Kenna Herdrich

Each year, sophomore Kenna Herdrich travels back in time. Just like many students at National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation’s natural-goods or reenactments, or to direct and travel to a different location with other National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation (NRLHF) participants to reenact the time period between 1640 and 1841 for a week.

"All of us have been once in a while when all the forgetting and realities and everybody else get together," Herdrich said. "They bought their pots that they had planned and prepared for that year and traded goods for others, and that's why we're here."

Herdrich's interest in living history first had her junior Ashley Young vote to start the nation's first NRLHF Student Association in Thurman.

"As strange as it seems when you first look at it, and I know it does, there's really something for everybody," Herdrich said. "If you like music, there's music for everybody, there's plus a bit of knowledge, as well as on how to participate.

"A rendezvous was once a year where the western trappers and traders and everyone else got together," Herdrich said. "They brought their pelts and what they had gotten and prepared for that year and traded goods for others, and that's why we're here."

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"Her family participates in the NRLHF Student Association because she wanted to learn more about re-enacting history."

"She said she played fife and drum for six years with the Lewis and Clark Fife and Drum Corp, a youth only for kids ages 10 to 18 that reenacts history from 1800 to 1810."

"Last year we went, and there were a big storm," Herdrich said. "The sky was gray, and the lightning was just great. One evening had blown down, so we went through rebuilding the tent down, and we had rain pouring down our tent. But after that, everyone rebuilt it together.

"Young said the purpose of the NRLHF Student Association is to have fun and reenact history."

"For me, it's the education of why and how they do things, because with this, you pick up so many things."

"A lot of it just sparks you interest, that you can learn about history because you're living it now."

"Young said that reenactments are like vacations."

"I learned a lot online and from talking with the parents and other kids. There's presentations you go to at reenactments. Along the way, you pick up so many things.

"For more information on the Student Association, contact Amanda L. Kramer at 785-967-9034 or Ashley Young at 858-1088. The NRLHF Student Association meets at 6 p.m. every Thursday in Vil 1146.

"It's been my family vacation."

"I want to broaden my knowledge of music, and it just means I want to start my own fife and drum corp wherever I live, "she said.

"A lot of people think of tipis as a little rape," Herdrich said. "That's actually lots of prints, and they're all labelled. When they come together, the smoke rises, and you set fire and look up at the stars."

"Living out in the open, however, also leaves room for Mother Nature to intervene."

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