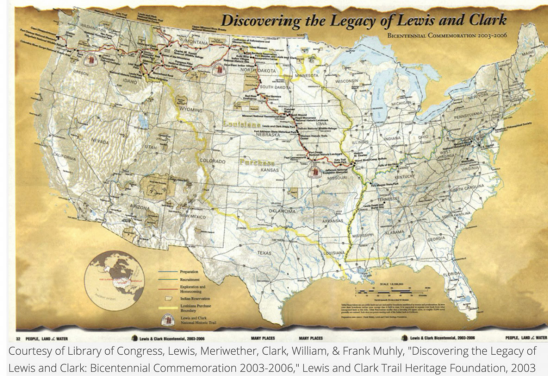


Canoeing Mountains, Lewis and Clark Expedition, “The Corps of Discovery” PYLP Youth Leadership Training in Peace Building, Environmental Preservation and ABCD

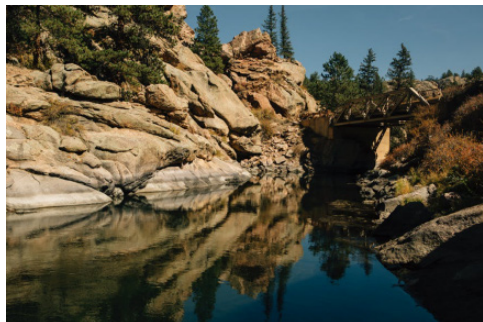
INTRODUCTION



This PYLP Training uses an analogy of the Lewis and Clark expedition known as the “Corps of Discovery.” Their mission was to try to find a water route to the Pacific Ocean and survey the people, land and resources that they discover along the way. They were literally going to uncharted territories. They did not have maps and guides to show them where they should go.

They travelled up the Missouri River expecting that when they get to the head waters of the Missouri river, they would be able to portage a short distance over the ridge and find a river like Colorado or Columbia and just canoe or boat all the way down to the Pacific.

Instead, what they found at the end of the Missouri were huge rocky mountains that went on for miles and miles. They realized very quickly that there was no water route to the Pacific. Portaging was not an option. So, they must quickly make a choice. Was their mission over since they verified that there was no water route? Was their mission something more?



After much discussion and debate, they understood that indeed, their actual mission was defined in their name, the **Corps of Discovery**. But they also realized they cannot accomplish their mission with the method they originally planned. They had to adapt to the situation, shifting from water faring to suddenly traversing the mountains. They had to obtain new resources and equipment like ropes and horses and guides.

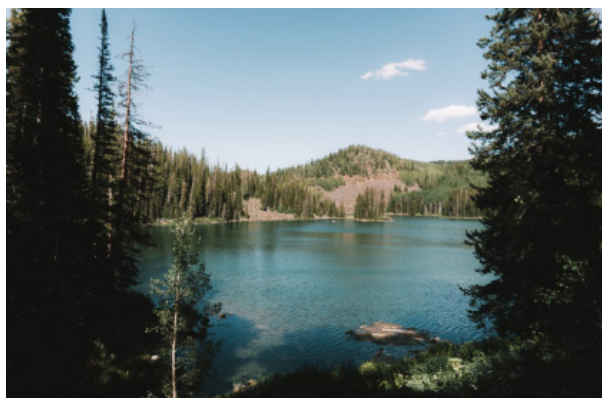
They hired a young Native American girl called Sacagawea (Sa-kuh-juh-WEE-uh), who agreed to be their guide. She was from the Shoshone Tribe, in what is presently North Dakota. She joined the men on their journey, along with her infant baby strapped to her back. Sacagawea served as an interpreter and helped to translate directions and local knowledge among resident Native American Tribes. Additionally, Sacagawea played an important part in the success of the men by ensuring that encounters with Native Tribes were peaceful, often mediating between parties to obtain much needed supplies and horses. Her native knowledge of the land also proved useful as she was able to identify edible plants and herbs which were unknown to the men.



With the help of Sacagawea, the Corps of Discovery ultimately made it through the mountains. They found the Columbia River, built new boats and continued down the Columbia River to the Pacific Coast.



There are many lessons learned from this story. First, we have to be very clear about who we are and what our mission is. We must be very flexible and adaptable about how we accomplish that mission. It does not work very well to canoe over mountains. Second, when we enter uncharted territory, there are no experts. We must rely on new partners, new sources of information, to be our guides. Third, the Lewis and Clark expedition lasted for 2 years. Nothing important happens quickly.



The analogy of Canoeing the Mountains has been used by others in leadership books and workshops training leaders on navigating new circumstances or uncharted territories. The roads of Peace building, Environmental Preservation and Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), although many have been in this journey before (e.g., over 500 PYLP Alumni), continue to change and each year, and each journey has some uncharted territories. Our PYLP participants are invited to an expedition to these uncharted territories using the story of Lewis and Clark, Sacagawea and the Corps of Discovery. The power of this story is based on an actual American history that will give our PYLP participants some encouragement, that they too can find the way through the challenges they face as they journey through the process of becoming peace builders, environmental protectors and community leaders.

This training expedition covers 5 main themes:

1. Bringing your own Map – this theme is related to personal identity, personal leadership, personal purpose and personal care.
2. Leading off the Map – this theme will explore concepts and programs used by other programs and organizations.
3. Navigating New territories – this theme includes topics related to effective leadership, listening in leadership, Business for Good, etc.
4. Relating and Working with Others – this theme covers topics related to diversity, communication and conflict management.
5. Ascending into the Mountains – this theme will include the major PYLP workshops in the face-to-face workshop – e.g., disaster management, appreciative inquiry, ABCD, Community Service and Mediation Workshop.