

July 7, 2014

Dear Family,

Did you know Grandma Lucy Mack Smith loved teenagers? At the time of Joseph's first vision there were five teens living at home. Grandma Lucy fed them, made clothes for them, studied and prayed with them. She depended on them not only for chores and farm labor, but more importantly her children were a real spiritual strength in their home.

This letter is a special invitation for the next generation of Smiths—our teenagers (ages 12-19) to be a part of the youth activity at the family reunion in Independence this summer. Our reunion theme is "Walking in their Shoes" which we plan to do with style.

To participate you just need to pack a pair of inexpensive canvas shoes for yourself. As we learn about important events and places to our ancestors we'll draw an icon on our shoes to represent the story. For example three trees will represent the Sacred Grove. Or, how about a delicious cookie like Aunt Emma used to bake?



We'll provide the fabric and permanent markers as well as a notebook for you to remember the stories each picture represents. We have loads of family stories that are both fun and faith building.

If you're traveling with the bus group, we can get started along the way to Independence. We'll also have time in our own youth gathering Saturday morning. Imagine our happy feet as we join the family meeting walking in the steps of our ancestors!

See you soon in Missouri,
Joy Ercanbrack
Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Reunion



A note about the shoes: Shoes can be with or without laces. White or light colored canvas will work best if you like to draw in a variety of colors, but the fabric markers will work on black or dark canvas as well. Please email Joy at be-joyful@comcast.net if you have questions.

A note for the grown ups: This is a youth activity, but the stories and icons will be posted for everyone at JosephSmithSr.org after the reunion. If you want to know what the stories represent before then, please ask a Smith teen. They will be excited to share what they have learned with you.

"Make sure your family registers for the reunion by (date) and lists each child by age so we can have enough supplies prepared."