

Unit Leader planning overview for the “Lewis and Clark Expedition”

This is an adaptation of “Chuck Wagon” Races found in the August 2003 program helps. Keelboats replace chuck wagons on a reenactment of an adventure held 200 years ago. The Cubs had a great time and there was very positive feedback from the parents as well.

Keelboats are constructed to carry the explorer’s supplies from Fort Wood to the Pacific Ocean and back. Keelboats may be constructed by converting radio flyer wagons to look like a boat. Use cardboard boxes, noodles etc...

Have a design competition where each den wins; have as many categories as there are dens. Suggestions include most authentic, most colorful, biggest, best construction etc..

Resources: spend some time exploring the expedition as told by Ken Burns in “A Journey of the Corps of Discover” at <http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/>

Purpose:

To have fun and build Den unity through an adventure set back in the days of Lewis and Clark.

Objectives:

- Adventure:
 - Recreate the exploration an unknown wilderness
 - Relive this experience in the eyes of Lewis and Clark and their crew
- Diversity and understanding others
 - Experience the reaction of the natives to the explorers.
- Learning to work together
 - Den works together in the construction of the Keel Boat
 - Den works together to complete the adventure

Planning suggestions:

It’s not a Race, but an experience. Consider points for fulfilling the steps at each station. Make ribbons or certificates to award each den during the design competition. Make this the main event of a field day and picnic. Create your own set of stations as it fits your site using the information from <http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/> while keeping with the objectives above. Our pack held this at a park with a hill and a lake on the other side. The lake became the Pacific Ocean and the hill the continental divide.

Pre expedition planning:

Visit the site for the expedition and map out where each station will be.

Obtain supplies for stations 1, 2 and 5.

Assign each station to a Parent who will guide each den through steps at each station. Post the instructions for each site on Posts at the site.

Explain the objectives of the station to the parent in charge.

Supplies

Station 1. Wagons for each den and material to construct a “Keel” Boat – Cardboard, Paper, Markers, etc.. Allow about 30 minutes for the construction of the boats.

Station 2. Consider recyclable materials such as soda cans, milk jugs etc as provisions for Fort Wood. Also provide coins that they will use later when they visit the native Indians.

Station 5. Toddler Toy Card Board Bricks make nice mud bricks. Or use shoeboxes that can be stacked to build a house.