

The smoke curls upward, the river moves slow and steady, and once again the call has gone out.

For half a century, travelers have answered that call, gathering to share skills, stories, and fellowship in the spirit of the American fur trade. In 2026, we invite you to step into that living history and help us mark a milestone year.

A Note from the Booshway and Staff

Whether you've walked this ground before or are answering the call for the first time, welcome to the 2026 Cannon River Rendezvous!

This coming year marks a truly special milestone. For **half a century**, the Twin Cities Muzzle Loading Club has hosted a rendezvous celebrating the fur trade era and the skills, fellowship, and history that shaped it. From the early days at Eagle Creek at Historic Murphy's Landing to the last 24 years along the Cannon River, generations of buckskinners, traders, families, and friends have gathered around the fire. We are honored to invite you to be part of this golden anniversary.

To commemorate the occasion, a **50th Anniversary pewter medallion** is being specially cast and will be included in every camp packet. Additional medallions will be available for purchase while supplies last and is a keepsake you won't want to miss out on.

We hope you will be able to join us. Please take a moment to review the registration form and, if possible, **pre-register**. Knowing our expected numbers helps us prepare contests, supplies, and activities for a smooth and enjoyable rendezvous.

You may notice that references to "camp" and "camping" have been removed from the registration materials. At the request of Stanton Township, we now refer to participation fees as a **demonstration fee**, which allows our event to continue uninterrupted. We are grateful for the township's support and understanding of the value this rendezvous brings to the community.

Contests & Activities

This year's program will feature **many contests of skill**, including fire starting, knife and hawk walk, and more, running from Friday through Sunday. We would also like to expand the shooting events to include **shotgun and pistol shoots**. If you have a shotgun and/or pistol, please bring it and let us know. If interest is strong, we'll gladly add these contests to the schedule. Participation is encouraged; the rendezvous is always better when more folks step up to test their skills.

Returning by popular demand is the **CRR Strong Dog Competition**. Using dogs to haul freight is a time-honored tradition of the fur trade era, when every member of the household had to pull their weight and sometimes quite literally.

The objective is simple: to see which dog can pull the most weight over a set distance in one minute. All equipment will be provided. If you have a dog in camp, consider entering them or at the very least, come watch the impressive feats of strength. For questions or details, please contact **Darnele Doty at (507) 461-3991**.

Camp-Wide Dinner

Also returning is the much-anticipated **Camp-Wide Dinner**, hosted once again by **Susie Felske and The Fried Pie Shop**. Join us for a hearty, traditional meal of turkey, wild rice cranberry stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, and dessert served with good company and lively conversation. Tickets are limited and sales end **Friday night (5/22)**, so please sign up early.

Council Fire

In the evenings, we invite you to gather once more at the Council Fire Area. Bring a chair, a cup, and, if you have one, a musical instrument. Songs, stories, laughter, and shared fellowship are always welcome, and perhaps even a jug to pass around the fire. These moments are often the ones that linger the longest in our memories.

Period Correct Standards

Last year we saw noticeable improvements in **period-correct camps and attire**, and we thank you for the effort! As a reminder, please keep modern items out of sight, cover them up, or better yet, leave them at home. Our dog soldiers may remind you if something needs to be put away; this includes LED lights and flashlights inside tents. These gentle corrections help preserve the atmosphere and immersion we all come to enjoy.

A Note on Conduct

Minnesota now allows recreational marijuana use, and we appreciate that it has remained a non-issue. We ask that anyone choosing to partake do so **discreetly**, especially during public hours. Remember, we welcome families and children, and we strive to present a positive image to visitors.

Looking Ahead

At the organizational level, we are pleased to share some encouraging news. **Sadie Brown** has volunteered to step into the role of Clerk, with **Roger Asp** providing guidance during the transition. Additionally, I am proud to be training **Micheal Landsberger** as the next Booshway. Micheal has been part of the rendezvous community since before he could walk, and I am confident he will help lead this camp with care and dedication for many years to come.

As always, if you need assistance, see a problem, or have a suggestion, please stop by my camp. A rendezvous is built and enjoyed by the people who show up, lend a hand, and share the fire.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Cannon River and celebrating **50 years of rendezvous tradition** together.

— *The Booshway and Staff*

Jim Strupp / Micheal Landsberger – Booshway

Jim O'Meara – Segundo

Roger Asp / Sadie Brown – Clerk