

**National
Railroad
Museum**

A Night in the Hobo Jungle

The Museum overnight experience

In our hobo jungle, we'll learn about the role these travelers play in America's railroad heritage through a series of hands-on, educational activities, that both youth and adults can participate in. Many of the activities will be based around a hobo theme with participants acting as the hobos. We'll be cooking up Hobo Stew for dinner. Youth and adults will work together to construct and their own Hoover Shacks – the

ramshackle hobo home slapped together from whatever they could scrounge (we will use corrugated cardboard and duct tape). The shack will be your sleeping quarters for the evening. We'll also discuss what it was like to work on the Transcontinental Railroad, explore contemporary freight trains and tell some great railroad tales. *(Some activities may vary depending on time of year and weather conditions.)*

■ Evening schedule *(times are approximate)*

- 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Check-in and self-guided exploration
- 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Introduction/Safety Briefing
Make up your Hobo Road name & Symbol
Hobo Hunt for Food
- 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Hobo Stew Cooking and Hoover Shack construction
- 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Hobo Dinner
(Clean-up from dinner; Move into Hoover Shacks)
- 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Activity Rotation
(Railroad activities: Craft Project, Great Commodity Relay, Pullman Waiter Water Relay)
- 9:00 - 9:30 p.m. Get ready for bed
- 9:30 - 10:00 p.m. Hobo Campfire Stories *(with cookies and milk)*
- 10:15 p.m. Lights Out

■ Morning schedule *(times are approximate)*

- 6:30 a.m. Up and at'em
- 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast and Hoover Shack clean-up
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Service Hour for the Museum
- 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. Closing
Participants are then invited to further explore the Museum at their own pace.

■ A couple of notes on the program:

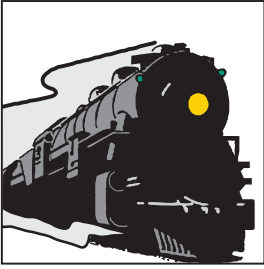
- **Cost** – \$45.00 per person (scouts and adults). The fee includes: Hobo Stew Dinner, milk and cookies at campfire time, light breakfast, all activity supplies/equipment.
- **Clean-up** – In order to keep the program fee low, we ask that the group devote one hour of service to the Museum in the morning before departure. This time will be used to clean-up after the program.
- **Number of participants** – We accept a maximum of 50 participants. **The program requires a minimum of 16 participants or equivalent payment.** Please have a ratio of no less than one adult for every five youths.
- **Payment** – We ask for a \$75 non-refundable deposit at the time of reservation. A final participant count needs to be provided one week before your scheduled date. The balance, based on the final count, is due upon arrival at the Museum. The deposit counts toward total amount due.



■ **To register** for A Night in the Hobo Jungle, please contact: Justin Lambrecht, *Director of Education*

■ (920) 437-7623, x-120 ■ jlambrecht@nationalrrmuseum.org ■ www.nationalrrmuseum.org

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F.A.Q.s

A Night in the Hobo Jungle

What does the Museum provide?

All program materials

Food – We will provide ingredients for Hobo Stew. During our Campfire Stories, cookies and milk will be served. In the morning a breakfast of fruit, bakery, milk and juice will be offered. At all times of your stay water and two other types of drink (ie.: lemonade, fruit punch, orange drink, etc.) will be available.

What goes into Hobo Stew?

The recipe is on page three of this document. You will notice that all ingredients can be found in your grocery store and are items you and your family consume on a regular basis.

Are the meals provided hearty enough or do we need to eat before we arrive?

The food we provide is substantial enough to constitute a full meal. There will be enough food for everyone to have seconds, if they like. In preparing the various food items, we use ingredients/products found in any grocery store.

Can I bring my own snacks or food?

NO! We do not allow extra outside food to be brought into the Museum. Outside food can pose serious health concerns to fellow group members. Additionally, part of the experience is trying new things. This is why experiencing the food provided is important. If you have medical dietary concerns, yes, you may bring your own food.

Also, please note, the program has specific meal times included. Participants will be involved in activities the balance of the time. Individual snacking/eating at unscheduled times will disrupt the program.

Parents are strongly encouraged to prepare “fussy eaters” to try the food presented as part of the program.

How should we dress?

Be prepared. While most of our program will be inside a climate-controlled building, we may step outside for a few activities. Additionally, should an emergency situation arise in which we need to evacuate the building, there will be need to go outside during the nighttime hours.

What do we need to bring along?

Clothing –

- Items appropriate for the season and indoor activities
- Sleepware

- Shoes – shoes/slippers must be worn at all times
Sleeping Gear – *You will be sleeping on a concrete floor.*

- Sleeping bags or blankets
- Pillows
- Air mattresses, Foam pad, Folding Cot
- Your favorite stuffed animal (*ie.: Rocky the Mountain Goat, mascot of the Great Northern Railway*)

Personal Items –

- Toiletries (tooth brush & paste, wash cloth, towel)
- Medicines

What tasks are completed during the hour of clean-up service?

We should all leave no trace and do a good turn daily.

The service hour will include working through the Museum’s daily custodial routine:

- Cleaning restrooms (*we do not ask that toilets be cleaned*)
- Mopping floors
- Vacuuming carpet
- Cleaning glass
- Washing dishes
- Putting away supplies used during the overnight program

Who participates in the service hour?

Everyone in the group participates in this activity.

Will the Museum Store be open?

Yes, the Store can be opened, if you would like.

Will the Museum Staff be with us at all times?

Yes, a member of the Museum’s staff stays with your group the entire time you are at the Museum.

Will I have access to my vehicle at all times?

Yes, however, after “lights out” you will need to let the Museum staff member on duty know you are going to your vehicle so you can be let back into the building.

When do I pay the program fees?

We ask that you provide a deposit at the time of registration. Checks, cash or credit cards are accepted. During your overnight, you will settle your balance with the Museum staff member on duty.

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HOBBO Stew



Hobo Stew or, as it is sometimes called, Mulligan Stew, is a legendary staple of the wandering man's diet. There is a great deal of myth, mystery and legend surrounding this dish.

Hobos are migrant workers, traveling from town to town attempting to find work. The hobos' preferred method of transportation is illegally hopping aboard a freight train. Hoboing became especially popular after the U.S. Civil War (April 1861-April 1865) and during the Great Depression (1929-1941).

There is no single recipe for Hobo Stew. In fact, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines Hobo Stew as, "a stew made from whatever ingredients are available." According to the dictionary, the term first appeared in 1894. The definition also indicates that the ingredients were obtained by begging, barrowing or stealing; and the resulting stew was shared with those present at meal time.

The free-style of Hobo Stew is brought to life in one hobo's oral history, recorded by the Smithsonian Institution, "One 'bo has an onion, he pinched from a fruit market; another has several potatoes and an ear of corn leased from a farmer's field. Edible greens are gathered and contributed to the pottage: dandelions and sour dock; wild leeks and onions. Sometimes pigweed is found in abundance. Some bits and pieces of meat. A handful of navy beans carried in a pocket for a month. Cast every bean into the pot, along with a smattering of Bull Durham tobacco and lint."

In 1899, the *Evening Star* newspaper of Washington, D.C. noted that Hobo Stew is "generally cooked in a five-gallon coal oil can and eaten from tomato tins."

Our recipe for Hobo Stew is far more tame and civil, but still yields a big pot to be shared with all in your hobo jungle. Enjoy this with your favorite traveling companions.

Hobo Stew from the National Railroad Museum

This is the same recipe we follow and serve to "hobos" in our educational overnight experience: A Night in the Hobo Jungle. Each batch you make will be just a little different from the last. The same is true when we make Hobo Stew at the Museum.

Equipment: Depending on the size batch you plan, you will need a stock pot that can hold between 12 and 20 qts. (There is no such thing as a small batch of Hobo Stew.)

Ingredients:

1 46oz. can V-8 Juice
1 or 2 15oz. cans Hormel Chili No Beans
1 or 2 15oz. cans Spaghetti O's
1 can each of the following soups. Any brand.

Vegetable Beef	Tomato
Cream of Mushroom	Tomato and Rice
Cream of Celery	Beef with Vegetable & Barley
Cream of Chicken	Beefy Noodle
French Onion	Beefy Mushroom
Tomato Bisque	

2 or 3lbs. Frozen Mixed Vegetables – any brand
2 or 3lbs. Frozen Meatballs – any brand, any style
Montreal Steak Seasoning – to taste
Oyster Crackers

Preparation: Combine Meatballs and V-8 Juice in stock pot. Begin to heat slowly allowing the Meatballs to thaw in the juice. Add Montreal Steak Seasoning to taste. When Meatballs are thawed, add Chili, Spaghetti O's and all Soups. Mix well. Continue heating for approx. one hour. Add Mixed Vegetables and stir stew completely. When hot enough to serve, adjust flavor with a final addition of Montreal Steak Seasoning, if desired. Serve hot with a scoop of Oyster Crackers.



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