

NEWS FROM FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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Annual Trail of Courage Sept. 17-18, 2022

The excitement and adventure of Frontier Indiana comes alive at the 46th annual Trail of Courage Living History Festival Sept. 17-18 at Rochester, Indiana. Since 1976 it has been a place where history is depicted, where you can trace the very footsteps of history, and have a good time doing it. Over 1,000 people in historic outfits participate.

Frontier Indiana comes alive with foods cooked over wood fires, period music and dance, traditional crafts, historic camps and trading, canoe rides on the river, and much more. It is produced by the Fulton County Historical Society. This event combines genealogy of the Potawatomi Indians and the settlers who lived in Fulton County and northern Indiana in the early 1800s with rendezvous events, period music and dance on two stages, canoe rides on the Tippecanoe River.

The Trail of Courage will be held at the FCHS grounds four miles north of Rochester on US 31 and Tippecanoe River. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$3 for children (6 through 11), and free ages 5 and under. Hours are Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Potawatomi Honored Family & Trail of Death descendants

Each year a different Potawatomi family is honored and their history published in a folder at the replica 1832 Chippeway Village post office. The honored Potawatomi family had ancestors on the Trail of Death or lived in Indiana before the forced removal of 1838.

Join in the Indian dances

The public is invited to join in the Indian dances 2 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., which are held in an arena outlined by teepees. The drum will be the Laughing Drum – all woman drum and George Godfrey, Athens, Ill will be the Emcee. Head dancers will be Denny Setnor and Teri Malot Schwiethale.

The Trail of Courage includes historic encampments representing the French & Indian War, Voyageurs, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Western Fur Trade, Plains Indians teepees, and Woodland Indian wigwams. A re-created Miami Village includes wigwams and lifeways demonstrations, such as making cattail mats.

Another re-creation is of Chippeway Village, which had the first trading post, post office and village in Fulton County in 1832. Food purveyors and traditional craftsmen set up in wooden booths. Craftsmen also sell pre-1840 trade goods from blankets and in historic merchant tents, offering a variety of items from clothing and jewelry to knives and candles, everything needed to live in frontier days.

Fun frontier activities for all

Canoe rides, muzzle loading shooting and tomahawk throwing contests, and a Mountain Man Tug of War add to the frontier activities. Local Scouts offer candle dipping to all children.

Two stages with frontier music and dance present programs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Since the early 1980s FCHS has received grants from the Indiana Arts Commission/ National Endowment for the Arts to help pay for musicians and dancers. This year they include River Valley Colonials Fife & Drum Corp, Aztec dancers, Danny Russel as Daniel Boone, Mark and Liza Woolever, Paul Mitchell; Anderson Marching Highlanders, Indian dancers and drum.

This year's grant is for \$3,900 which is about half of the approximately \$9,500 cost of the performers. Donations to match the grant are required by the Indiana Arts Commission and can be mailed to FCHS, 37 E 375 N, Rochester, IN 46975.

Many volunteers provide programs such as Margo Moore's dog pulling travois and Mark & Molly Gropp – bagpipes.

Both Catholic and Protestant worship services are held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. Father Denny Kinderman, Chicago, has celebrated Mass for over 10 years at the Hillside Amphitheater. Kevin Kennedy, Rochester, will lead the Protestant service at the Chippeway Village stage.

Outdoor foods taste so good!

Pioneer foods are cooked over wood fires. Visitors can feast on buffalo burgers, fried pies, Turkey legs, duck and Beignet, pulled pork, turkey and noodles, ham and beans, vegetable stew, chili, Indian Tacos, corn on the cob, apple sausage, Kettle Korn and Rootbeer, and includes ice cream, one of George Washington's favorite treats. Local clubs cook and serve these historic foods to fund their projects: American Cherokee Confederacy, Rotary, Knights of Columbus, Masonic Lodge; and Fulton County Historical Society. Mark Gropp family brings homemade fudge. The apple sausage booth will have biscuits & sausage gravy until 10 a.m. and again this year the Masonic Lodge will be doing pancakes and sausage. Many people come to the festival just for the delicious food!

The grounds are handicapped accessible. Free tram rides are available to bring people from the museum and Living History Village at the north end of the grounds. The museum and village are open with hosts and free admission.

Volunteers can earn free admission to the Trail of Courage by working half a day. To volunteer or for more information, call the museum at 574-223-4436. Free parking is provided on FCHS grounds. Many benches are available to sit and rest. For further details: www.fultoncountyhistory.org and www.potawatomi-tda.org.

Living history taught by real people living as history.

The primary purpose of the Trail of Courage is to educate the public, to preserve and promote an accurate picture of life in frontier Indiana, as well as other areas and time periods of North American history. Real people in historic clothing, real food cooked over wood fires, real fun

The festival is based on local history, before the Potawatomi Indians were marched west on the forced removal known as the Trail of Death. The Potawatomi were marched down Rochester's Main Street Sept. 5, 1838, on their way to Kansas, a journey of 660 miles that took them 10 weeks and cost them 42 lives. Since 1976 this festival has honored the American Indians and shown life before the removal. When Indiana became a state in 1816, northern Indiana was still Potawatomi Territory.

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FOODS AT THE TRAIL

Old time favorites and some new menu items will be available at the Trail of Courage this weekend. Buffalo Burgers, Ham & Beans, Vegetable Stew, Turkey & Noodles, Chili, Indian Tacos; Apple Sausage, Turkey Legs, Duck and Beignets; Pork chops, Corn on Cob, Pull Pork, and Pork Steak Sandwiches. Fried Pies, Ice Cream, Kettle Korn, fudge and Root Beer.

So definitely bring your appetite and come on out to the Trail of Courage.

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The Old Country Melodeon

Paul Mitchell, Culver a past participant of the Trail of Courage as American Mountain Man with a Trail tarp for his shelter. Now Mitchell will be playing his Melodeon (small organ or accordion) music on the stages both days and might join in with Mark & Liza Woolever, Plymouth in a few songs as well.

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AZTEC DANCERS RETURN

For all who love to watch the Aztec Dancers perform you will get your opportunity on Sat. & Sun. at the Trail of Courage. They are scheduled from 11-12 p.m. and 1-2 p.m. each day.

They also have a booth in the woods south of the stage where they sell items as well.

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American Cherokee Booth

You will see familiar faces at the Cherokee booth with homemade Chili and Indian Tacos. Stop by and say Hello. The McClellan family has participate every year since 1976. .

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FRIED PIES AND ICE CREAM

The Fulton Co. Hist. Soc. will again be serving Amish Fried Pies from Millersburg, Ind., so be sure to visit the booth and get your Ice Cream while you are there.

Because of increased cost FCCHS will not be serving Apple Dumplings this year or making the Potato Chips. They will return to the menu next year. Thank you for understanding – this event is a major fundraiser for the museum. Thank you to everyone for supporting the Trail of Courage .

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are still needed for the festival this weekend. Sign up to work a four hour shift and earn free admission to the festival. Needed are people to help have buildings open in the Living History Village up by the museum, people to ride the trams in the parking area, and people to help in the food booths.

Interested persons please call 574-223-4436 to volunteer.

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FCCHS receives Grants

The Indiana Arts Commission granted FCCHS a grant for \$3,900.00 and the Fulton County Tourism a grant for \$1,000.

These funds are used to help pay for program personnel and Tourism funds used to help pay for advertising the festival to bring in more Tourism dollars into the community. Monies collected at local hotels and Air b n b places in the county goes toward Tourism Commission to be able to give grants to local festivals and activities within the community.

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Hoots to Howls Return

Kim Hoover, Star City, Ind. – Hoots to Howls Wildlife Rehabilitation will return this year on Saturday 12- 1 p.m. and bring part of the animals that she is working with. This is a non-profit that helps with injured animals and could always use financial support and do a wonderful job with the work they are doing.

Soarin' Hawk Rehabilitation group from Fort Wayne will present a program on Sunday 12-1 p.m.

Come on out and learn more about these groups during the festival.

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Traditional crafts still being taught

The Trail of Courage is an excellent place to see historic crafts still being taught from long ago. These crafts include Basketmaking; Blacksmithing; Pewter Casting; Tinsmith and Pottery making. Stop by these booths or camps and learn from the people teaching. The Blacksmiths also have a monthly class at the Fulton Co. Hist. Soc. grounds each month on the 2nd Saturday and you are welcome to join the group.

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