



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Grand Portage National Monument
PO Box 668, 315 South Broadway
Grand Marais, Minnesota 55604-0668

REPLY REFER TO:

March 9, 2007

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 mild winter by north shore standards with very little snow here by the big lake. By far our biggest news is the ongoing construction of our new heritage center which will be complete and open to the public by the time of this year's Rendezvous. The new building will include modern visitor service venues as well as a 2000 square foot exhibit gallery. The gallery will initially feature works of prominent artists Carl Gawboy, Howard Sivertson, Eastman Johnson, and Grand Portage photographer, Travis Novitsky. We plan to open the finished exhibit gallery, complete with a full range of exhibits in the winter of 2008, a year in which we will also commemorate and celebrate the monument's 50th anniversary.

This year's Rendezvous Days and Pow Wow events will be held on August 10-12, 2007. We will soon begin planning activities for the event, including a formal grand opening ceremony for the heritage center on Friday, August 10, 2007, 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 2007 is Friday, July 27, 2007. If you have not pre-registered, you will not likely be admitted to camp until Friday, August 10th 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 managed to find a place for all who wanted to be here, but please don't assume we won't reach our limit this year. Get your registrations in early!

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 green card) confirming your registration and 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. **Beginning 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 us 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). However, we recognize that trading among Rendezvous participants is very popular. We will permit **limited** trading among participants so long as the general public is not exposed to commercialism. **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, 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 2006 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 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 9th 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 8, 2007. **IMPORTANT: Please note the schedule below. Vehicle access is weather permitting.**

Wednesday...8/08/07 – Set Up Begins After 5:00 PM (Vehicles Allowed)

Thursday.....8/09/07 – Set Up All Day (Vehicles Allowed)

Friday.....8/10/07 – Set Up (No Vehicles Allowed between 9:00 AM & 5:00 PM)

Saturday.....8/11/07 – No Vehicles Allowed. Historic dress required! (No street clothing Please!)

Sunday.....8/12/07 –Take Down (No vehicles allowed before 3:00 PM)

The schedule of events and activities for Rendezvous 2007 and the heritage center Grand Opening 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 Heritage Center Grand Opening! 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 our headquarters at (218) 387- 2788 TDD Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. You can call us at the site by dialing (218) 475-2202 after May 16, 2007. For specific questions and information you may also reach Pam Neil, Chief of Interpretation and Special Events Coordinator at 218-387-2788 or by email at Pam_Neil@nps.gov

Sincerely,

Timothy Cochrane
Superintendent