

Statement of Purpose

Traders and the Spirit of the Rendezvous are inseparable and no truthful portrayal of this period in American History can be authentic without the presence and participation of traders. The goods we have come to expect in the trade tents and blankets represent the honor and traditions of our country, and embody the talents and skills of our friends and their reverence for those traditions. Some of those goods are simply necessities that support our families' participation in the Rendezvous and its myriad activities and events.

Many of the trade goods of yore will not satisfy today's living history participant. There is little demand for flour, sugar, Vermillion, surcingles and various traps etc. Still many of the trade items sought out by our forefathers are still in high demand and in fact are integral to the future of the Rendezvous, namely guns, knives, blankets, powder, lead, tools, hides and furs, cups and combs, from Alaska to Vermont.

Sadly, the participants and traders have allowed themselves in many cases to be drawn into the modern world and have adapted goods that are of materials and technologies that are not of the period. We can all agree that certain modern concessions are necessary, particularly to protect the health and safety of our friends and family. Some of these concessions are not true to the Spirit of the Rendezvous and do not add to the portrayal of history.

The Trade Chief has final decision on all trade questions. Understanding that, the Trade Chief is following all rules set by the Association. The Trade Commission for any given rendezvous shall consist of at least one member of the Chiefs' Council.

(Examples of unacceptable trade goods include, but are not limited to, the list of identified items in attachment I, titled "Unacceptable Trade Goods".)

The following rules are in effect from the end of opening ceremonies until the end of closing ceremonies.

Trade Goods

1. All trade goods should be of pre-1840 documentable design and materials. Certain concessions for safety might be acceptable but only when a reasonable pre-1840 item cannot be substituted.

2. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to: firearms and knives of a post 1840 design, Plastic and nylon items (excluding rope similar in appearance to sisal, hemp, or manila for use or sale), iridescent, fluorescent feathers, ball caps, t-shirts, ceramic figurines, or any figurine that depicts unicorns, medieval, far east etc. subjects, novelty mugs, lamps, wind chimes, crystal balls, dyed rabbit feet and key chains of any kind, stainless steel and aluminum items plastic, fiberglass etc. knife handles, bows, gunstocks, buttons, dream catchers, mandalas, etc. and all other questionable swap meet type items are prohibited. Any illegal good or substance according to federal, state and local law is prohibited.

3. Tapes, CD's, and videos that are packaged in plastic etc or modern glossy four color prints should be covered at all times. Maps, books, and original paintings on canvas may be sold if they are relevant to the pre1840 fur trade. One item may be out unwrapped,if, product not packaged to pre 1840 standards.
4. Contemporary artwork and artistic depictions of Native American and Mountain Man subjects should be of the period, on canvas. No depictions of mountain men, Indians etc. with fluorescent, chrome, or iridescent paint should be sold or displayed.
5. Jewelry should be documented to the period, or not offered for sale. Typically, turquoise jewelry and pipe bone chokers are not considered Period....it goes without saying that plastic beads and fluorescent feathers should also not be offered for sale. No silver and turquoise mixed jewelry.
6. Packaging, price marking and advertising should be made of pre-1840 materials. No plastic, Styrofoam, cellophane etc is allowed to be displayed. Stock items stored in modern packaging must be kept out of sight or covered at all times (blankets, books and patterns in plastic cases.)
7. Toys: tin flutes, wooden guns, wooden swords, knives and toy tomahawks, may be sold but not in plastic packaging or contain plastic parts. Pop guns are not acceptable.
8. Any part of any animal is to be sold in compliance with all state, federal and local ordinances. It is the responsibility of the trader to contact the appropriate agencies, usually a given state's Fish and Wildlife or Conservation Department. No plastic or polymer (artificial) dental material, claws, or bones.
9. Food Vendors are prohibited from using modern packaging including paper plates, plastic cups, spoons etc.
 - a. Absolutely no beverages are to be sold in aluminum cans, plastic bottles etc. (Camp rules prohibit the consumption of beverages in aluminum cans and plastic bottles also.)
 - b. No pre-wrapped food (candy bars, potato chips)
 - c. Keep food as authentic as possible.
 - d. Fire Extinguishers are required for food vendors.
 - e. Food Vendors must supply their own trash containers and are responsible for the sanitary condition of their dining area.
 - f. Food Vendors are responsible for compliance with local, state, and federal ordinance relating to the preparation and sale of food to the public.
 - g. Strongly suggest food vendors to have rendezvouchers bring their own plates, utensils and cups.

10. Re-Supply of goods and foods by vehicle during the Rendezvous shall be allowed only at the discretion of the Booshway. Be prepared to not have access to your camp by vehicle during the Rendezvous and plan accordingly.

11. A trader is defined as anyone who is offering goods for sale or trade in the Rendezvous. Traders are restricted to the long term or short term camping areas.

a. For blanket traders, a trade blanket or hide is limited to 72" x110" (4-point blanket) of space to sell goods. Said goods shall not be "re-stocked" once sold. If you want to sell goods as a commercial venture, gods bless, but please pay the required trader fee.

b. A trading fee will be specified and required at each HPRR.

12. If traders bucks system is used, they can only be redeemed by paid traders.

13. Any trader not in compliance with the rules, especially after having been issued two warnings will be told to shutdown or leave the Rendezvous.

Procedures for removal of non-period trade items, their containers, packaging and labeling.

A. The Trade Representative will notify and explain the nature of the problem and request compliance with the Trade Rules and Regulations and explain the consequences of noncompliance.

B. If the Trader disagrees with the Trade Representative, they will remove said item(s) and will contact the Trade Chief with their reasons for disagreement. All decisions of the Trade Chief are final.

C. If, after the above steps, the Trader is still in non-compliance and the Trader refuses to comply with the Trade Rules and Regulations, he/she/ they will be asked to remove all Trade items for the duration of the event. If the Trader still refuses to comply the Booshway will be contacted for further actions and the Trader will be asked to leave the event.

D. TAXES: PROCUREMENT OF ALL FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, AND TOWNSHIP BUSINESS LICENSES AND OR THE COLLECTION OF CONSUMER SALES TAX IN THE STATE WHERE THE EVENT IS HELD, IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TRADER

E. Any further questions should be directed to the event Trade Chief.

This trade policy ratified on 1/10/2026.

This document will be signed and submitted upon receipt of valid Trader's certificate.

I have read and understand the rules as set forth above, as well as those items identified in Attachment I. Furthermore, I agree to abide by all trade rules as directed by the event Trade Chief.

Signed: - _____