

# 2024 National Fur Trade Symposium

## The Eve of Rendezvous: A Bicentennial Event

at the Museum of the Mountain Man, Pinedale, Wyoming

### September 12-15, 2024

In the spring of 1824, a small group of trappers entered the Green River Valley, where they found an abundance of beaver and friendly Shoshone willing to trade. The following year supplies were brought from St. Louis and the first rendezvous was held, launching the rendezvous era of the Rocky Mountain fur trade. Join us to celebrate the eve of the bicentennial of rendezvous.

**Call for Speakers** – Email proposals to [symposium@mmmuseum.com](mailto:symposium@mmmuseum.com) by **March 1, 2024**.

**Proposals** – Submit a 300 to 600 word abstract/outline/summary with enough detail to understand the presentation's scope to avoid overlap with others. Where applicable, provide a list of some similar past presentations or publications.

**Subjects** – The symposium theme is “The Eve of Rendezvous” given that the bicentennial of rendezvous is approaching from 2025 to 2040. Subjects focusing on the lead up to and creation of the rendezvous, as well as subjects relating to the fur trade in the Green River Valley will be featured. However, any subject related to the Rocky Mountain fur trade will be considered with priority given to those presenting a new or unique perspective. This can include technical subjects (names, dates, places, events), biography, lifestyle, material culture, culture, Native Americans, etc.

#### Presentation Formats

- Traditional PowerPoint or speech – About 40 minutes and 10 minutes for questions.
- Panel Discussion – Organize and emcee. About 50 minutes that can include audience questions.
- Demonstration (i.e. Living History) – Can be held in conference room or at mountain man camp. Mountain man camp will not conflict with other presentations. There may be alternate locations for evening programs that could include living history. Indicate estimated time length of demo and any special accommodations needed.
- Auto Tour – Develop itinerary, stops and guide an auto tour coming to symposium (Thursday) or leaving symposium (Sunday). For example: fur trade caravan route from South Pass to Pinedale. Meet attendees at a designated starting place. Likely 4 to 8 hours for tour. Looking for ideas from all directions. Primarily single day, but will consider multi-day caravan if practical. Symposium will help develop materials and a self-guided tour of each auto tour.

Programs will be filmed and possibly live streamed. Excerpts or full video may be posted on the internet. Traditional programs will be published in a Symposium Proceedings after the symposium.

**Symposium Schedule** – September 12-15, 2024. Four-day event with presentations on Friday & Saturday, auto tours on Thursday & Sunday, and special evening programs with dinner on Thursday, Friday & Saturday. Audience of about 200 expected composed of mostly fur trade enthusiasts. Programs held at Pinedale Library and Museum of the Mountain Man. Early registration and lodging reservation available in January 2024. Full agenda available in March 2024.

Email [symposium@mmmuseum.com](mailto:symposium@mmmuseum.com) to be added to email list.

For the latest information see

**[MuseumoftheMountainMan.com/symposium2024](https://MuseumoftheMountainMan.com/symposium2024)**

## **National Fur Trade Symposium History**

- 1987 - Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Wyoming
- 1988 - Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Colorado
- 1989 - Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis, Missouri
- 1990 - Fort Union Trading Post Historical Site, Williston, North Dakota
- 1992 - Museum of the Mountain Man, Pinedale, Wyoming
- 1997 - Museum of the Mountain Man, Pinedale, Wyoming
- 2000 - Fort Union Trading Post Historical Site, Williston, North Dakota
- 2003 - Historic Old Fort Benton, Fort Benton, Montana
- 2006 - Museum of the Fur Trade, Chadron, Nebraska
- 2009 - Fort Whoop-up National Historic Site, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada
- 2010 - Three Forks Area Historical Society, Three Forks, Montana
- 2012 - Museum of the Mountain Man, Pinedale, Wyoming
- 2015 – Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, La Junta, Colorado
- 2018 - Northern Plains, Bismarck, North Dakota