

35th Annual REDBUD TRAIL RENDEZVOUS - Apr. 25-26, 2026

HOURS: SAT. 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. SUN. 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Fulton County Historical Society, Inc.

37 E 375 N, Rochester, IN 46975

Phone 574-223-4436 Mon. - Sat. 9 to 5

Website: www.fultoncountyhistory.org or Email: fchs@rtcol.com

You are invited to come enjoy this spring rendezvous at the site of the Trail of Courage when the redbuds are blooming. See the Fulton County Museum, Round Barn Museum, Living History Village, and how much has been done since last time you were here! The round barn and the Polke House are repaired. **AGAIN THIS YEAR WE WILL SET UP IN LIVING HISTORY VILLAGE JUST SOUTH OF ROUND BARN. WE ARE INCLUDING CIVIL WAR – SO TIME PERIOD WILL BE PRE-1865.**

Purpose: Educate the public about frontier history, preserve history and heritage of pre-1865 era. Provide a fun and relaxing time for participants! Teaching is one of the purposes for the rendezvous.

Location: Fulton County Historical Society grounds 4 miles north of Rochester on New U.S. 31.

Amenities: straw, free firewood, low price for camping & trading, free showers beside museum, free admission to the museum and Living History Village at north end of grounds. So come on out and have some fun on the banks of the Tippecanoe River. See Indian and mountainman encampments along with militia camps, blanket traders, merchant tents, more!

SHOOTERS - RELAX AND HAVE FUN – Muzzleloading shooting will take place only if the river has not flooded the range.

Prizes depend on Blanket Shoot tradition. Fixed sights, round ball ammunition only. Adjustable sights will be fixed with a drop of wax by the Range Officer. "Blanket" Hawk Throws will also be held.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM PERSONNEL - Opportunity for You to Sing & Play! Have you an idea for a music program or historic skit that you would like to try out? Try out your idea during the Redbud Trail and earn free camping & trading. Please let us know so we can make a schedule. This is just for fun and your pleasure, so join in and make it merry! But keep it pre-1865 style.

RENDEZVOUS RULES - All primitive camps must be pre-1865. All dress and items to be sold or traded must be pre-1865. Pre-1865 dress required for all participants during public hours Sat. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All shooters must be in pre-1865 outfits and use pre-1865 style rifles and pistols.

No dogs, animals, pet spiders or insects allowed except Program and Companion dogs for Handicapped. There is a veterinarian kennel near-by where you can leave your dog. DNR no longer gives permits for wild pets at public events. **All program animals and birds must be pre-approved with all paperwork SUBMITTED 6 months prior to the festival. Birds and wild animals must be held only by the owner/presenter – do not allow other participants or public to hold them. Safety first – you are responsible.**

No alcoholic beverages will be consumed between 12 a.m. and 6p.m. in the afternoon. All beverages must be consumed from primitive containers. **No drugs or controlled substances allowed.** Minors - no consuming of alcohol. Do not bring in alcohol during public hours – this is a family oriented event.

Fire safety - please put a rope around your fire to keep children and the public out. Have shovel or fire extinguisher.

QUIET TIME after 12 a.m./midnight so all can sleep. Be considerate of others.

This rendezvous is a family-oriented event. Please conduct yourselves and your business in a non-offensive manner.

Modern camping is away from primitive area which will be south of the Fulton County Museum and Round Barn. No hook ups, no electric except for medical purposes at museum. Don't dig firepits in the parking field - Do camp along the edge/tree line where fire pits are ok. Please fill fire pits with dirt and sod when you leave - **DON'T PUT TRASH IN THE FIRE PITS.**

No vehicles allowed in the primitive area at any time except to load or unload **ONLY** before 9 a.m. both days and Saturday evening 6 to 8 p.m. Unload and remove vehicles immediately. **DO NOT** let vehicle block roadways while you arrange your camp or booth.

Food Purveyors: must be authentic early 1800's foods cooked over a wood fire. Must comply with Indiana Health Laws.

Limit one free load of firewood per food booth. (Bring a load from home to help- **no firewood from quarantined areas please.**)

Keep modern necessities out of sight! Please be aware that the gate opens to the public at 8 a.m. even though the event officially opens at 10 a.m. Please dress historic when you first get up and be ready for the day.

NO camp will be allowed to tear down or leave before 4 p.m. Sunday. Let's build a good reputation by staying for the public!

NO – REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS allowed to spend the night at the festival. Background checks are being done. **THIS IS SAFETY FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.** During festival hours they can be here!

Please be aware that the gate does not open to vehicle traffic until 5:15 p.m. Sat. & 4:15 p.m. Sun. or later to allow the public, especially older folks walking slow to get out without being run over!

No loaded or primed firearms outside shooting area.

No raffles allowed. No contests allowed without prior consent by Fulton Co. Hist. Soc. Board of Directors 60 days before event.

No vendor is to provide or sell **face painting** for children. Indians have objected to this.

Indiana Code Art. 35 Sect. 47 **prohibits selling edged weapons** to minors age 16 and under!

No sling shots, no whips, no railroad lanterns, no Medieval or sorcery items, no compound bows will be displayed or sold.

No inappropriate touching or making inappropriate comments. Violators will be expelled.

No profanity, indecencies or belligerent behavior allowed. This is a family-oriented event. Violators will be expelled.

NO crossbows or zingers.

GENERAL ADMISSION: Adults \$3 (age 12 & older), age 11 & under free.

FREE ADMISSION can be earned by helping FCHS during event. Call ahead.

Redbud Trail Rendezvous Apr. 25-26, 2026

Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

PARTICIPANT APPLICATION

Fulton County Historical Society, Inc. 37 E 375 N, Rochester, IN 46975

Phone 574-223-4436 Mon. - Sat. 9 to 5 Website: www.fultoncountyhistory.org E-mail fchs@rtcol.com

Note: Late fee will be assessed after Apr. 1. Please register early!

You must register and not come unbeknownst to the FCHS office. In case of emergency, we need to be able to find you.

Check all areas of participation for you and your family. ADULTS (except husband/wife) MUST fill out separate forms -- BOTH husband & wife & ALL adults must sign Liability Waiver. See parts 3 & 4 & 8.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE:

1. Name _____ Nickname _____
Those accompanying you _____
(Adults other than spouses must fill in separate applications.)
Address _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____
City _____ State _____ zip _____
Name of your business or group _____
E-mail _____ Web page _____

2. Participant categories:

LIST ALL to be sold in spaces below. Anything not on your list cannot be sold! Use separate sheet if more space is needed.

Previous participants – please fill in. Don't Expect us to dig out last year's application.

- ___ Program Personnel. **Free camping & trading.** Check appropriate blanks if you wish to camp or trade.
Group name: _____
Function: Fashion Show _____ Musician - instruments: _____
Other (please state) _____
- ___ Traditional Craftsman or Educational Display. No fee if you demonstrate or teach 75% of time.
Check here ___ if you need a 10x10 booth provided for you. Your craft or display: _____
- ___ Booth Trader. Fee before Apr. 1: \$15; after Apr. 1: \$22.50 for 10'x10' booths in historic building in Living History Village.
List merchandise: _____
- ___ Merchant Tent. Fee before Apr. 1: \$25; after Apr. 1: \$37.50. Dimensions: _____ List merchandise: _____
- ___ Blanket Trader. Fee before Apr. 1: \$10; after Apr. 1: \$15 per blanket (8'x7'). No tables allowed. List merchandise: _____
- ___ Food Purveyor. Fee before Apr. 1: \$50; after Apr. 1: \$75. WRITE FOR SEPARATE APPLICATION.
Only non-profit Fulton County groups allowed except those already in. (NO BOTTLED WATER TO BE SOLD.)
- ___ Shooter. No fee. Your club: _____
- ___ Indian dancer or singer. **Free camping and trading.** Check appropriate blanks if you wish to shoot or trade.
Group name: _____
Names of dancers: _____
- ___ Rendezvous Worker. **Free camping.** Function: FCHS food booth _____ Admissions Gate _____ Museum host _____
Other: _____

3. Dimensions: frontage _____ sides _____

4. Camping: Free to all above participants. \$5 per lodge (\$7.50 after Apr. 1) if you have checked no other area of participation. All must dress historic. Limit 4 adults per \$5 camp fee. No minors allowed to camp alone outside parents'/guardian's designated area.

- ___ Modern. Type of camping (trailer, tent) _____
- ___ Historic. Type of lodge _____ Base dimensions _____ Frontage _____
Number of lodges _____ Total size needed for camp _____
Only lodges you list here will be allowed: no more.
If you are with a unit: unit name _____
I want to camp next to _____
No set ups before Wed. All set-ups must be removed by the following weekend.

(over)

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5. Camping with someone else, helping someone else - **you must sign Liability Waiver & fill in application.** I will be camping in (name's) lodge _____ Limit 4 adults per \$5 camp fee. **Anyone over 18 must sign liability waiver for yourself.**

I will be helping _____

6. Vehicle markers. Number you will need (limit 2): _____

7. I plan to arrive: date & time _____

I plan to stay both days _____ Sat. only _____ Sun. only _____

_____ I plan on participating in school day program I will demo _____

8. PETS OR ANIMALS MUST BE APPROVED 6 MONTHS AHEAD OF EVENT TIME AS PART OF THE PROGRAM or handicapped assisting. I plan to bring: _____ Animal(s) name(s): _____

Enclosed: Proof of Insurance _____ Proof of all required immunizations/veterinarian checkup paperwork _____

Proof of Companion Dog or other certification _____ **COPIES OF ALL PAPERWORK REQUIRED 6 MONTHS AHEAD OF EVENT.**

NO DOGS, ANIMALS, PET SPIDERS OR INSECTS ALLOWED except pre-approved program dogs, such as travois dog. **ALL BIRDS/WILD ANIMALS ARE TO BE HANDLED BY OWNER/PRESENTER ONLY – NO PUBLIC OR OTHER PARTICIPANTS SHOULD HOLD THEM.**

9. I want the Trail to succeed and to grow so I will volunteer in the following ways.

_____ I will help to publicize the Redbud. Send me 50 brochures to pass out to family, friends, schools, clubs, church class, traveling, other events, wherever I go. (Order more when these are gone if you can get them out to people.)

_____ I am an EMT, nurse, doctor or other medical person & willing to help in case of emergency.

_____ I have a cell phone that can be used in case of emergency.

10. PLEDGE: By signing this application, you are agreeing to this pledge:

I will stay until 4 p.m. Sunday, rain or shine, and I will not tear down my camp until that time. If emergency requires me to leave early, I will notify my Camp Commander and carry my possessions out. I will not bring vehicles into festival area until after closing.

11. I give my permission for FCHS to use any pictures of me and my outfit and camp at the Redbud Trail Rendezvous on the FCHS web site or to be published in newsmidia and newsletters.

12. Liability Waiver: I waive and release the Fulton County Historical Society and its agents, representatives, committees and members from any and all claims or rights to damages for injuries or losses suffered by myself and/or members of my family, directly or indirectly while participating in all Redbud Trail Rendezvous activities. I alone am liable for loss, damage, or injury to myself and my property and damage to others and their property by me, my property, family and pets while on the property of the Fulton County Historical Society. I agree to abide by the rules of the Redbud Trail Rendezvous. I am liable for my own sales tax. I UNDERSTAND THAT BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE BEING DONE FOR REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS AND THAT THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT THE FESTIVAL.

Signature _____ Date _____

Spouse's signature _____ Date _____

This must be dated to be a legal signature.

13. Enclosures:

_____ First timers: Color photo of yourself in historic garb, your lodge and set-up, and your trade goods. Photos become property of FCHS. Print identifications on back, naming all people left to right.

_____ Check made payable to Fulton Co. Hist. Soc., Rochester, IN 46975.

_____ Self-addressed long (4 x 9 1/2) envelope stamped with 99 cents for reply. We send you a lot of material and it won't fit in a little envelope. You will receive news and additional information.

All applications will receive a written reply after Apr. 1.

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Date received _____ Payment: \$ _____ Check # _____

Accepted (please initial) _____

Rejected (please initial): _____