

State parks provide great opportunity

Now that school vacation time has started, Oregonians can take advantage of special history-oriented programs at two state parks.

The Champoege Historical Pageant, Oregon's official pageant of statehood, begins July 5 at Champoege State Park, and covers events from Oregon's settlement to statehood.

The ninth season of the outdoor historical pageant features a script by Oregon playwright Charles Deemer. "The performances show trappers, settlers, missionaries and Indians in their struggles to control the Oregon country," said Martha MacIver, pageant spokesperson.

The gate opens at 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday evenings, July 5-29. Tickets may be ordered in advance by calling 245-3922, and they are available at the gate. Cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for students 5-16. On Thursdays, two children will be admitted free with each adult when tickets are purchased at the gate.

MacIver noted that the pageant runs approximately two hours. "Since the amphitheater is on the river bank, some evenings can be cool, so we advise people to bring blankets," she said.

Picnic suppers are available for \$3. They are prepared by United Methodist Church of Canby and include cornbread, baked beans, sausage and cole slaw.

Champoege State Park is located seven miles south-east of Newberg. Interstate 5 access is from Exit 278 midway between Portland and Salem. The park preserves the site where more than 100 French-Canadian and American settlers met in 1843 to establish a provisional government. "When people pass through the gate we want them to forget that they live in the twentieth century and be transported to Oregon in the 1800s. All food served at the pageant harkens back to the 1800s: gingerbread and hot applesauce, beef jerkey, cornbread, sausage, lemonade, etc...all served from the general store," MacIver said. Users and concession workers are in costume of the period.

There is also a "pioneer homestead" on the pageant site for the duration of the pageant, including a home-

stead cabin, smokehouse, petting animals, family garden and farm wagon.

At Silver Falls State Park, 26 miles east of Salem on Highway 214, a Civil War program will be presented.

You can hear Civil War cannons booming, watch an authentic battle between the North and the South, and tour Confederate and Union camps.

The Northwest Civil War Council features infantry and artillery units from Oregon, Washington and California. Admission is \$2.50 per person for those 13 years and older, and free to children 12 years and younger.

Some of the activities that will take place in this five-day event are a flag ceremony, living history demonstrations, antique gun display, 1860s fashion show and a total of 11 Civil War battles.

The program begins June 30 at 12:30 p.m. with a flag raising ceremony, then starts at 9:30 a.m. the next four days. The program ends at 6:30 p.m. each day.



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