

# EXPLORING, SURVEYING, & MAPPING IN THE NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST

## Surveyors Historical Society

### Rendezvous 2026

September 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>

Join us in Missoula, Montana as the Surveyors Historical Society presents “historic exploring, surveying, and mapping” in the Heart of the Northern Rocky Mountain West.

- In the late 1700s, the Hudson Bay Company, the Northwest Company, and others sent trappers west into a large portion of what is now Canada and the Northern reaches of the United States, where, along with trapping, they gathered data that would be added to later maps.
- Map makers began compiling the mapping data gathered by trappers, explorers, and others to create maps of the area.
- Lewis & Clark travelled west through the Northern Rocky Mountains in 1805 and returned in 1806.
- Numerous trappers, traders, and explorers followed Lewis & Clark into the area in the first half of the 1800s.
- Gold discoveries by 1860 brought a rush of miners into the Northern Rocky Mountain West.
- The quest for a northern route for a railroad to connect the areas east of the Mississippi river with the west coast with brought government expeditions into the area in the early 1850s, to explore and map the Northern Rocky Mountains.
- The need for a travel connection between the upper reaches of navigation on the Missouri and Columbia Rivers resulted in construction of a Military Wagon Road in the early 1860s connecting Fort Walla Walla, Washington Territory, with Fort Benton in what was then Dakota Territory.
- The rapidly expanding western population resulted in a short number of years of Western Montana going from being a part of Oregon Territory, to Washington Territory, to Idaho Territory, and then to Montana Territory.
- Montana Territory was created in 1864. The western longitude border with Idaho was surveyed in 1898 & 1899. The border along the crest of the mountains was surveyed from 1904 to 1906.
- The GLO Survey of Montana Territory began in 1867 southwest of Three Forks, Montana.
- Yellowstone was established as the first National Park in 1872, and the first attempt at surveying the boundaries was in 1894.
- Government set asides of unpatented land resulted in nearly impossible to locate patented mining claims that were lost in the middle of what are now designated Wildernesses.



The 2026 Rendezvous will delve into all these topics.

# Rendezvous Program

## Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Board Of Directors Meeting  
Welcome Weary Travelers (food and cash bar)  
Annual Membership Meeting  
Hospitality Room

## Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

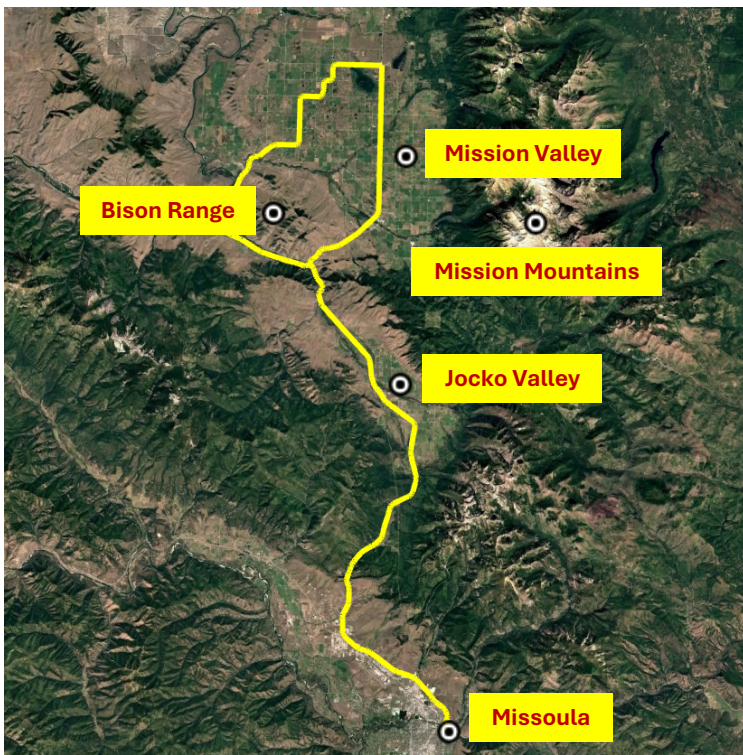
Breakfast at Hotel  
Morning Sessions  
Field trip to "Travelers Rest" & Holt Western Museum  
Outdoor lunch at "Travelers Rest"  
Afternoon Sessions  
Dinner on your own at local eateries (options provided)  
Hospitality Room

## Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>

Breakfast at Hotel  
Morning sessions  
Lunch at Hotel  
Afternoon Session  
Swap meet, displays, and demonstrations  
Annual Banquet and Raffle

## Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

Breakfast in Hotel  
Farmers Market next to Hotel (food and trinkets)  
Optional: Field bus trip to the Jocko Valley, the scenic Mission Valley, and the National Bison Range



# Spouse/Guest Program

## Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Welcome Weary Travelers (food and cash bar)  
Hospitality Room

## Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

Breakfast at Hotel  
Field bus trip to Butterfly House,  
Insectarium,  
& Garden



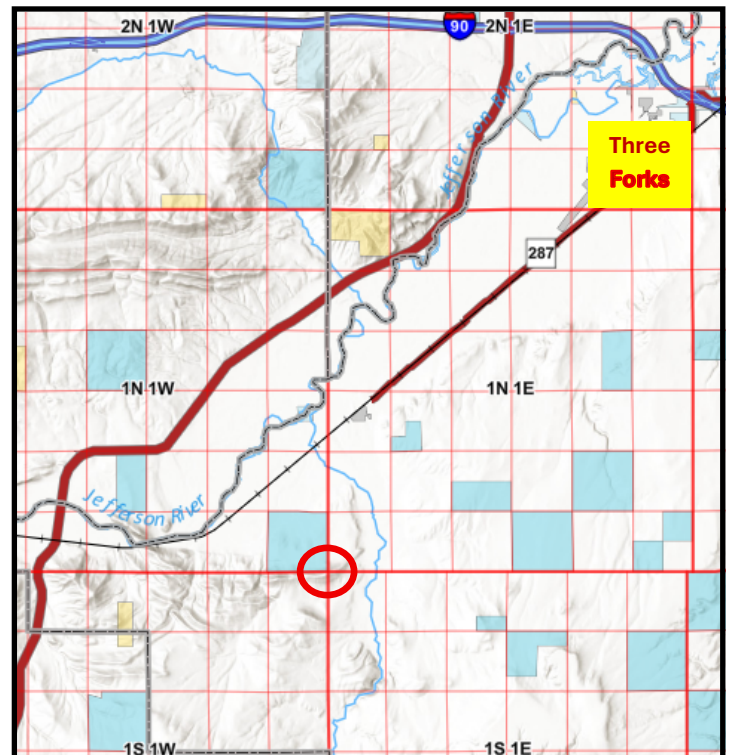
Field bus trip to "Travelers Rest" (identified campsite of Lewis and Clark) & Holt Western Museum  
Outdoor lunch at "Travelers Rest"  
Self-directed walks and shopping in downtown area.  
Dinner on your own at local eateries (options provided)  
Hospitality Room

## Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>

Breakfast at Hotel  
Guided walking tour of historical downtown Missoula  
Field bus trip to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Lunch at Hotel  
Annual Banquet and Raffle

## Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

Second optional event: Hosted visit to Montana Initial Point by travelers heading east and carpoolers traveling to and from the site. The site is located 160 miles east of Missoula off interstate 90 southwest of Three Forks

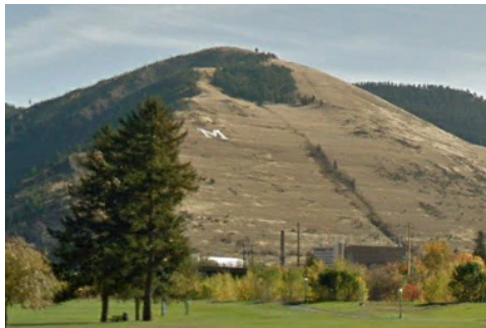


# Featured Speakers & Presentations

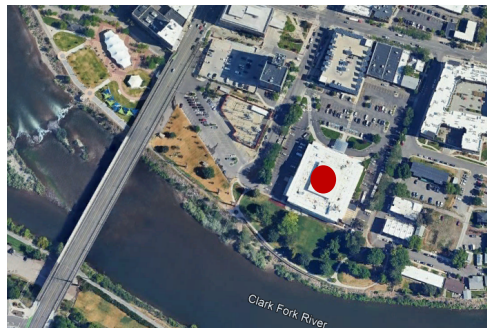
- *Aaron Arrowsmith's Maps of the West* Austin Heany, Local Historian
- *Lewis and Clark in Western Montana.* Bruce Mehelish, Local Historian
- *Methods of David Thompson and others when mapping the Northern Rocky Mountain West.* Denny DeMeyer, PLS, Washington
- *John Mullan, the Pacific Railroad Surveys, and mapping a military wagon road.* Bill Weikel, PLS, Montana
- *Survey of the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park* George Borneman, PLS, Montana
- *Survey of the Montana/Idaho Border* Kurt Luebke PLS, Montana
- *12-year Search for the lost Babbette Mineral Claims* Linda Smith, PLS Montana  
Dave Dorsett, PLS, Montana

## Optional self-directed activities

Hike to the “M”, 650 feet above the valley floor with a view of everything in the Missoula Valley.



Walk the riverfront trail to see the Missoula Carousel and maybe see kayakers on Brennan’s Wave.



Ride the Missoula Carousel, watch children and adults play in Dragon Hollow, and enjoy the river front.



## Hotel & Airport Information

### Holiday Inn Downtown

- 200 S Pattee St. Missoula, Montana 59802
- The reservation room rate is \$239 (single/double) per night plus tax. Parking is complimentary
- To reserve a room, call Holiday Inn Downtown directly at **406-721-8550**
- Rooms are reserved under Surveyors Historical Society
- The Rendezvous Rate will be available until **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 2026

### Missoula International Airport

- Located 10 miles west of Missoula.
- Served by United, Delta, American, Allegiant, Alaskan, & Sun Country.
- The Holiday Inn provides a shuttle for guests.



# Rendezvous 2026 Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name for badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ Name for badge: \_\_\_\_\_

SHS Member:  Yes  No

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

### How to Register

Fill out this form and send it with a check to Surveyors Historical Society  
722 East Capital Ave.  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Register online with Pay Pal payment at [www.surveyorshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.surveyorshistoricalsociety.com)

**The deadline to register is August 15th**

		<u>Registration Type</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Nonmember</u>
Full Registration:		Includes all activities on Wednesday evening, all Thursday, all Friday (including banquet), & Saturday breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350	<input type="checkbox"/> \$425
Thursday Only Registration		Includes Thursday breakfast, all Thursday sessions + Travelers Rest visit and lunch.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
Friday Only Registration		Includes Friday breakfast, all Friday sessions, and Friday Lunch.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
Spouse/Guest Registration		Includes all meals, spouse/guest outings, and banquet Must accompany a fully registered attendee.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	(member or Nonmember)
Friday Banquet Only Registration (member or nonmember)	_____ @ \$65		\$ _____	
Saturday Optional Trip to Bison Range (member or nonmember)	_____ @ \$75		\$ _____	
			TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____	
<i>Nonmember rates include a complimentary 2027 SHS Membership with a completed application</i>				

Friday night banquet meal choice:

Mushroom & Vegetable Bourguignons

Salmon with potatoes & vegetables

Bison Meatloaf with potatoes & vegetables

Chicken Breast with potatoes & vegetables

Special Needs: If you have special needs that may affect your participation in this event, please inform us below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cancellation Policy** Cancellations prior to August 17 will receive a refund of registration fees, minus a \$50 cancellation fee and online registration fees. **Cancellations after August 17 will receive NO REFUND**