

Trek Clothing

Clothing

Each Ward will be assigned a Clothing Specialist who will help all their youth get their clothing together. The specialist will work with the Stake Clothing Specialist to make sure everyone has the clothes they need for the trek.

Why bother getting or making an outfit?

Because you really can't have a pioneer experience without dressing like a pioneer. The more authentic your clothing, the more you will understand the perspective of the pioneers. Fortunately, a fair amount of information is available on clothing and how to make a reasonably good "costume." Below are ideas for both basic and more elaborate costuming for both males and females.

Shoes & Socks

For both women and men, shoes need not be "period" style. Comfort is most important. Do not wear new hiking boots unless you have taken at least two months to break them in. Bring two pair, so if one gets wet or cause blisters, the other pair can be worn. Broken in tennis shoes are the best because they allow mobility and support. Pack clean socks for each day.

What not to wear on Trek

Blue jeans, baseball caps, tank tops, t-shirts, tight/short dresses, brand new shoes.

Men's Clothing

Men's shirts: Shirts were worn loose. Plain colors were common, but stripes or plaids were also used. Light colors will be coolest. Choose something larger than a regular fit, with long sleeves.

Pants: Pants were also worn loose. Wool or linen were used. Corduroy, twill and canvas pants are good choices. Trekker in our day find that wool is too hot but that cotton works great. Colors include blue, black, gray, browns, especially beige and tan. Choose rather loose fitting through the crotch and thigh area to add comfort in walking.

Suspenders: Men's pants were held up by suspenders that were buttoned on the outside of the waistband, and crossed in the back.

Hats: Men's everyday hats ranged from pilot caps, straw hats, wide brimmed low felt hats, or round crowned hat. No ball caps allowed.

Ties; Usually vests and ties were worn only on Sunday or when attending a meeting or social event. Ties were small, black and silky. Wrapped around the neck one and tied in the front with a square knot.

Easy & Minimal Costume

- Long-sleeved button-front shirt, cotton or flannel, plain, stripes or plaids, worn loose
- Modified dress slacks from a secondhand store. Try to find a "grandpa" kind of wool pants. No jeans, cargo pants, or any knit active wear pants
- Brimmed hat; felt or straw, but not "cowboy" style, Bandana or large neckerchief
- Colder weather and desert nights will require vests and/or coats

More Authentic & Detailed Costume

- Work shirt: This online pattern has minimal instructions but is easy to figure out, or you can use Simplicity™ 2895
- Pants: "Front fall" pants without a "fly" or pockets are most authentic. Site for pattern - <http://sewing.patternreview.com/cgi-bin/patterns/sewingpatterns.pl?patternid=9756>
- Suspenders: button down variety – no bright metal snaps or elastic if avoidable
- Vest - You can trim down a wool suit jacket from a secondhand store, or you can sew one from a purchased pattern. Wool is the best fabric to use, but other bottom-weight fabrics can work. No denim – blue jean fabric
- Haversack
- Men's everyday hats ranged from pilot caps, straw hats, wide brimmed low felt hats, or round crowned hat. No ball caps allowed
- Bandana or large neckerchief (provided by Stake leaders)
- Colder weather and desert nights will require vests and/or coats

Women Clothing

Dresses: Women's basic dresses were floor length. It could be plain or have many ruffles. The sleeves were full, and long, with buttons or bands at the wrists. Necklines were usually high, with buttons up the front. Fabrics were cotton in solid colors or small print. Bright colors were popular (especially bright yellow) Blouses and long skirts or jumpers could be used. Pioneer trekkers now have found that dresses and skirts should be mid-calf or above top of a hiking boot in length (so the girls do not trip over their skirts while pulling).

Aprons; The standard apron was six to twelve inches shorter than the skirt length. It gathered at the waist and tied. The bib attached at the waist and was pinned to the dress bodice at the top two corners. Hence, the name pinafore (Pinned at two of the four corners). Daytime aprons were made of calico remnants. Sunday aprons were made from white fabric and did not have a bib. For trekking today, large deep pockets are important to be able to carry different items along the trail

Bonnets; Women wore bonnets whenever they were outside. They were made of cotton with a deep stiffened brim and back ruffle to protect the neck. They could be white, plain colors or a print, but they never matched the fabric of the dress. Today, bonnets or straw hats for the girls are important, they need to have something they will wear to protect them from the sun.

Pantaloons were worn underneath the dress and were normally white. Reached between knee and mid calf. Could use scrubs or pajama pants hemmed shorter. Wearing pantaloons helps maintain modesty in trekking situations.

Easy & Minimal Costume

- Full long-sleeved cotton or cotton blend blouse purchased from a secondhand store
- Full, gathered cotton skirt that falls mid-calf or below – but not to the ground
- Pioneer bonnet will generally NOT match your dress
- Pantaloons worn under skirt (pajama bottoms or scrubs cut off at mid calf work – recommend to avoid chaffing of legs)
- Apron with deep pockets are important to be able to carry different items along the trail. (only Sunday aprons were white, everyday aprons were prints)
- Shawls and/or capes for cold weather and desert nights. A shawl is can be as simple as a 60" square of wool cloth, folded to a triangle and wrapped around your body.

More authentic, detailed costume

- Long cotton dress with full skirt. Suggested patterns are McCall's™ M4548, M6140, M9423. NOTE: The M4548 pattern has all you need, including pantaloons.
- Bonnet Suggested patterns: McCall's™ M9423, M4548
- Apron: Design your own, or use one of these patterns. McCall's™ M4548, M6140, M9423 Butterick's™ B5509
- Pantaloons. Modify some old pajama bottoms or McCall's™ M4548, Butterick's™ B5061

Where can I find costumes for Trek?

Local Thrift Stores in Yuma:

- Goodwill
- Salvation Army
- Assistance League
- Crossroads Mission Thrift Store
- Hospice Thrift Store

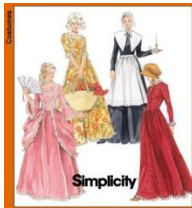
Where Can I Purchase a Pre Made Trek/Pioneer Costume?

- Recollections Clothing : <http://www.recollections.biz>
- Gentleman's emporium: <http://www.gentlemansemporium.com>
- Deseret Book: Deseretbook.com

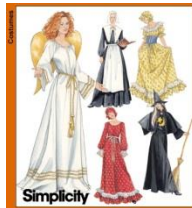
Where Can I Find Patterns to Make My Costume?

- Joann Fabric and Craft Store
- Hobby Lobby

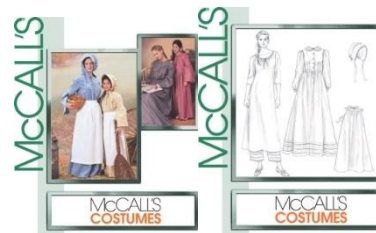
What are Some Clothing Patterns?



Women's Simplicity Patterns
5041 & 5375

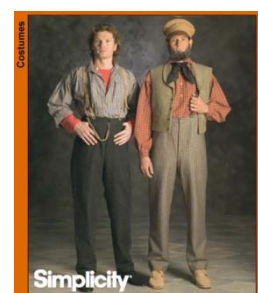
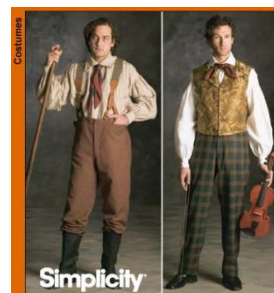


Women's Butterick Patterns
4570 & 3992



Women's McCall Patterns
3669 & 4548

Men's Simplicity Patterns Men's Butterick Pattern
5023 & 5035 3896



Fabrics & Notions:

- Cotton, cotton blends and wools are the best fabric selections.
- Prints should be fairly small, and colors should be somewhat muted – tans and neutral colors were very common for eastern “store-bought” fabrics.
- Unbleached muslin should be used rather than white cotton. Pure white and fine fabrics were usually limited to the rich.
- Buttons from wood, dull brass, pewter or shell are most appropriate.
- Battalion members did purchase colorful clothing from Mexican traders. They also traded for buckskins from natives.
- Clothes don’t have to look new. They could be patched and well-worn as if they’d been worn for many weeks.

What Types of Fabrics Should I Purchase for My Costume?

Use only 100% cotton, wool, silk or linen (silk will be very rare!) for your pioneer clothing. Man-made fibers pose a safety and fire hazard, and should not be used. Your most economical choice is usually cotton. Many fabric stores carry documented historic printed cottons in the quilting section, as well as “homespun” woven plaids and checks—these are well suited to historic clothing use. (Solid cotton colors don’t wear well, and were not commonly used for dresses in the period. An average woman’s dress will take 6 yards with careful cutting; a teen’s dress can be made with 4-6 yards printed cotton.)

Men’s shirts will use 2-3 yards of cloth; trousers can generally be made with under 2½ yards of duck (a mid-weight cotton canvas) or other “bottom weight” cotton. Solid color wools, as well as wool plaids and checks (and tweeds for men), are common. Wool does not need to be heavy to be useful; look for wools in the “tropical” or “summer” weight categories, as they make for lighter, low-bulk clothing similar in weight to the originals. You will not need lace or other “fine” trimmings for trail clothing. You may find places to wear finer things (such as historic villages or fine events), but the trek was not a place for delicate items that require special care. If it can’t withstand dust storms, sage brush, mud, wind, and sun with the chance of laundry every few weeks, it doesn’t belong in an emigrant’s trail wardrobe!