



# 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:

May 11, 2011

Dear Rendezvous Participant:

My sincere apologies for not posting this letter to you all a bit earlier in the season as is customary. For those of you who have already registered using the form provided on our website, you can expect to receive your registration confirmation cards shortly.

Our 2011 Rendezvous event will be much like the event you are accustomed to, as there will be no film crews joining us this year. Please read all available information carefully though as no two years are exactly alike in terms of protocol due to unique considerations that come up. **Please read and consider the following information carefully and please feel free to talk with us should you have any ideas, comments or concerns.**

- **Set-Up** – We will keep our schedule for set up as it has been done in the past several years. You can begin setting up in camp late in the afternoon on Wednesday, 8/10/2011.
  - **Firewood will be provided!** Please do not transport your own firewood to the event!! Firewood will be provided. It is **critical** that we stop the spread of invasive species like the Emerald Ash Borer at Grand Portage.
  - **Swimming Vs. Bathing in Lake Superior** – Please feel free to enjoy the lake waters for swimming while you are with us. However, please understand that we must insist that you do not bathe in the lake with soaps of any kind. Soaps that are marketed as “biodegradable” are manufactured for breakdown in soils, not water.
- **Camp Layout** – The Boosway has requested to keep more lakeshore open for ease of launching canoes and greater access for everyone in camp. For this reason, a few traditional campsites may be affected. This means you may not get to set up your camp in the exact spot you usually do, but we will help you find an acceptable site in the encampment if you’ve registered and received a registration confirmation card.
- **Historic Clothing Protocol** - We appreciate you complying with our clothing protocol. The authenticity in last year’s camp was awesome! Please limit modern clothing for the duration of the event for the comfort and enjoyment of all who share the historic encampment. Thank you.

- **Camp Booshway** – Karl Koster and Steve Veit return as co-camp Booshway with assistance as necessary from Jeremy Kingsbury to see to your needs in the historic encampment.

Now on to the rest of the information you'll need.....This year's Rendezvous Days and Pow Wow events will be held on August 12,13,14, 2011. We are planning activities for the event, 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.

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.

Again this year, we will ask LaCompagne's first-rate cooks, led by Diana Bergstrom, to put our bake oven through its paces to provide desserts for our enjoyment. We will invite all of our registered participants to again join us for a regale that will largely remain the same as in recent years, but instead of the traditional meal, will feature a variety of tasty 18<sup>th</sup> century desserts prepared by our cooks to be followed by dancing under the stars. Please plan to prepare and enjoy the main course of your evening meal on Saturday in camp and then join us for "door prizes", desserts, and dancing inside the palisade. We heard accounts of some amazing main course meals made and shared in the historic encampment these past two years and hope this new tradition continues this year with as much imagination and good will.

We want to continue to keep this even reasonable in cost to our participants. To that end we keep our event fee at **\$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](http://www.nps.gov/grpo) **Important: Beginning in 2011, we will no longer mail the participant's letter/registration form and instead, will ask you to access them via our website. If you do not have access to the internet, please indicate this on your registration form this year (in the space provided) so that we can add you to a mailing list to receive a hard copy.**

The deadline for registering for Rendezvous 2010 is **Friday, July 29, 2011**. Please register as soon as you can as we've run out of space well before the registration deadline in the past two years. **We are currently well over half way to our tent limit!** If you have not pre-registered, you will not likely be admitted to camp until Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> 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**. Tent space (not specific sites) will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis to the first 135 tents to be registered. Get your registrations in early!

Additionally, as most already know, parking at Rendezvous is at a premium for participants and employees.

If you bring a pull-behind travel trailer or motor home that you intend to use instead of sleeping in the historic encampment, we must ask 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](http://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 overflow 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.**

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 2010 began with many “door prizes” awarded while we waited in line for deserts. 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** – Rangers Karl Koster and Steve Veit 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 10, 2010. **IMPORTANT: Please note the schedule below. Vehicle access is weather permitting.**

**Wednesday.... 8/10/11 – Set Up Begins Only After 5:00 PM (Vehicles Allowed)**

**Thursday.....8/11/11 – Set Up All Day (Vehicles Allowed)**

**Friday.....8/12/11 – Set Up (No Vehicles Allowed. Historic Clothing Required)**

**Saturday.....8/13/11 – No Vehicles Allowed. Historic dress required! (no street clothing please!)**

**Sunday.....8/14/11 –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. Our thanks to those who honored this request last year, and we encourage all to continue to preserve the quality of our historic encampment by wearing the proper clothing.

The schedule of events and activities for Rendezvous 2011 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.

This year we are planning to offer workshops on Friday and Saturday. Workshops are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please sign up for workshops at the information tent 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.

We’ve had very busy winter season as work continues on the park’s new interpretive film including a film shoot done in the fall and a larger-scale winter shoot done in January. Since then, we’ve been working with Great Divide Pictures to finalize the script, and recently we’ve had the chance to view the first rough cut of the film itself - complete with a newly composed original musical score and actor, Adam Beach, providing the narration. I can report that our efforts with the film shoots last year in July and at Rendezvous have provided some truly amazing and powerful footage for this film. You all did GREAT!!! Additionally, this winter, we have been working hard on producing four additional “mini films” or “shorts” as we are calling them. These five minute pieces will be added to our movie DVD much like “additional features” on Hollywood made movie DVDs. The idea is to provide some more in-depth information on topics such as the geography of Grand Portage, the men of the North West Company, the Grand Portage Ojibwe, and canoes. We are also planning to produce a version of the film in Ojibwe with English subtitles.

We are certainly excited about how well the project is going, however, there is still much work to be done. Chris Wheeler of Great Divide Pictures and crew will join us the week of May 16<sup>th</sup> for our final shoot to capture spring landscapes and a few minor reenactment scenes, along with contemporary footage here in Grand Portage. The rest of the summer will be spent in the edit room fine tuning the film.

We hope to debut the new park film in grand style in mid-October of this year right here at Grand Portage and hope our Rendezvous family will be able to join in the festivities! We will keep you posted as the date draws near.

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  
Timothy Cochrane  
Superintendent