

NEWS FROM FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Trail of Courage celebrates 45th year Sept. 19-20, 2020

The excitement and adventure of Frontier Indiana comes alive at the 45th annual Trail of Courage Living History Festival Sept. 19-20 at Rochester, Indiana. Since 1976 it has been a place where history is depicted, where you can trace the very footsteps of history, and have a good time doing it. Over 1,000 people in historic outfits participate.

Frontier Indiana comes alive with foods cooked over wood fires, period music and dance, traditional crafts, historic camps and trading, and much more. It is produced by the Fulton County Historical Society. This event combines genealogy of the Potawatomi Indians and the settlers who lived in Fulton County and northern Indiana in the early 1800s with rendezvous events, period music and dance on two stages, canoe rides on the Tippecanoe River.

The Trail of Courage will be held at the FCHS grounds four miles north of Rochester on US 31 and Tippecanoe River. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$3 for children (6 through 11), and free ages 5 and under. Hours are Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Guidelines and Liability & Assumption of Risk Waivers

FCHS has submitted guidelines as per Governor Holcomb's executive order to the local health department with items that will be followed for the festival. In addition there will be a Liability & Assumption of Risk Waivers that anyone attending must sign before paying admission and entering the festival. Copies of these can be seen at www.fultoncountyhistory.org

FCHS is doing everything possible to keep everyone safe while visiting the festival and would like everyone who attends to help us keep within the guidelines as stated. Masks will be required when social distancing is not possible, extra hand washing stations and sanitizer will also be available.

NOTE THAT SOME OF THE REGULAR PROGRAMS AND FOOD BOOTHS MAY NOT BE HERE THIS YEAR. WE WILL MISS THEM AND SEE THEM AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

Potawatomi Honored Family & Trail of Death descendants

Each year a different Potawatomi family is honored and their history published in a folder at the replica 1832 Chippeway Village post office. The honored Potawatomi family had ancestors on the Trail of Death or lived in Indiana before the forced removal of 1838.

Join in the Indian dances

The public is invited to join in the Indian dances 2 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., which are held in an arena outlined by teepees. The drum will be the Laughing Drum of the Hawk Band – all woman drum. George Godfrey, Athens, Ill., a member of Citizen Band Potawatomi, will be the Emcee.

The Trail of Courage includes historic encampments representing the French & Indian War, Voyageurs, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Western Fur Trade, Plains Indians teepees, and Woodland Indian wigwams.

Another re-creation is of Chippeway Village, which had the first trading post, post office and village in Fulton County in 1832. Food purveyors and traditional craftsmen set up in wooden booths. Craftsmen also sell pre-1840 trade goods from blankets and in historic merchant tents, offering a variety of items from clothing and jewelry to knives and candles, everything needed to live in frontier days. Demonstrators will include pewtersmith, basket makers, blacksmiths, pottery and others.

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Fun frontier activities for all

Canoe rides, muzzle loading shooting and tomahawk throwing contests, and a Mountain Man Tug of War add to the frontier activities. Local Girl Scouts offer candle dipping to all children.

Two stages with frontier music and dance present programs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Since the early 1980s FCHS has received grants from the Indiana Arts Commission & National Endowment for the Arts to help pay for musicians and dancers. This year they include River Valley Colonials Fife & Drum Corp, Aztec dancers, Danny Russel as Daniel Boone, Genot Picor- voyager, Anderson Marching Highlanders, Indian dancers and drum.

This year's grant is for \$4,050 which is only part of the approximate \$7,500 cost of the performers. Donations to match the grant are required by the Indiana Arts Commission and can be mailed to FCHS, 37 E 375 N, Rochester, IN 46975.

Many volunteers provide programs such as Margo Moore's dog pulling travois, Marsha Glassburn - Cherokee storytelling, Mike Kenny – music; and Mark Gropp – bagpipes.

Both Catholic and Protestant worship services are held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. Father Denny Kinderman, Chicago, has celebrated Mass for over 10 years at the Hillside Amphitheater. Kevin Kennedy, Rochester will lead the Protestant service at the Chippeway Village stage.

Outdoor foods taste so good!

Pioneer foods are cooked over wood fires. Visitors can feast on buffalo burgers, apple dumplings, ham and beans, vegetable stew, potato chips cooked in big iron kettles, turkey legs, pork chops, Indian tacos and fry bread, corn on the cob, apple sausage, and more, including ice cream, one of George Washington's favorite treats. Local clubs cook and serve these historic foods to fund their projects: Rotary, American Cherokee Confederacy, Knights of Columbus, Masonic Lodge; Joe's Hope Relay for Life Team; and Fulton County Historical Society. Mark Gropp family brings homemade fudge. Five Friends biscuits & sausage gravy until 10 a.m. and Masonic Lodge pancakes and sausage, pork steak sandwich. Many people come to the festival just for the delicious food!

The grounds are handicapped accessible. Free tram rides are available to bring people from the museum and Living History Village at the north end of the grounds. The museum and village are open with hosts and free admission.

Volunteers can earn free admission to the Trail of Courage by working half a day. To volunteer or for more information, call the museum at 574-223-4436. Free parking is provided on FCHS grounds. Many benches are available to sit and rest. For further details: www.fultoncountyhistory.org and www.potawatomi-tda.org

Living history taught by real people living as history.

The primary purpose of the Trail of Courage is to educate the public, to preserve and promote an accurate picture of life in frontier Indiana, as well as other areas and time periods of North American history. Real people in historic clothing, real food cooked over wood fires, real fun.

The festival is based on local history, before the Potawatomi Indians were marched west on the forced removal known as the Trail of Death. The Potawatomi were marched down Rochester's Main Street Sept. 5, 1838, on their way to Kansas, a journey of 660 miles that took them 10 weeks and cost them 42 lives. Since 1976 this festival has honored the American Indians and shown life before the removal. When Indiana became a state in 1816, northern Indiana was still Potawatomi Territory.