

## Sacajawea Interpretive Center

The interpretive center at Sacajawea Historical State Park is an outstanding display of the meeting of cultures at the

confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers. The Corps of Discovery, Sacagawea, the Sahaptian-speaking Native Americans and area history are the focus of the exhibits. Visitors can touch items, listen to songs and feel what it was like to pull a bow or use a pestle.

The interpretive center is normally open seven days a week from April through October. Call the park office or visit the website for current hours.

The park is open for day use only.

**Park hours:** 8 a.m. to dusk.

**Winter:** Closed Oct. 31, reopens April 1.

**The Discover Pass** is required for day visits to state parks and access to other state-managed recreation lands. The pass provides access to millions of acres of parks, wildlife areas, trails, natural areas and water-access sites. The annual pass is transferable between two vehicles.

- Annual pass: \$30 • One-day pass: \$10  
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Versión en español del texto principal de la exhibición. Ya que termine su tour del centro interpretativo, por favor devuelva ésta guía a la recepción.



**Sacajawea Historical State Park**  
2503 Sacajawea Park Road  
Pasco, WA 99301  
(509) 545-2361

**State Parks information:**  
(360) 902-8844

**Reservations:** Online at [www.parks.state.wa.us](http://www.parks.state.wa.us) or call (888) CAMPOUT or (888) 226-7688

**Other state parks located in the general area:**  
Yakima Sportsman, Potholes, Lyons Ferry and Palouse Falls



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If you would like to support Washington State Parks even more, please consider making a donation when renewing your license plate tabs. You also may place a check in a donation box when you visit state parks.

Donations are a significant part of the State Parks budget and are needed to keep your parks open and operating. For more information, visit [www.parks.state.wa.us/donations](http://www.parks.state.wa.us/donations)

### Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650  
(360) 902-8500  
[www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)



#### Commission members:

Ken Bounds      Mark O. Brown  
Patricia T. Lantz      Steve S. Milner  
Douglas Peters      Rodger Schmitt  
Lucinda S. Whaley  
Agency director: Don Hoch

*All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.*

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388.



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Washington State Parks

# SACAJAWEA

**Historical State Park and Interpretive Center**



EMBRACE YOUR NATURE

[www.parks.state.wa.us](http://www.parks.state.wa.us)



**Welcome to Sacajawea Historical State Park and Interpretive Center, the place where two rivers meet. The mingling of these waters symbolizes the gathering place of many peoples and many cultures. The confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers has long been a place of reunion, celebration and song.**

During the last Ice Age, the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers looked very different. Rushing floodwaters were slowed by the narrow opening at Wallula Gap, backing up to form a huge temporary lake. Repeated floods covered the area under as much as 800 feet of water in a temporary slack-water basin now known as Lake Lewis.



For thousands of years, the site of Sacajawea State Park was a traditional gathering, fishing and trading place for Native peoples. Sahaptian-speaking Indians came to trade and to catch and dry fish for winter. Some people remained through the winter at this popular gathering place.

On Oct. 16, 1805, the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery arrived at the confluence of the two rivers and stayed for two nights. They explored the area and traded with the Native people before paddling down the Columbia River to the Pacific Coast. The park was eventually named for

Sacajawea, the Agaiduka Shoshoni Indian woman who accompanied the Expedition.

The Northern Pacific Railroad established a construction site at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers in 1879. The site quickly grew into a town, which the railroad company named Ainsworth. The town peaked with a population of 1,500 people, but after Northern Pacific moved its construction work to other locations, the town eventually disappeared. Today, most of the original town site is within Sacajawea State Park.



In 1927, Thomas and Stacie Carstens donated an acre of land to the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington — Pasco Chapter to help preserve the original Corps of Discovery campsite. The women hand carried buckets of water to care for trees they planted to mark the location of the campsite and led the effort to erect the monument that still stands today. In 1931, the women deeded the land to Washington state, and the land was designated as a state park.



In 1927, Captain William P. Gray, Pasco Mayor Alvin Parker Gray and his wife and others place a marker at the Corps of Discovery campsite.

With support from the local communities and the state, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed a museum at the park in 1938. The Sacajawea Museum was built to display Native American artifacts from the tribes of the Columbia Plateau. The museum, now known as the Sacajawea Interpretive Center, and three other WPA buildings are still in use.

Today, visitors to Sacajawea Historical State Park can enjoy many activities, including picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, bicycling, hiking, bird watching and wildlife viewing. A volleyball court and two horseshoe pits also are available. The park plays host to a variety of special events and festivals (for a schedule, visit online at [www.parks.state.wa.us](http://www.parks.state.wa.us)).

# SACAJAWEA HISTORICAL STATE PARK



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