

Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center
One Year, May, 2016 to May, 2017 **Report of Visitors and Activities**

Opened new building to public, individually and group reservations, in May, 2016.

Visits: 3375

Groups, meeting our mission of teaching the skills and joys of exploration (examples, not complete list): Albemarle County ESOL groups, West Virginia Public Schools, Stony Point Elementary, Monticello High School, Parks and Recreation camp programs, therapeutic camp for children with brain injury and nervous disorders, ACAC Camp, Peabody School, Park School, Westminster, Montessori and others.

Organizations using the space either for free or a nominal fee

Participants: 543

Organizations (examples): Rivanna Conservation Alliance for monitoring and watershed education, Parks and Recreation Dept.s for strategic planning meetings, Albemarle Finance Dept. , Mediation Training for Prison Workers, Garden Clubs, American Canoe Association White Water Rescue Training and Certification, Charlottesville/Albemarle joint meeting of governing bodies.

Adult groups for educational programs

Participants: 840

Groups (examples): Fluvanna County's senior citizen history groups, Tuesday book club series, Nature Photography group, Glenmore Luncheon club, Lewis and Clark Home Front Chapter

Volunteer groups working, doing projects

Participants: 427

Groups (examples): United Way Day of Caring, Madison House, Girl Scouts, Batten Builds, the co-ed APO Service Fraternity from UVA, AMVETS, UVA Environmental Sciences Department. Most of these have returned several times. Madison House students come on weekly schedule.

Individual, family and community users of the site

Estimate: 36,000, easily reaching that number of 100 /day

Examples of the uses that the site, its handicap-access and other trails and river-access spot encounter: joggers, dog walkers, picnickers, boat launchers, fishers, patients and families of people receiving treatment at Martha Jefferson hospital and Region X, police dogs in training. There are many users of the road and parking lot alone: recreational auto drivers, lunch time nappers, and people test-driving cars from Pantops auto dealers.

Fridays and Saturdays visitors to our rotating and permanent exhibits and activities are included in the 3,375 number. Activities included "Lewis & Clark A to Z" which got whole families exploring exhibits, Growing Heritage seed and gardening programs, photography and art projects (including collaboration with CASA on "the Bluebird Project" to raise funds to benefit local children in foster care and experiment with many types of media and art techniques). This summer our Escape Room-type game, called "Unlock History" was popular, although August 11-12 events cut down our out-of-town visitors to zero.

Ongoing activities for all the above: kayaking lessons, journaling, outdoor scavenger hunts, nature observations, wood-working, boat-building, sometimes with guest workshop leaders, e.g. for paper-making and water quality testing.

Plans to increase numbers: audio tour to expand number of visitors served at one time with our limited staffing; ads and rack card distribution; site improvements including road signage; boosted social media contacts. Word of mouth is continuing to prompt groups, especially schools as they have successful experiences. When not at the site, our executive director takes word of our programs to events and meetings. Our successful fundraising dinner this month, "A Portable Feast" opens more possibilities for similar events.