

**Hurry! Deadline to register is July 15!!!!**



**The 2016  
Old Spanish Trail Conference  
July 29-30  
Grand Junction Colorado**

Welcome to our newsletter for our 2016 Old Spanish Trail Conference! We'll be sending out news and information about our conference every few weeks between now and mid-July, letting you know about our plans, how to register, special features, and a few previews of our presentations.

*Happy 4th of July!!!!*



We all know what happened, July 4th, 1776, in a crowded room in Philadelphia.

But did you know that year ...

- A Spanish fort was built in Tucson, AZ;
- Construction of Mission San Francisco de Asis (aka "Mission Dolores") began in June;
- It is estimated that 2.5 million people lived in the American colonies in July 1776. The population on this July Fourth is more than 320 million.

And, on June 29, 1776, two Franciscan friars, Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante left Santa Fe, New Mexico to begin their fabled expedition.

**Register Now**

**Only \$65 for members, includes free transportation for field trips and reception.**

**Banquet only \$27 per person. Hurry! Deadline is July 15!**

**PRESENTATION PREVIEW**

**What's with that theme?**

Our organizing committee decided the theme for our OSTA conference would be "Most Arduous...Least Respected." We know some of you might be wondering what's that all about?

The Old Spanish Trail was adopted as a National Historic Trail in 2002; many of the early "movers and shakers" behind the designation were members of the Grand Junction community who saw the value of this designation for the entire six-state region the OST passes through. The Colorado segments — collectively known as the North Branch—seemed by some to be an "add on" designated by a dotted line, not a solid line.

In some ways, this was throwing down a challenging gauntlet to many Colorado OSTA members who had already spent decades researching and validating the route of the trail through the state. In the almost 15 years since 2002, many people feel the Colorado segments are as valid as any other, although the reasons may surprise you—and get you to thinking about not only the great work our organization does but also the National Historic Trails laws and the positive interactions we have with all of our partners.

If nothing else, we promise this panel discussion will be lively and fun, and maybe give you a fresh perspective on researching and protecting the trail in your own state.

**TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S IN THE GOODY BAGS!**

We know many of you have been to lots of conferences and sometimes the "Goody Bags" seem to contain a lot of the same old "stuff."

Not at this conference! With our Back to the Trail partners—as well as some creative thinking— your conference goody bags will hold a variety of items, with a retail value of more than \$30!

**Here's what all of our conference attendees and Back to the Trail participants will receive:**

Aluminum water bottle, drawstring bag, our very own hand-made unique



coasters, OST stickers, lavender tea, granola bars, notepads and pens!

**Register Now**



Don't forget to register for the Chuck Wagon Dinner at Fort Uncompahgre in Delta!

This is an optional event the night before the conference—only \$25 and transportation to and from the Clarion Hotel is included.

For the latest info check out [oldspanishtrail.org](http://oldspanishtrail.org)

In Our LAST 2016 OSTA Conference issue:

**Our complete schedule of events and a look at the special plans for our reception and banquet.**

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of OSTA, have expressed interest in OSTA, or have indicated you would like more info about our conference. But if you've changed your mind, or this newsletter has reached you by mistake, just [click here](#) and you'll be removed from the list. Questions or comments, contact [vicki@ostcolorado.org](mailto:vicki@ostcolorado.org) or call 970-245-8484

**Reserve Now**



The Clarion Inn is our host for our conference with special room rates—but you are encouraged to reserve early to take advantage of this deal! Be sure to mention the conference when you make your reservation.

"Like" our conference on facebook today

We thank the sponsors and partners of our 2016 OSTA Conference!



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