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Rendezvous at the Straits: Voyageur Culture

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. — Colonial Michilimackinac’s *Rendezvous at the Straits: Voyageur Culture*, the weekend of June 29–30, focuses on the French-Canadian voyageurs that played a big role in the fur trade in Mackinac. Guests can try their hands at voyageur games, join in singing a rousing paddling song, and master the skills voyageurs needed to keep the Great Lakes fur trade moving.

Rendezvous at the Straits gives guests the opportunity to see demonstrations that cannot be seen outside of this event and provides a deeper look into the lives of the French-Canadian voyageurs who sailed the Straits of Mackinac.

“We’ll be taking out our 36-foot long Montreal canoe and 28-foot long north canoe to paddle to the fort, as the voyageurs would have in the 18th century,” said Craig Wilson, Curator of History for Mackinac State Historic Parks. “This is the only opportunity for the public to see how these boats were actually used, and how the voyageurs worked them.”

Entry to the event is included in regular Colonial Michilimackinac admission and is held during regular site hours (9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.).

More information, including the program schedule, can be found at mackinacparks.com.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan’s Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, Historic Downtown Mackinac, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks’ rich historic and natural

resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at www.mackinacparks.com.

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