**3-4-5 Lewis & Clark Field Study, 2015**

**Costume Information**

One fun and memorable piece of the Lewis & Clark Field Study is that all expedition members (students, chaperones, and teachers) will wear costumes while on the trip. We would like to encourage families to help by providing a costume for their child. This can be a really fun way to prepare for the trip with your child. We currently have some costumes (for students) that may be loaned to students who wish to borrow from Odyssey. Chaperones will need to provide their own costumes.

What did Lewis, Clark, and the Corps members wear?

The expedition took place from 1804-1806. The Corps of Discovery members were all men (except Sacagawea). They would have started the expedition in military uniform, but practical everyday wear of linen, and later animal hides, were quickly adopted by the corps. This website has some great photos and descriptions of what expedition members would have worn.

http://www.greatfallstribune.com/communities/lewisandclark/20030622/uniforms.pdf

Googling “Lewis and Clark re-enactors images” will show many photos of modern day re-enactors wearing their Lewis & Clark garb. Some student identities are mountain men, so you may also want to look at what they might have worn.

The basic field study costume

For our purposes, we would like to see each expedition member dressed in a shirt and pants that can be worn over a warm base layer of long underwear. The costumes can be dressed up with vests, cravats, jackets, and hats. If possible, it would be ideal for each student to have 2 pair of costume pants since they will likely get wet and muddy. For pants, any sturdy brown or tan colored pants will do.

Where can I buy a costume?

We still have lots of time before the expedition. Thrift stores can be great places to find the types of clothing we’re looking for. Keep an eye out for poet shirt/blouses in natural fibers and colors, pants in khaki or drab, solid colors, oversized sweatshirts that can be altered to become a field uniform hunting frock.

This website also has pre-made costume pieces available for purchase:

http://jas-townsend.com/index.php?cPath=1\_17

How to make a costume.

If you know how to sew, or know someone who would be willing to sew a costume for you, here is a website that sells period sewing patterns:

http://jas-townsend.com/index.php?cPath=40

If you want to make a frock from thrift store finds here is how to do it!

Materials:  
Oversized grey, beige or brown sweat shirt

Scissors to cut fabric (they need to be sharp)

Leather cord (Michael’s Jewelry making section) or twine

Big tapestry needle

* Find an oversized brown or grey sweatshirt or fleece jacket that does not have a zipper or hood
* Cut off the sleeve cuffs and cut off the bottom band- so now it will be loose and floppy
* Cut off the neck band
* Fold the shirt in half and mark the center front down the middle of your body
* You are going to cut down this line about 5 or 6 inches to make an opening at the neck
* Use the cording to criss-cross up the shirt opening.
* If you want to be fancy you can cut fringes along the bottom!!