



PRESS RELEASE

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Students Enhance the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center for Smart Phones

Washburn, N.D.—Starting this week, visitors—especially kids—will be able to use their smartphones to enjoy Lewis and Clark exhibits on a whole new level. This is all thanks to a project by the 4th-graders at Jeannette Myhre Elementary in Bismarck.

In place of traditional classroom instruction about North Dakota studies, Jeannette Myhre 4th Grade teachers, Tescha Walz and Kristen Hjelmstad, tasked their students with creating museum content for other kids. Each student was given an artifact or object from the museum to research and asked to write about it in a way that would make sense to other students. Library media specialist Stacy Olson worked with students to publish their writing and create QR codes for each artifact.

In the exhibit at Fort Mandan, a QR code will be placed next to each object. Using any QR code reader app, visitors will be able to scan the code and pull up a photo and the student's description. Interpretive center staff worked hand-in-hand with the students and their teachers to insure the accuracy and suitability of their descriptions.

“This was a challenging project,” says the Center’s interpretive coordinator, Robert Hanna. “In the end I was amazed by how well they were able to relate their objects to other children’s experiences.”

Fittingly, all student admission is free throughout 2017 thanks to a grant from MDU Resources Foundation. Other admissions are \$7.50 for adults, \$5 for adults with a North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department annual vehicle pass, and free for members of the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation.

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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