Pere Marquette Rendezvous

September 12 & 13, 2015

at Pere Marquette State Park - along the Illinois River

Grafton, Illinois

Visitors can step back in time, to the days when frontier fur trappers met with fur traders and buyers, during this reenactment festival at Pere Marquette State Park.

The third annual Pere Marquette State Park Rendezvous will be a traditional Pre-1840 Rendezvous, with buckskinned reenactors portraying primitive traders and campers. There will be period demonstrations, black powder and longbow shoots, camp music, and food common to days on the Illinois frontier.

The public is invited and admission is free.

Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Trade Tent fee will be $25
Blanket Trader will be $15 (8x8 blanket)
Wood, shower, bathrooms, and water will be available
Black Powder shoot - $20 blanket prize
Long Bow shoot - $20 blanket prize
Daily demonstration schedule wo;; be posted after August 1st, 2015
Tomahawk Throw - event scheduled
Round Robin, Pot Luck and a Dance on Saturday night

Public/RV camping, please RSVP by calling the park office at 618.786.3323

For the daily event calendar, please visit the Pere Marquette website and our DNR agency Facebook page after August 1st.

State of Illinois

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Demonstrations and Activities

Raising of the Colors – flag raising ceremony

Tomahawk Toss – throwing of tomahawks for skill, fun and accuracy?

Black Powder Rifle shoot – smooth bore rifles, breech loading, demonstrations. Skill and accuracy and how they provided table fair and security for settlers.

Voyager Canoe – A 34' Montreal Canoe. Living history of how early settlers transported goods for trade and transportation of goods. You will have an opportunity to paddle this piece of history.

Blacksmith – iron forging and "chinking" sounds for manufacturing early settlement tools

Primitive Surveying – learn how the early surveyors mapped and navigated and homestead ownership of land.

Archery – Long bow (recurve). Learn how "Osage Orange" wood was carved and used to develop hunting devices.

Fire Starting – one important resource used for cooking, light and safety. Flint/steel demonstrations, and fire pistons were one of the must have tools for survival.

Fur Tanner/Trapping – Beaver was one of the most important commodities and reason for settling along the Illinois River Basin. The basis for trade and used for clothing and trading.

Rope Maker – come learn how basic threads were woven into a strong device. Make your own and spin the wheel.

Candy Cannon – kids will have an opportunity to retrieve and satisfy their sweet tooth thru some of today's delights, once launched thru the Candy Cannon.

Lewis and Clark – Illinois Historic Preservation will have Lewis and Clark reenactors telling the story of Meriwether Lewis and George Rogers Clark.

Cannon Demonstrations – Large bore, lead balls and sonic booms. Come and see the smoke, the challenges faced for early infantry.

Folk Music – Rowdy Ol River Music Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. String instruments are strummin'.