



Explore the Fort Stevens History Quest!

Quests are fun, learning adventures that use clues and hints to encourage participants to discover the natural, cultural and historical "treasures" of Fort Stevens. Suitable for groups of all ages, this self-guided Quest allows lifelong learners to explore parks, trails and other outdoor spaces in new ways and at their own pace.

Pick up at Fort Stevens Quest Packet at the Ranger Station, Visitor Center, or Museum.

The Fort Stevens Quest begins outside the Museum in the Historic Area.



Fort Stevens Quest

Welcome to Fort Stevens State Park! To do this quest, you will have to follow clues to get letters which you will fill in on the last page to spell out the location of the hidden quest box at the end. The quest

will take you through historic ruins and along a path near the Columbia River with wonderful views of the river and wildlife. The grounds to the Historic Area are open 8:00am-4:00pm October- April and 8:00am-6:00pm May-September. There is a \$5.00 day use parking fee in this area. The route is approximately 1 mile along natural surface trail, and you can expect about 1 hour to complete the quest. Start in the courtyard adjacent to the museum near the Jeep.

Let's Begin!

To begin this Quest

Start out by heading West

If you have the wherewithal

You must find the cannonball

Cannon balls like this were used in the first guns at Fort Stevens. Rodman smoothbore cannons were mounted in the Civil War era earthworks fort, protecting the river from possible British attack.

Starting in the 1890's, newer more modern "disappearing rifles" were installed in concrete gun batteries, like the ones you see ahead of you.

Look for the gun battery with the lone tree

For the next clue you will see

You can walk or run

When you get close go upstairs to the gun

This is a one-of-a kind replica constructed by the Friends of Old Fort Stevens. Guns at this battery shot shells that were 6" in diameter and weighed nearly 100 lbs. The guns used a counter weight system, similar to a teeter-totter, to raise and lower. Shells, and powder were stored in rooms safely below the gun pit, and were transported up via a hoist similar a Ferris wheel.

Look for the sign for whom the battery was named

The fourth letter of his first name

Is the clue to the fourth frame

Go down the stairs and to your right

Head in the direction the sun sets at night

Look for the explorer who partnered with Clark

The sign you will see is right on the mark

Lewis and Clark named their winter quarters after the local Native Americans the Clatsop who had a summer village on this site where they would fish and trade.

Walk along the hill and head to the south

On the left are some stairs where you will see the river's mouth

Head to the right past the sign #8

The view you will see is really something great

The first letter of this river's name

Is what you put in the 9th frame

The Columbia River, Great River of the West, ends just in front of you, but starts around 1200 miles upstream in Canada. The Columbia forms the border between Oregon and Washington, and is the largest river in the west.

Head down the trail, walk but don't drive

Go to the battery named 245

What are these guns aimed at? Battery 245 was built facing the ocean. Today you can see Clatsop Spit that has forest, roads and trails. 150 years ago, this spit of land did not even exist. The construction of the jetty trapped sand and over the years the sand spit formed and today makes up a large part of the park.

From the gun turn around and head east

On your left there's a sign that describes a beast

If you encounter this animal stay calm and don't run

The third letter of the animal is box number one

Sightings of this animal are VERY rare, but these creatures do call Fort Stevens' home. If you do happen to encounter one, remember the tips from the sign.

Follow the trail named after the Jetty
A clue may appear so be on the ready
Look for a nest not made by a bird
Box number 7 is the first letter of the first word

Watch out for elk poop and try not to gag
Look for the dead tree that is now just a snag
Although the tree is dead it still is a house
For many a creature, maybe even a mouse

Look for this site as you continue your trek
The Jetties were built to prevent a shipwreck

Jetties are manmade rock structures built at river mouths to stabilize river channels and make navigation safer. The Columbia River South Jetty was built in the late 1800's, using trains to haul massive rocks. The trestles you see in front of you are left over railroad tracks from that project.



Head up the trail and look for a spruce, a double trunked tree
Go behind and on the bark is the clue to box number three

Continue your quest and try not to roam
Look for the place the Clatsop called home
The village sat here before there was a fort
The houses were long and not very short

This site was a seasonal Clatsop Indian village known as Neahkeluk, which means "place where salmon pemmican was made". The Clatsop would visit this site during the summer



months to fish and trade with ships. Multiple families would live in long wooden plank houses known as a Longhouse.

Head right on the trail towards the battery named Smur

Stop when you can see the river for sure

You will see ships from many different lands

To enter the river they have to avoid treacherous sands

Here the Pacific Graveyard lies

Where thousands of ships have met their demise

Many of these sailors did not survive

The first letter of **R**iver goes in box number 5

Continue on the trail and cross a foot bridge

Go towards the pole but not over the ridge

This is the fort built during the Civil War

To build and maintain it was a really big chore

The fort was here to protect us from the British

They were stationed up in Canada and it made us quite skittish

Head to the Sallyport, it looks like a cave

Where soldiers stood watch who were really quite brave

The first vowel in Sallyport is the clue for box 8. Re-create this

photo with your family.



After the quest go out and explore

The last box you need, is the first letter of the side who won the Civil War (hint...it rhymes with fourth)

When you've found the Quest Box

Stamp your book and sign your name

Then re-hide the box

So others can play this game!



Use the clues to fill in the letters

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

5	6 O	3	7	8	2
---	--------	---	---	---	---

9	8	2	2	6 O	2
---	---	---	---	--------	---