



# Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural & Educational Center

www.sacajaweacenter.org

January 4, 2017

Greetings Friends and Partners,

Happy New Year! What a snowy winter we have had here in Salmon so far. As we gear up for another full season we would like to take a moment to share some highlights from 2016.

Beginning in October 2015 two RV sites with full hook-ups were constructed on the west side of the property, the sites were completed by April 2016 and filled with 5 volunteers over the summer season. There is no way to fully explain how much these volunteers positively impacted summer operations. Just know that they were all hard working, amazing



*David Kay (RV Volunteer)  
Blacksmithing during  
Heritage Days!*

people who truly made a difference. They exchanged their time for use of one of the RV sites. By the end of the summer they had logged 1379 hours. With their help the grounds never looked so good and our docents never felt so supported. Year one was a roaring success and we have two couples booked for 2017.

The Center was awarded grant funds from the Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee to beautify and improve the visibility of our entrance and the next time you drive by (once the snow melts) you'll see the new rock around the sign. Look for plants popping up behind it as well. Salmon's Local Option Tax funded new wayfinding signs as well as an upgrade to the audio/visual system in the Learning Center. The Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation funded a lesson plan project that is underway and will formalize many of the lessons used at the Salmon Outdoor School and align them to Idaho state standards so we can market the program to public schools regionally. The Idaho Community Foundation funded a project to install trail counters that will help us determine year-round usage and long-term trends. At the end of the year we received another grant from the Lewis and Clark Trail Committee to

develop and install new interpretive signs. All in all grant awards have kept us pretty busy and, to be clear, we like to be busy.

Judy Washbon joined the team, providing weekly interpretive talks in the Merriweather Theater. Some of her talks included, "Sacajawea: Myth, Mystery, Legend, and "Tails from the Trail: Seaman, Grizzlies, and Other Critters." Her knowledge of the Lewis and Clark Expedition as well as her storytelling was a great addition to our programming and we hope she will continue to connect visitors to the Expedition onsite for years to come. Dr. Steve Sylvester, Idaho Humanities Council Speaker, joined us in July and again at Heritage Days to provide lively interpretive talks as well as allow visitors to take a turn throwing a tomahawk.

In early summer the Sacajawea Center began a long-term native plants and pollinators project. We were fortunate enough to have plants donated by Dr. Steve Love from the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center. The native plants were planted in the community garden and also around the Sacajawea monument and Interpretive Center. We hope to cultivate those planted in the garden to spread throughout the park.

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Several of our events had great participation and we hope to continue to grow them in the future. In particular the Outdoor School's Father's Day Shoot has been a popular new program where families can visit the ancestral village on Father's Day weekend to try their hand at throwing an atlatl, shooting an arrow, and making their own spear point out of obsidian. In October we again celebrated the



*Father's Day Shoot at the Outdoor School*

changing season with Fall Folic and were blown away by over four hundred people turning out for an afternoon full of pioneer games and crafts, a pumpkin patch, a photo booth, and wagon rides. With the help of Denyce Bigley (Outdoor School instructor) this event has become a community favorite and we are excited for next year.

The docent program continues to go strong with a solid group of dedicated locals who spend one shift a week in the interpretive center. We are so grateful for their continued support and the time they take each week to make our visitors' experiences special. This year we took field trips to Traveler's Rest State Park in Lolo, Montana and the Museum of the Fur Trade in Pinedale, Wyoming.

All in all we have had a lively year and look forward to tackling another busy season in the coming months. As always, we would love to see you onsite in 2017 and wish you the best in the coming year.

Cheerfully,

Lin Gray



*Blanket Flower planted in the Community Garden newly planted and again in August. Other native plants include columbine, sedum, buckwheat, cut-leaf daisy, yarrow, Great Basin wild rye, and phlox.*



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