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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center Returns to Summer Hours for its 20th Season

Washburn, N.D.—Beginning April 17, the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan will be open on Sundays for the summer season, both facilities will be open 9 am - 5 pm daily. The Center and Fort Mandan celebrate their 20th anniversary this year with free admission for all students and a host of new opportunities for children to enjoy. The free admissions are sponsored by MDU Resources and the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation.

The Center offers world-class exhibits on the Lewis and Clark Expedition and other aspects of Northern Plains history. New this year are the Young Explorers Knapsacks, a scavenger hunt with which kids can use the tools of Lewis and Clark to explore the exhibits on a whole other level, as well as a variety of sports, games, and more that bring history to life.

Fort Mandan offers a newly-enhanced Young Explorers Play and Discovery Area as well as regular tours by trained guides. The fort is filled with a variety of new replicas made possible with funding from the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation and the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation.

Events this summer include Explorer Days, an annual living history event, on June 3 and 4; Music in Harmony Park, a family-friendly evening of concerts, vendors, and more on July 14; and the Lewis & Clark Farmers Market every Friday evening from July 14 to October 27. Art exhibits include *Brush Scholar: The Lewis & Clark Art of Michael Haynes* through June 25, *The Northern Plains National Heritage Area Suite* through October 31, and *Hometown Retrospective: Washburn Art Through the Years* from July 14 through November 30.

The interpretive center is also open during the winter season from October to April on Mondays through Saturdays. On April 1 the facilities will be closed for an annual all-staff training.

The Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center is located 40 miles north of Bismarck at the intersection of US 83 and ND 200A in Washburn.

More information about North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department can be found on its website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

The mission of North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is to provide and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities through diverse parks and programs that conserve the state's natural diversity.

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