



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Grand Portage National Monument
PO Box 426, 170 Mile Creek Road
Grand Portage, Minnesota 55605

REPLY REFER TO:

March 18, 2008

Dear Rendezvous Participant:

We hope the winter months have been kind to you and that you are ready to welcome spring! This year, we had a very "normal" winter by north shore standards with a fair amount of snow here by the big lake. By far our biggest news, however, is the installation of the permanent exhibits in the gallery of our heritage center. We think you will be quite pleased with what you'll see when we are all together again for this year's Rendezvous event. Exciting times continue here as we enjoy and welcome visitors to our new facility, anticipate making a new park movie, and prepare to celebrate the park's 50th anniversary this year as well. As always, there is lots going on here and we encourage your thoughts, comments and participation.

This year's Rendezvous Days and Pow Wow events will be held on August 8-10, 2008. We will soon begin planning activities for the event, including some level of special 50th anniversary acknowledgements, and are looking forward to providing you, as well as our visitors, with a great weekend of historical fun. There will, as always, be food, music, and opportunities to share information while helping others appreciate the great story of Grand Portage. The workshops, regale, and game prizes will be provided to registered participants, as always, with our compliments.

Again, this year we will charge an event fee of **\$10.00 per person** for anyone 16 years of age and older. Participants are required to pre-register using the enclosed form or by downloading the form off our website at www.nps.gov/grpo. The deadline for registering for Rendezvous 2008 is Friday, July 25, 2008. If you have not pre-registered, you will not likely be admitted to camp until Friday, August 8th at 5:00 PM assuming there are tent sites still available at that time. We will limit the total number of tents in the historic encampment to **135**. As always, tent space (not specific sites) will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis to the first 135 tents to be registered. Last year, we did reach our maximum tent space at 135 and it was a bit tight. Get your registrations in early! Additionally, as most already know, parking at Rendezvous is at a premium for participants and employees.

Beginning this year, we will ask that if you bring a pull-behind travel trailer or motor home that you intend to use instead of sleeping in the historic encampment, that you make arrangements to have an RV site at the Grand Portage Campground/Marina. Our parking area is not set up for modern trailers and we need the limited space we do have for those actually camping in the historic encampment.

In the event you send in your registration and we have run out of camp sites, we will notify you and certainly place you on a waiting list for any sites that become available. (If you pre-register and then for some reason cannot attend the event, please notify us as soon as possible so we can make tent space available to others.) Once we receive your registration and payment, we will send you a postcard (this year, look for a bright yellow card) confirming your registration, and we will require that you have that postcard with you when you arrive. You must present the postcard to set up in the camp. The Bourgeois will have a master list of those who've pre-registered upon your arrival.

As our event continues to grow, so has the size of some tents brought to our event, affecting the historic scene and the amount of available space in our historic encampment. While we understand that a truly authentic encampment is almost impossible to achieve, we do want to do our best to have our historic encampment reflect a historic rendezvous scene as best we can for our visitors. To that end, we must put a limit on tent size in the historic encampment. **Again this year, our**

“Participant’s Guide” will be only available on the park’s website at www.nps.gov/grpo or in hard copy by contacting the park directly. The participant’s guide provides guidance as to what we’re striving for, but for clarity we will note here that no tent can be larger than 10’ x 15’. We appreciate tents that reflect the historic scene of a voyageur encampment (No stovepipes please). If you require the use of a larger tent, we will certainly accommodate you in our modern camp area. There will be few, if any, exceptions made to this policy. Given our space concerns we are discouraging the use of “supply tents”. **Also, Baker’s tents and one-pole or pyramid tents are not allowed.**

Please understand that Rendezvous helps others understand events at Grand Portage some 200 years ago. To keep us focused on these events, **shop tents are not permitted at all**, and blanket trading is **not acceptable during the publicly attended periods of Rendezvous (between 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM)**. **Displaying sales items on blankets in front of your camp or on racks/hangers/tent ropes is not permitted.** This policy will be rigorously enforced, and there will be no exceptions, so please respect the park’s need to keep this event non-commercial.

We’ve had a great response in the past few years to our impromptu workshops in the workshop tent by the lake and in our Ojibwe Village area. There have been some great opportunities for folks and we really appreciate your willingness to share your talents! We hope to offer you new scheduled workshops and activities as always. And, again this year, we’d like to invite you, our participants, to make use of the workshop tent in camp to offer impromptu workshops and demonstrations. You don’t need to worry about being on anyone’s schedule, just bring along whatever you need and share your skills!

Regale 2007 began with many “door prizes” awarded while we waited in line for dinner. Many very nice items were donated by our participants and park staff members! We’d like to thank all those who donated prizes again last year! We plan to provide some door prizes again this year. If you have something you’d like to donate, please feel free to bring it along and leave it with our camp bourgeois. He will be sure to find a lucky participant to send home with your gift! Our entire staff certainly looks forward to welcoming you to Grand Portage for what promises to be another exciting Rendezvous weekend.

Camp Bourgeois – Back again, for their 10th year, is the amazing duo of Karl Koster and Steve Veit! They will be responsible for assigning campsites, distributing Regale tickets, monitoring activities in the historic encampment and seeing to other needs and requests. **Be advised that participants may not have pets in the encampment area. Please do not expect, or even ask our Bourgeois to make exceptions. If you bring your pet you will be asked to remove it from the encampment for the duration of the event.**

Set-Up/Take-Down – Participants can begin setting up **after 5:00 PM** on Wednesday, August 6, 2008. **IMPORTANT: Please note the schedule below. Vehicle access is weather permitting.**

Wednesday... 8/06/07 – Set Up Begins Only After 5:00 PM (Vehicles Allowed)

Thursday.....8/07/07 – Set Up All Day (Vehicles Allowed)

Friday.....8/08/07 – Set Up (No Vehicles Allowed between 9:00 AM & 5:00 PM) (Historic Clothing Required)

Saturday.....8/09/07 – No Vehicles Allowed. Historic dress required! (no street clothing please!)

Sunday.....8/10/07 –Take Down (No vehicles allowed before 3:00 PM. Historic Clothing required)

****Important Note:** Please honor our request that you be in historic dress while in the historic encampment during the event as we try and maintain the historic atmosphere/experience of the encampment at all times for our participants as well as our visitors. In our event comments last year, several participants noted concerns that the ambiance of the camp is being negatively affected by modern clothing especially in the morning hours.

The schedule of events and activities for Rendezvous 2008 has not been finalized. We expect to have it available by mid-July. We do not intend to mail schedules to participants. We will have copies available with the Camp Bourgeois when you arrive. If you would like to receive a copy in advance, please contact us and we will be happy to get one to you.

This year we are planning to offer workshops on Friday and Saturday in addition to special activities associated with our 50th Anniversary. We are still in the planning stages, but hope to offer new workshops and demonstrations as well. Workshops are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please sign up for workshops at the information tent at our front gate beginning Friday morning. This year, so that all (re-enactors and visitors) have an equal opportunity to sign up for our workshops, we will only be signing up folks for workshops being offered on that particular day. Please see the information regarding the workshop registration process in our “Participants Guide” posted on the park’s website.

Thank you for your interest in our Rendezvous Days event. We look forward to seeing you in August. If you should have any questions regarding the event, or you need a park brochure, please feel free to contact us at 218-475-0123 Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. For specific questions and information you may also reach Pam Neil, Chief of Interpretation and Special Events Coordinator at 218-475-0123 Ext. 255 or by email at Pam_Neil@nps.gov

Sincerely,

Timothy Cochrane
Superintendent