

Oregon Trail challenge returns Saturday

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Teams participate in the burying event at last year's Oregon Trail Live at Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill.

Oregon Trail Live II

What: Live re-enactment of “The Oregon Trail” video game
When: Teams register and sign-in at noon with competition beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday
Where: Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill, 1313 Mill St. SE
Cost: \$30 for a team of four or \$50 day-of if spots are available. Admission for spectators is \$5, \$3 for ages 12 and younger and free for babies and toddlers
Tickets: brownpapertickets.com/event/437000
Ages: All
Information: oregontraillive.com or (503) 585-7012

Take a step back in time, and brave the adventure to the untamed west at the return of The Oregon Trail Live.

A unique and creative activity for the whole family that touts dying of dysentery, The Oregon Trail Live is a hands-on, live action re-creation of the classic video game of the same name that was popular in the 1980s.

Taking the game from virtual to reality, participants will face 10 challenges to test their skills through “ridiculous, historic and ‘educational’ fun.” Challenges vary from rafting the river (dodging a gauntlet of roller derby girls on skates) to transporting 200 pounds of meat (pushing a 200-pound man dressed as a farm animal up a hill).

And if you want to get a taste for the physical side of things, your team can join the “Grueling Pace Challenge,” organized by Courthouse Fitness, which features potentially period-accurate activities to test your physical prowess.

“If people finish ahead of time, then we have all that other stuff to do,” said Kathleen Schulte, education coordinator for the Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill.

All that other stuff includes Franklin’s Bottle Shop playing host at Miss Milly’s Saloon, the Gambling Parlor, Dance Hall and Arm Wrestling Emporium, where you will find a variety of beverages to complement the day’s activities. The on-site café also will be open to satisfy any hunger cravings.

There also will be an animal area featuring rabbits, goats, chickens and possibly a donkey, plus a re-creation of a 1880s covered wagon, blacksmith demonstrations and live music.

“We have one pair that is going to do old-timey, Oregon-era songs,” Schulte said, “and Ken Cartright, from the Salem Chapter of the Oregon bluegrass Association.”

Sign-in and on-site registration will begin at noon. Challenges start at 1 p.m., and there will be an awards ceremony at 4 p.m.

Not registered? Save time and money by signing up online.

“You can register to participate on-site if space is available. Registration is encouraged to ensure you have a space,” Schulte said.

Tickets for spectators are available at the door. If you do not have a full team but still want to join in on the fun, they are looking for some volunteers, too. For information, email oregontrailgamelive@gmail.com.

Participants, and spectators, are encouraged to dress up and adopt identities for the experience. And don't worry, you won't actually die of dysentery.

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