



OREGON TRAIL LIVE™

2016 Team Packet

Brave Pioneers,

We are so excited to see you all on Saturday, September 17th! Be sure to arrive with your supplies (see list below) and historical enthusiasm. Important note: much as we love dogs (we do! so much!), please leave all four-legged friends at home unless he or she is a service animal. If you are in need of animal companionship, we have some barnyard animals for your amusement.

Before you set out on the trail:

Try to arrive at the Willamette Heritage Center in time to check in, sign your release form(s) and construct your wagon. **Families check in at 11:00 to hit the trail at 12:00. Adults check in at 1:00 to hit the trail at 2:00.** We will have supplies on hand for you to make a tiny wagon, but if you'd like to make your own beforehand, feel free! Just remember, it will have to be caulked to cross the raging Platte Rivers.

As you leave Independence, MO (also known as the check-in area), you will have the following items:

I. Brought by you:

- Notebook (for recording information for the homesteading exam)
- Pen (for taking exam notes, and also filling out forms, because we are not made of pens here at the museum)
- Ill-Fated team member. We have attached a template to the end of this document but you are more than welcome to make your own paper doll. **DO NOT GET ATTACHED BECAUSE THE TRAIL CLAIMS MANY LIVES.**
- Bag (optional; for a water bottle or for carrying other items, perhaps bribery items for the sheriff?)

- Any item you'd like to decorate your tiny homestead in Oregon. It will be about four square feet total, so tiny plastic animals, little plants, etc., might be just the thing to win you the *Most Attractive Homestead* award.
- Water bottle. We will have refill stations; we don't recommend the Platte River for drinking.

2. Provided in Independence, MO:

- One small covered wagon, which can hold your supplies and will eventually be caulked and floated (make this at the "Make Your Wagon" table)
- One map. Throughout the game, you must visit the spots marked on the map to perform the challenges and earn your points for prizes.
- One legal waiver and one survey.

Rules of the Game:

Objective: To homestead in Oregon having successfully met all the challenges marked on your map. The location of each challenge is marked with a black star on your map. You will earn points on your travels.

Points: At each of the challenges, you will get a sticker showing that you have met that challenge. These stickers will be coded for points. Only the judges know what the sticker values are. They will not divulge this information even with bribery! Really!

The judge will place your sticker in the location of the challenge on your map.

Note: judges' decisions are final.

Trail Trivia: There are 12 signs scattered around the grounds with information about the Oregon Trail. Each of these is marked with a big red star. You need to collect this information to pass your Homestead Exam. **No fair using your phone to collect information or answer questions on the homestead exam** - do you think pioneers had smart phones?

Trading Post: Everyone will need to complete one Trading Post challenge. If you'd like, you can go back and do additional challenges to earn tiny farm animals as homesteading decor. These items belong to the museum! They are super, super cute, but please leave them at the museum.

Sheriff: Watch out. He's wandering around looking for trouble, but he's also super bribe-able.

Start Times:

Families and young folks: Be ready to hit the trail at 12:00.

Adults; be ready to hit the trail at 2:00.

You will know it is time because there will be a bullwhip crack and a hearty *Wagons Ho!*

There is no set route for the trail to Oregon; feel free to perform any challenge in any order.

There are well over 100 people total competing, and there will be wait times for some of the challenges. In the meantime, we suggest that you explore the museum to find answers to your homesteading exam, visit *Miss Milly's Saloon*, *Gambling Parlor*, *Dance Hall* and *Arm Wrestling Emporium*, enjoy the live music, purchase a pioneer snack or beverage, or talk amongst yourselves about how lucky you are not to have to travel the actual trail ... or live in Missouri.

You can also check out the life-size wagon, the live barnyard animals and the blacksmiths in the forge. Also, know that your admission into this event includes museum admission, so go wander around a little. It used to be a woolen mill! It has a bunch of the oldest houses in Salem! It's neat!

Ending:

Once you have completed all your challenges, head to the homesteading area (marked on your map as "Willamette Valley, Oregon"). Use string and sticks to stake your land claim, then build a little cabin out of the materials provided. You can decorate with any extra items you may have earned at the trading post or that you brought, and get a picture of your team with the homestead.

You must turn in your map for the judges to tally points for prizes. Be sure to put your team name and individual contacts on your map!

Awards are in Miss Milly's Saloon at 2:30 p.m. for the 1843 teams and 4:30 p.m. for the 1850 teams or earlier if everyone finishes! Don't dawdle en route or you may find yourself freezing to death in the cold winter of your fellow traveler's stares.

If you need help:

There will be Willamette Heritage Center staff and volunteers around ready to help. These folks are also super bribe-able. You can identify them by their wooden name tags!

Prizes:

- Golden Bell Award: Given to the team that has the highest score, based on stickers
- Bronze Bell: Bell of Brawn Award: Given to the team that does best on the Grueling Pace Challenge
- Silver Bell: Historical Enthusiasm Award. Given to the team that demonstrates the finest pioneer spirit OR the team with the best costumes. We'll decide, don't worry.

- Lincoln Log set: Most Attractive Homestead Award. Given to the team that has the most appealing tiny homestead.
- Red Bell: Courage Award: Given to the team that faces the most hardship on the trail (read: has the lowest score)
- Green Bell: Given to the team with the best or most original dirge.

See you on the trail!

Oregon Trail Live™ is sponsored by Huggins Insurance, Roth's Fresh Markets, Collier Law, Salem Electric, and The Coin Jam. Please be sure to visit these local businesses and thank them for supporting our community!



Special thanks to our food and beverage providers, Adam's Rib Smoke House and Salem Ale Works! Visit Miss Milly's Saloon & Arm Wrestling Emporium (in the Dye House) for delicious barbecue and a cold drink from 1 pm to 5 pm.



HERITAGE CENTER

Questions? We have answers! Give us a call at (503) 585-7012, or email kathleens@willametteheritage.org.

