR RANGER BOOK

After a year of researching, planning, and drafting, the first-ever Trailwide Junior Ranger activity book is now being tested at 10 locations along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. In this program, kids and families complete educational activities to earn a Junior Ranger Badge. Activities are designed to engage participants where they are *and* to draw connections to Trailwide themes. Next summer (2021) this free booklet will be available to sites across the Trail.




COMING SUMMER 2021!



Pittsburgh to St. Louis 1,200 mile Trail extension

EXTENDED MAY 12, 2019



16 states 4,900 miles

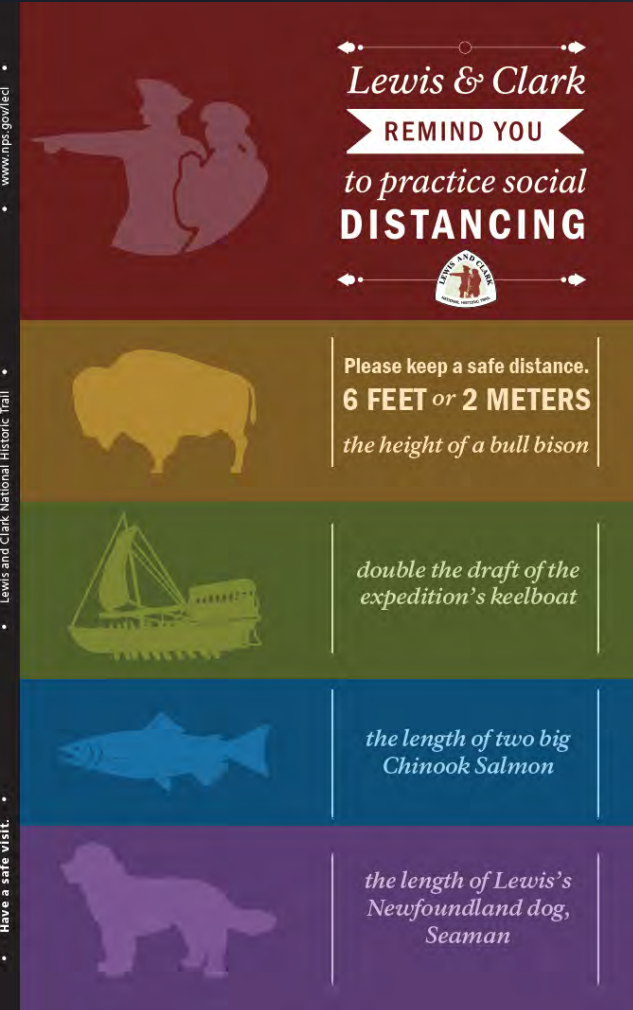
ONE LEWIS AND CLARK
NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Investigating Eastern *Historic Sites*

In 2020 the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail finalized a contract with S.V.M. Historical Consultants to investigate up to of 20 *High Potential Historic Sites* (HPHS) along the eastern extension of the Trail, from St. Louis to Pittsburgh. Joining the list of High Potential Historic Sites already identified and described, these eastern HPHS will complete the picture of historic places along all 4,900 miles of the Lewis and Clark Trail. This critical work helps to commemorate and protect historic sites from Pittsburgh to the Pacific. We thank the National Park Foundation whose funding support made this project possible.

WHAT IS A HIGH POTENTIAL HISTORIC SITE?

Pursuant to 16 USCS § 1251 (1), [Title 16. Conservation; Chapter 27. National Trails System]. *High Potential Historic Sites*: “those historic sites related to the route, or sites in close proximity thereto, which provide opportunity to interpret the historic significance of the trail during the period of its major use. Criteria for consideration as high potential sites include historic significance, presence of visible historic remnants, scenic quality, and relative freedom from intrusion.”



Does your site need social distancing materials?
Email: Caitlin_Campbell@nps.gov.

Stay updated on future outreach products. Make sure you are subscribed to Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Partner News emails. Contact: Ashley_Danielson@nps.gov.

Floor stickers adapted from designs by National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center



Clockwise from top left: Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Astoria, OR. Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, Hartford, IL. Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Great Falls, MT. Pompeys Pillar National Monument, Billings, MT.

partner

Social Distancing Outreach Products

In June 2020, sites along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail were offered social distancing floor stickers and posters free of charge. These outreach tools provide moments of light-hearted education to the otherwise difficult task of managing visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Packets were mailed to more than 60 locations along the Trail, including parks, museums, tourism centers, and Tribal offices.

—Caitlin Campbell,
Visual Information Specialist

BUDGET

Funds Received

ONPS BASE FUND	\$2,103,000
GRANTS RECEIVED PMIS, VIP, NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION	\$132,500
TOTAL FUNDS IN 2020	\$2,235,500

5 YEAR ONPS BASE TREND

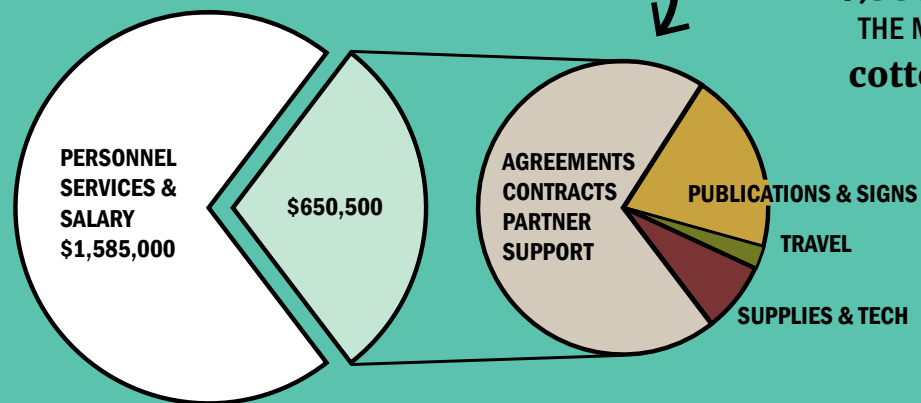
2016	\$2,008,032
2017	\$2,008,032
2018	\$2,022,747
2019	\$2,008,032
2020	\$2,103,000

SPENDING

2020 Spending

AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AND PARTNER SUPPORT	\$452,700
PUBLICATIONS & SIGNS	\$130,902
SUPPLIES AND TECHNOLOGY	\$50,328
TRAVEL	\$16,570
TOTAL	\$650,500*

*OUTSIDE OF PERSONNEL SERVICES & SALARY



CONTRACTS & AGREEMENT SPENDING IN 2020

\$75,000 TO RESEARCH & PROPOSE
High Potential Historic Sites
ALONG EASTERN PORTION OF TRAIL

\$13,500 SPENT IN 2020 TO SUPPORT
Tribal Legacy
VIDEOS ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

\$4,333 TO SUPPORT FRIENDS OF
THE MISSOURI BREAKS FOR
cottonwood planting

INTERPRETATION & EDUCATION

20+ waysides replaced
PARTNER: LEWIS & CLARK
TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

300 social distancing floor stickers SENT TO
60 SITES ALONG THE TRAIL

64 COURSE CODE VOUCHERS
Eppley Interpretation Online Course
TO 60 SITES ALONG THE TRAIL

532,423 page views
LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL
OFFICIAL WEB PAGE
www.nps.gov/LECL

8 NEW TEACHINGS WRITTEN FOR
Honoring Tribal Legacies
PARTNER: UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

4,900 miles of Trail, one mission, and many projects. At year's end in 2020, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is measuring reach and impact.

By the Numbers

INTEGRATED RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

525 published sites
ON LEWISANDCLARK.TRAVEL
DOUBLED FROM 2019
210/525 EASTERN EXT. SITES

16 State Historic
PRESERVATION OFFICES &
62 Tribal Historic
PRESERVATION OFFICES
CONTACTED RE: SECT. 106

420 stakeholders
attended **5 webinars**
ON LEWISANDCLARK.TRAVEL
GEOTOURISM PROGRAM

1,659 discs OF
TENT OF MANY VOICES
VIDEOS IN QUEUE TO BE
DIGITIZED AND MADE
ACCESSIBLE

53 new partners
TRAILWIDE COMMUNITY
PARTNERS PROGRAM



Like and Subscribe

EXPLORING THE TRAIL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

An Unexpected Challenge. This spring we had to answer a daunting question: how can we continue to reach the public, encouraging them to explore Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail even with our doors shut?

This started our full immersion into the exciting, ever-expanding world of social media. Although the Lewis and Clark Trail regularly posted on our various social media platforms since 2010, we knew these trying times would take our accounts to entirely new levels of creating new content to reach new audiences. Looking back on 2020, we see that this challenge was actually a great opportunity.

In 2020 we ramped up our social media game to keep our audiences engaged despite their inability to visit us in person. This year, our Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube followers increased to more than 34,000. To invoke meaningful conversations on our platforms, we dedicated many of our five weekly social media posts to asking our followers thought-provoking questions about the Lewis and Clark Expedition and how it relates to our lives today. We've thoroughly enjoyed reading our followers' commentary and the interesting conversations that ensued.

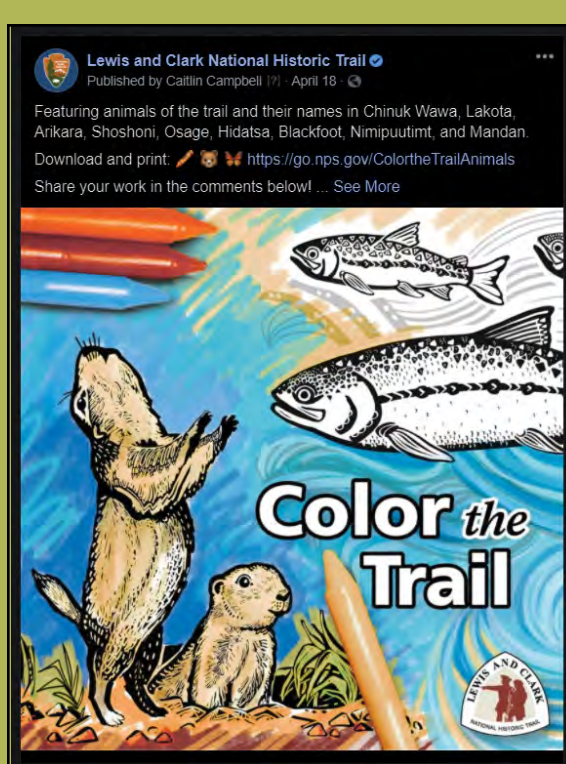
—Shannon Smith, *Education Technician*



Photo by: Michelle Olivares



Top row: Virtual visitors from around the country commented with their work on the downloadable Color the Trail pages. **Bottom left:** Honorary living history interpreter, Fig the Hamster, portrays Meriwether Lewis in the *Fridays with a Ranger* episode, "White Cliffs of the Missouri." **Right:** Colors of the Trail social media post.



+ 34K followers
on social media platforms as of 11/2020

promote

Fridays *with a Ranger*

To reach visitors virtually, this year we premiered *Fridays with a Ranger*, a video series on our YouTube channel exploring all kinds of fun and fascinating topics of the Lewis and Clark Expedition from 1803 to 1806. Since we started uploading videos in April 2020, our 22 videos have garnered more than 2,000 views. Not only are the videos a great opportunity for our rangers to learn more details of the expedition, they're also a wonderful way for us to stay present in our Omaha community and even amplify our reach across the country, maybe even the world!

Check it out: youtube.com/lewisandclarknhtnps



promote

SHARING TRIUMPHS OF THE TRAIL AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE THROUGH **Distance Learning**

Distance learning programs have long been a part of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail's outreach strategies for audiences nationwide, even before public health and safety concerns required us to close our Visitor Center. Schools also closed, forcing many teachers to navigate the world of online video and learning platforms for the first time in their careers.

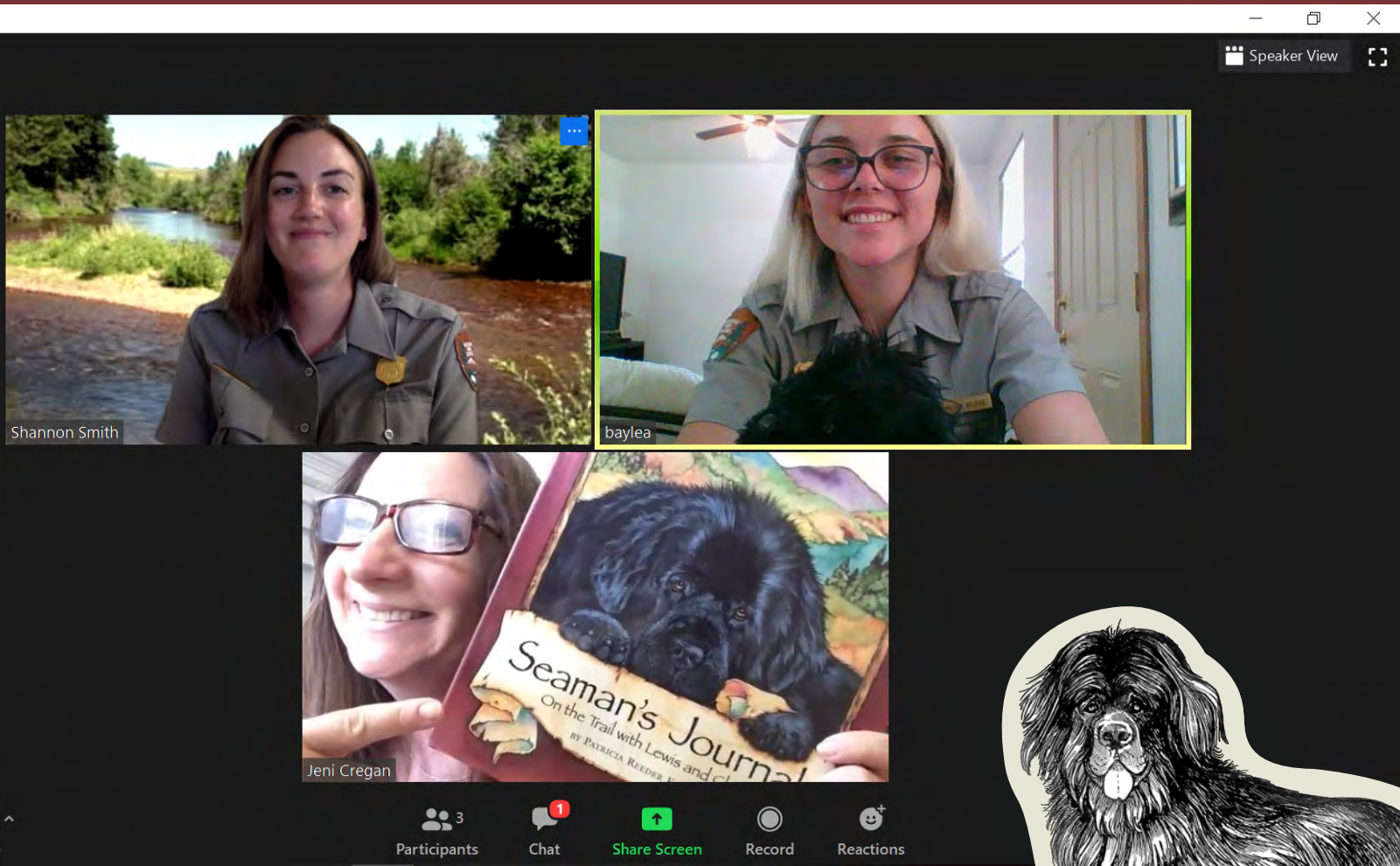
Fortunately, our Visitor Center Operations Team proved to be well-versed in these platforms, which made for plenty of fun, interactive, and engaging presentations to classrooms across the country. The Trail provided seven distance and virtual learning programs for over 2,400 participants of all ages from February 2020 to September 2020. These programs included four distance learning presentations for several schools located as far as California and Georgia. Incorporating tools and props, interpretive questions, and activities, students experienced a virtual adventure along the Trail as an honorary Corps of Discovery member while they learned about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Seaman, and more.

From Omaha's Virtual Earth Day to World O! Water, our rangers discussed important topics related to our environment, such as interacting with wildlife in urban communities and protecting one of the Missouri River's most important bottom-feeding fish, the Pallid Sturgeon. We look forward to progressing our programs in the new year and can't wait to see where it takes us. Hopefully, we'll see you at one of our future presentations!

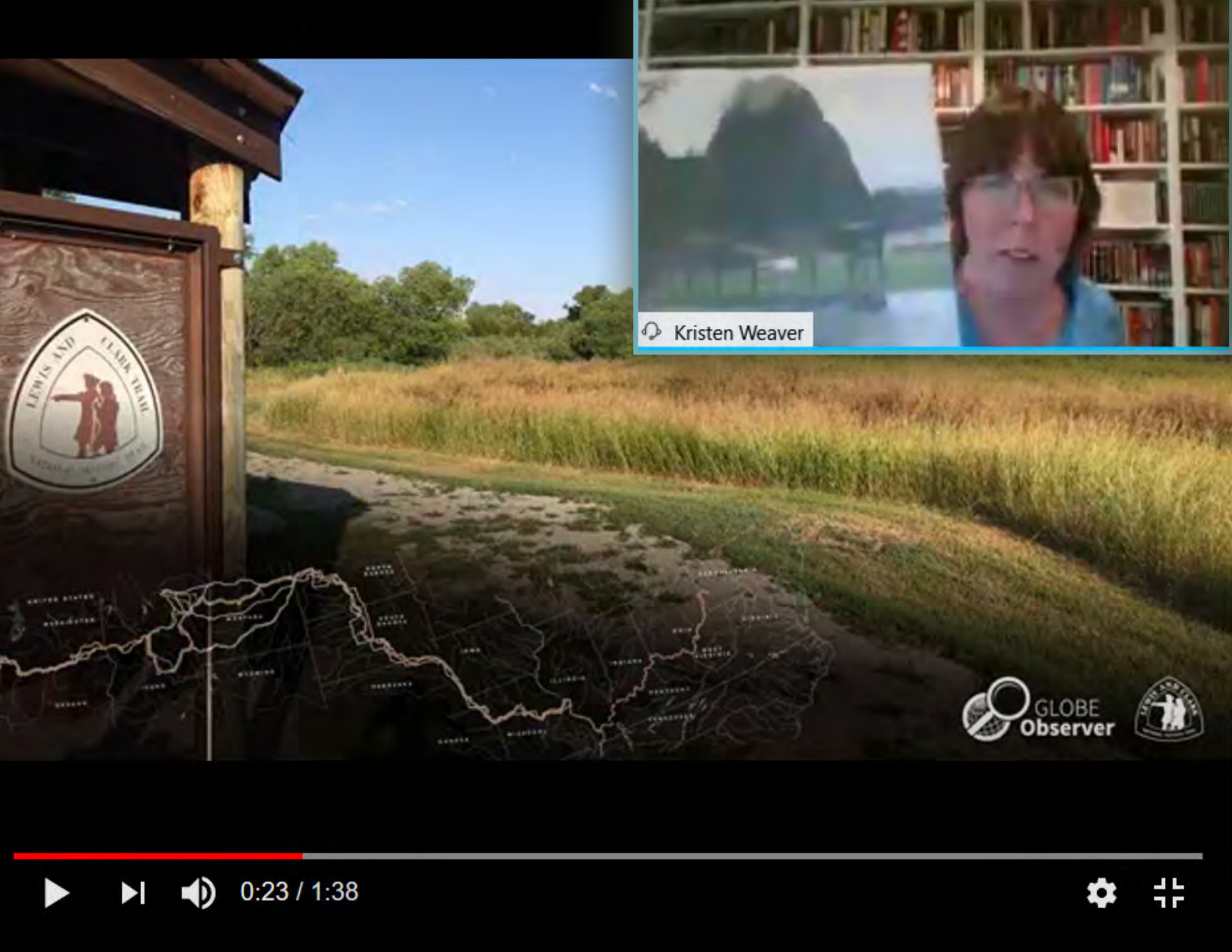
—Shannon Smith, *Education Technician*

Would your site like to sign up for a distance learning program?

Contact Education Technician Shannon Smith, Shannon_Smith@nps.gov.



Above: Crestview Preparatory School teacher shows off Lewis and Clark book during a distance learning classroom visit by Education Technician Shannon Smith and Park Guide Baylea Wickman. **Right:** New in 2020, Lewis and Clark Trail stickers for education program participants and visitors.



Kristen Weaver

Ashley Danielson

GO on a Trail: 2020 Update

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a successful year for the GO on a Trail collaboration between the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and NASA's GLOBE Observer program. Building on the successful data collection of 2019, the team worked this year to analyze and share the information. This fall, the scientific paper, *GLOBE Observer and the GO on a Trail Data Challenge: A Citizen Science Approach to Generating a Global Land Cover Land Use Reference Dataset*, was accepted by the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Frontiers*. In October 2020, hundreds of educators from the National Park Service and beyond met online for a convention of interpretation innovation, *Interprecon*. Ashley Danielson, (Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail) and Kristen Weaver, (NASA) presented on the GO on a Trail partnership. Stay tuned! There's more to come with GO on a Trail in 2021!

protect

- **For more information on GO on a Trail:**
Contact Volunteer and Partnership Specialist Ashley Danielson at Ashley_Danielson@nps.gov
- **To watch the wrap-up video search:**
GO on a Trail Challenge Wrap-up Video, NASA Globe Observer on YouTube.
- ◀ **Left:** Kristen Weaver and Ashley Danielson present GO on a Trail and share the wrap-up video during the 2020 *Interprecon*.



Hey, Partner!

This year the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail offered monthly Trailwide Messages: content and themes ready to be used in programs and on social media channels. Founded on the National Park Service's monthly message themes, the 2020 Trailwide Messages helped to unify and amplify storytelling along the Trail. To find 2021's Trailwide messages and to stay up to date on Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail's resources for partners:

- **Visit** nps.gov/LECL/getinvolved and check out the online Partner Toolkit
- **Subscribe** to *Partner News* emails by writing to Ashley_Danielson@nps.gov

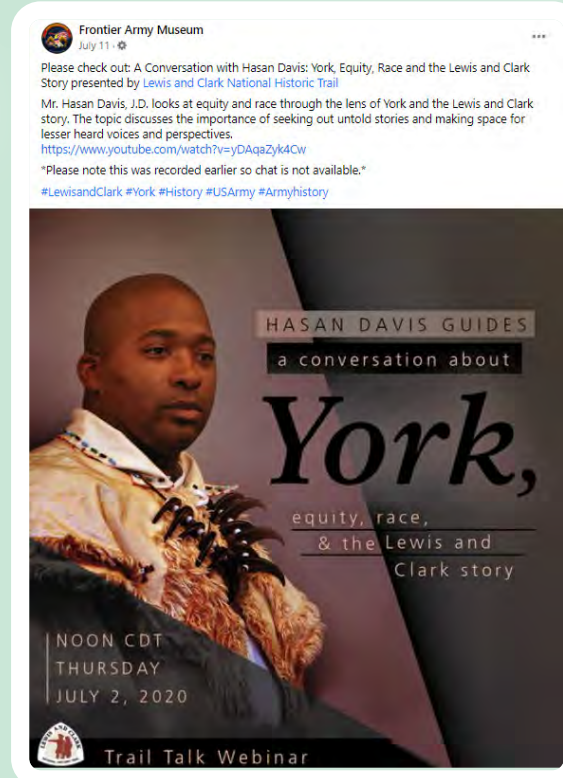
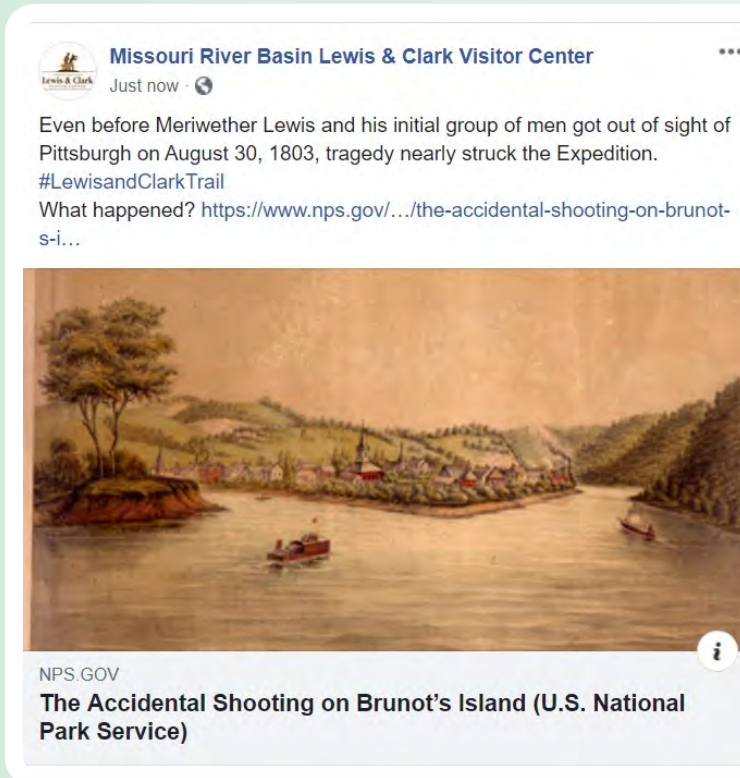
—Ashley Danielson, *Volunteer and Partnership Specialist*

August 2020 Message: Trail Extension State Features (PA, WV, OH, KY, IN)



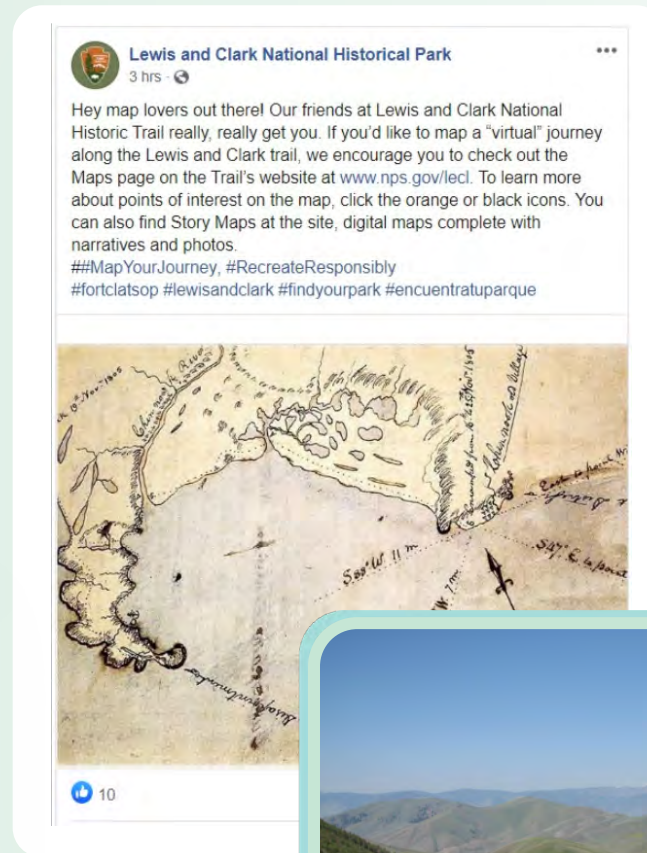
In 2020, Trailwide Messages were shared in Partner News emails (left) and online: nps.gov/LECL/getinvolved

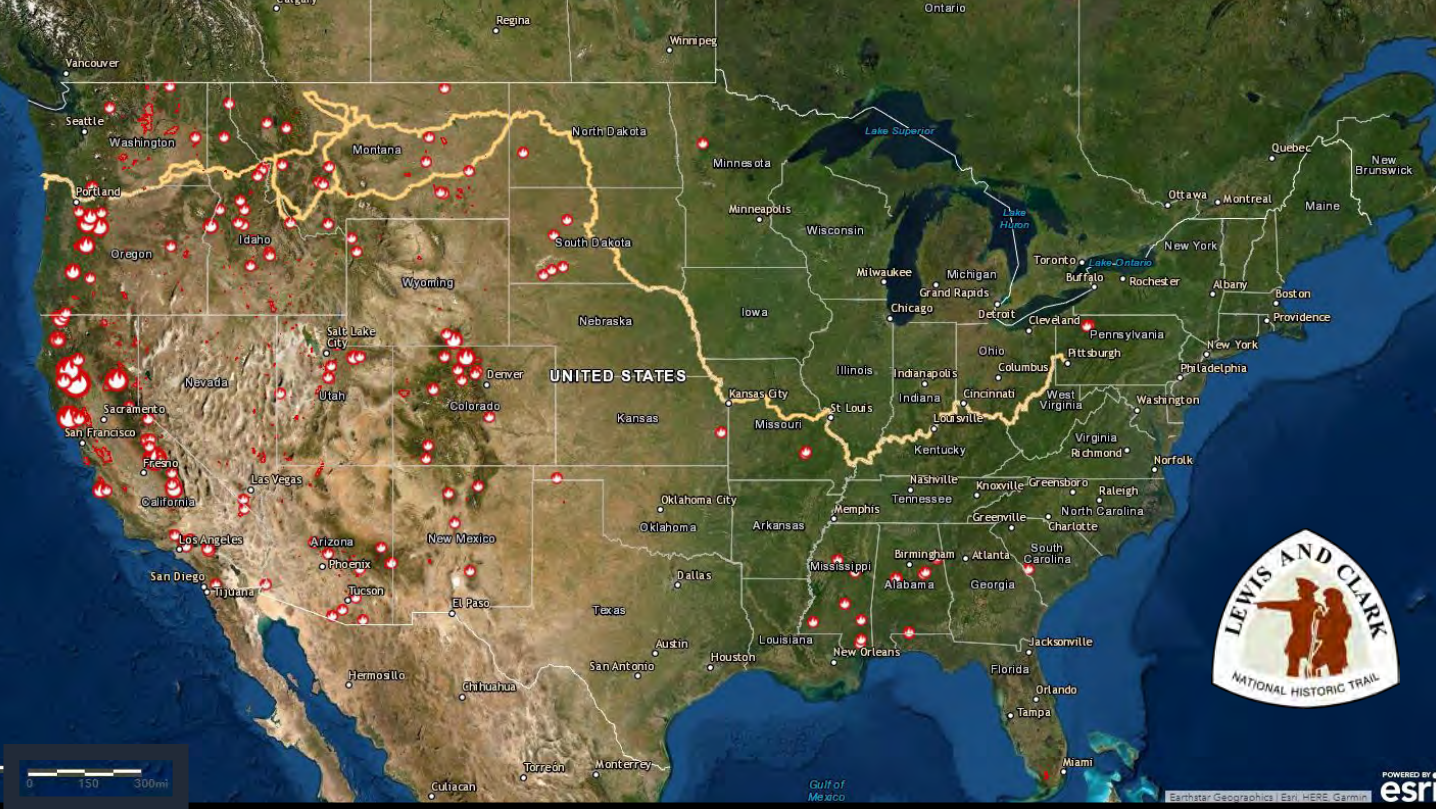
sharing the Trail



partner

Screenshots: This year, partner sites across 4,900 miles of Trail shared messaging and content from Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. **Clockwise from top left:** Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Visitor Center, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Betty Strong Encounter Center, Frontier Army Museum.





Above: Fire camp at Wrangell - St. Elias National Park & Preserve, Alaska. Photo by Jim Durrwachter. **Left:** Map of Wildland Fires – 2020 Fire Season Map by Ryan Cooper, NPS Geographer, Lewis and Clark NHT

Fire on the Trail: 2020 Update

The 2020 fire season began in late August. It has been predicted that the season will continue well into December. Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming were battling wildfires. As of late October, California (2,466,037), Colorado (586,732), and Oregon (818,573) suffered the most affected acreage.

To complicate matters, exhausted wildland firefighters were working under COVID-19 conditions. Wherever strategically possible, spike camps were set up with smaller kitchens rather than utilizing the larger kitchen facilities set up in the main fire camp. These satellite camps were frequently established at remote locations, often closer to the fire line. COVID-19 advisors were also utilized to monitor and ensure the health of firefighters and minimize their exposure to the virus.

—Linda S. Helm, *Environmental Protection Specialist*

more than **40** major fires along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

every state along the Trail; **16/16** experienced some smoke or haze

Acreage affected in Oregon, more than **800,000**

Celebrating 50 Years of Volunteers-In-Parks

While volunteers have been doing great work in National Park sites for much longer than 50 years, it wasn't until Public Law 91-357, the Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969, was enacted on July 29, 1970 that volunteers were explicitly and officially included in furthering the mission of the National Park Service. Today, you can find volunteers across the National Park Service, contributing their time and skills as camp hosts, trail workers, citizen scientists, naturalists, photographers, nursery workers, and more.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail thanks and recognizes the thousands of volunteers who provide their skills, talents, and time along the 4,900 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. These volunteers are in every state of the Trail, working year-round to improve visitor experiences in so many ways, and to support the mission of the Trail. Although the COVID-19 pandemic meant fewer volunteer hours were logged than in previous years, we are thankful as ever for all of the hard work and dedication put forth by volunteers along the Trail.

★ sites reporting:

- Cape Disappointment State Park Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center
- Columbia Gorge Discovery Center
- Fort Atkinson State Historical Park
- Heinz History Center
- Historic Locust Grove
- Knappton Cove Heritage Center
- Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.
- Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
- Lewis and Clark State Historic Site
- Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge
- Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument
- Sgt. Floyd River Museum & Welcome Center
- Travelers' Rest State Park
- Sacajawea Historical State Park Interpretive Center
- Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site

★ **57,242** volunteer hours reported in 2020



▼ Desoto NWR collections, IA



▼ Lewis and Clark State Park, IA



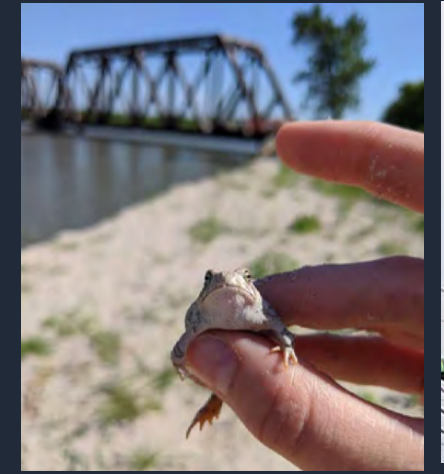
▼ Going away party for Julie Blanchard



▼ Ranger Shannon @ Trail HQ. Omaha, NE



▼ Niobrara State Park, NE



▼ Rising Sun/Ohio County, IN



Looking *back* & looking *forward*...



Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, MT

★ At year's end, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is grateful for:

- **The work and collaboration of our many partners and volunteers along the Trail**
- The health and safety of our staff and community
- The opportunity to learn new ways to reach our partners digitally

▼ Native Names educational stickers



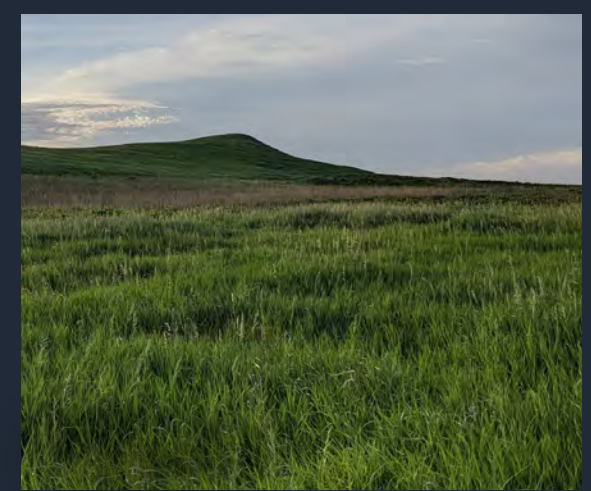
▼ West Point, KY



▼ Superintendent Mark Weekley welcomes new staff: Shannon Smith and Baylea Wickman



▼ Jr Ranger testing @ Travelers' Rest, MT



▼ Park Guide Nate Hess @ Trail HQ



▼ Omaha, NE



★ In 2021, we're looking forward to:

- Using the new NPS Mobile App to promote sites and stories along the Trail
- Launching a Trailwide Junior Ranger Book
- Expanding the reach of LewisandClark.travel
- Getting back out on the Trail—as soon as it is safe—to meet with our partners and visit sites

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Grace Wilson

STUDENT TRAINEE PARK GUIDES



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