

BMD Virtual 2021 Slabtown vs. Lemati Feud

How to Play

FEUD BACKGROUND: The historic Slabtown vs. Lemati Feud took place in the late 19th Century. The City of Cottage Grove incorporated in 1887 and was primarily on the west side of the Coast Fork of the Willamette River, which was higher ground. The land on the east side of the river was less desirable because it was pretty swampy in the winter. The east side quickly evolved into a traditional rowdy gold mining town with saloons and brothels to serve miners who came into town on payday.

As more miners used their earnings to settle down, buy property (primarily on the east side of the river) and start families, the city experienced growing pains. City Council meetings grew increasingly contentious. Disagreements arose as to which side of the river would get public infrastructure first and at what price. A cultural divide arose between the original Oregon Trail settlers with strongly held Biblical values and the newcomers settling down in the raucous mining town on the river's east side.

The feuding factions resulted in the offended East-siders successfully petitioning the Oregon Legislature to incorporate their own town in 1894. They named it Lemati (Lim-ah-tie), which, rather ironically or prophetically, was a Kalapuya Tribe word for "peaceful valley." After five years, peace did come to the valley with the two once feuding towns consolidating in 1899 into the City of Cottage Grove we know today.

In 2012, the Bohemia Mining Days Board made a commitment to add more cultural heritage experiences to the annual celebration. BMD 2012 reintroduced the Slabtown vs. Lemati Feud to the community in a fun, family-friendly way. Traditional Americana contests (Cherry Pit-spitting, Tug-o-War & Pie Eating) and mining themed contests (Fuse Winders, Digging in the Dark, and Twenty Miles by Wheelbarrow) had Slabtowners and Lematians competing for points and bragging rights as the winning town for the coming year. The individual earning the most points became the mayor of his or her town and the highest points in the Bohemia Deputies contest elected a kid sheriff for their respective towns.

OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A VIRTUAL FEUD: Sadly, since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has social-distanced our community. There is a pent-up demand this year to find a "new normal" that ends the unwanted social isolation and safely allows Grovers to socialize once again. Since the Oregon Health Authority has prohibited close contact competition, there will be no feud games offered, if regulations permit us to have BMD 2021 in mid-July. Not having a festival for two years leaves the BMD Production Team with few options to raise the thousands of dollars needed to produce the celebration. This uncertainty provides BMD and our community with the opportunity to take the Slabtown vs. Lemati Feud virtual and use it to foster the same friendly on a year-round rivalry the Ducks & Beavers have.

Keeping with the BMD Board's commitment to enhance the annual summer celebration with cultural heritage activities, we are virtually creating the two historic towns from the ground up! The Feud will be a "hybrid" competition that will be played both online and in real-life.

Here's how we plan to do it...

INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDING PHASE (March-June): The BMD Production Team redesigns our website to be interactive and the virtual home for the two towns. We expanded our Facebook presence to include two new group pages: Lemati and Slabtown. Once the "infrastructure" for the virtual feud is in place (upgraded website, liability insurance, production staff, legal documents, and sponsors) the settlement of these historic virtual towns begins.

POPULATION GROWTH: The creation of these virtual towns follows the same progression of the two historic towns. When each town reaches a population of 25 settlers who become registered voters, there will be real world and virtual campaigning activities leading to an online election of a mayor, four councilors, and the adoption of a town logo.

TOWN BOUNDARIES: The real-world geographic boundaries of the Slabtown vs. Lemati Virtual Feud will be the South Lane School District. This fun, community-building game is open to all who wish to play. Those who live outside the school district boundaries are welcome to settle in the town of their choice. Lematians live within Cottage Grove's official city limits on the *EAST* side of the Coast Fork River. Slabtowners live inside the city limits on the *WEST* side of the river and in the rural communities of Latham, London, Saginaw and in the Row River Valley. These boundaries are suggested but not mandated. Cottage Grove area residents are encouraged to invite friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers (both near and far) to settle in the virtual town they've chosen.

MAYORS & TOWN COUNCILORS: Since COVID-19 canceled BMD 2020, there are no mayors or sheriffs this year. Therefore, the BMD 2021 Virtual Feud must have an interim mayor for each town who will use their influence in the community to encourage Grovers & businesses to sign up to play and earn points for their virtual town.

Interim Mayors: In March, Mayor Jeff Gowing agreed to serve as the Interim Mayor of Lemati and BMD Vice President Cindy Weeldreyer agreed to serve as the Interim Mayor of Slabtown until the citizens of each town nominate and elect their own mayor, who will serve in the position for two years. (At this time there are no term limits for elected officials but in the future the townspeople have the opportunity to change that.)

Inaugural Election: Once each town has 25 registered voters, the new settlers nominate and elect four town councilors who must be 16+ years old. To set up staggered terms for future town leaders, the two highest vote-getting councilors will serve a two-year term and the next two highest vote-getting councilors will serve a one-year term. These councilors work with the Mayor to conduct "town business".

The councilors elect among themselves a Town Clerk and a Town Treasurer. The Clerk records & posts planning notes online to keep all the settlers informed of fundraisers and town socials and also tracks and reports the number of individual and town points earned each week. The Treasurer tracks the money raised to produce Cottage Grove's annual community celebration on the weekend of the third Saturday in July. These totals are reported weekly to the two individuals on the BMD Production Team who manage the website content for their respective towns.

Nominations: Nominations are done online (by self declaration or by accepting someone else's nomination of him or her). Candidates for Mayor and Town Council are encouraged to campaign at major intersections within the school district, purchase ads in the local newspapers and on the local radio station and use social media to promote awareness of the new virtual feud and to encourage settlement of their respective towns.

"Town Business" is the year-round promotion of Bohemia Mining Days by organizing fundraisers for a spectacular BMD 2022 – *and beyond!* Individual and Town Points are awarded for organizing service projects that support local nonprofit organizations and benefit all citizens within the South Lane School District.

SHERIFFS: The Slabtown and Lemati youth (8-15 yr-olds) who raises the most money for the festival by a yet-to-be-determined date becomes their town's 2021 Sheriff. At The Feud's Ore Cart Races Award Ceremony, the Bohemia City Marshal announces the names of the youth who earned the title of Sheriff for a year. They work closely with the Bohemia City Marshal to promote the festival for the following year and to keep the peace in the Helena (Under-21) Saloon during the July celebration.

TOWN LOGO: The BMD Production Team solicits simple logo designs (that can be easily produced on a wide variety of media). As part of the first election, settlers vote for their favorite logo design. The winning design is used for promotional purposes and merchandising.

SALOONS (for planning and socializing): **Covered Bridge Brewing Group** (Hwy 99 & Main) serves as the gathering place for Slabtowners. **The Brewstation** (6th & Washington) serves as Lematians' gathering place. Each brew pub creates and brands a unique ale for their respective town. Both brew pubs will offer a non-alcoholic beverage that honors BMD's infamous (under-21 only) Helena Saloon. The Covered Bridge Brewing Group offer a Helena Saloon Crème Soda and The Brewstation will offer a Helena Saloon Root Beer. These beverages are served year-round and for each drink sold, \$1 is donated to produce Bohemia Mining Days on the third weekend of July each year. Proceeds from sales are collected weekly.

Town council meetings, competitions (cornhole, darts, card games, etc.), and activity planning meetings are held in these fine establishments. Ideally, there is a schedule of meetings and activities posted on-site and online, so the business owners know approximately how many townspeople will be on-site and when. BMD provides a banner for display in each brew pub that says “Home of Slabtown/Lemati”.

SLABTOWN & LEMATI COMMUNICATION TOOLS: Facebook Town Pages, BMD Website, *Around The Grove* weekly community newsletter, the *Cottage Grove Sentinel*, *The Chronicle*, KNND Radio & sign wavers at major intersections

Facebook: BMD created a moderated Facebook Group Page for each town that can be linked to settlers’ personal Facebook page to promote town activities and for friendly-competition bragging among point leaders. (All “official” game activity is done using the BMD Website.)

BMD Website: The virtual feud is officially played on the BMD website (www.BohemiaMiningDays.org) and will have a password protected and moderated page for each town. The BMD website keeps a running tote board of each town’s points (as we do in Bohemia City during the festival). Families, extended families and friends, are encouraged to register and play. The *Around The Grove* newsletter will have a section each week to identify opportunities to earn individual and town points.

MEDIA PARTICIPATION & INCENTIVE TO JOIN THE FEUD: Each month, starting in July 2021, *The Sentinel* & *The Chronicle* print the current point tally for each town and three highest individual point earners and points its readers to the BMD website to learn how folks can join in the fun. An incentive to encourage participation in The Feud, places the name all new “settlers” in each town into a monthly drawing of a gift certificate and also into an annual grand prize drawing (weekend get-away).

EARNING POINTS: Participation in community activities is highly encouraged! Slabtowners & Lematians sign up as an e-subscriber to TEAM-Cottage Grove’s *Around The Grove* newsletter to stay informed of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and community announcements. Each Feud participant uses the BMD Website to RSVPs their participation in a sanctioned monthly event or activity to be determined by the town council.

- **One point is given for each dollar raised and five points for each volunteer hour served** (per settler & per town).
- **At each sanctioned event the number of volunteer hours served is recorded.** Settlers track their individual points earned (with notebook or cell phone). These points are recorded & totaled weekly on each Town’s Facebook page and on the BMD website.
- **Plan a monthly BMD 2022 fundraiser.** Settlers are encouraged to get competitive and creative in planning monthly fundraisers to see which town competitively raises the most money to produce the summer festival.
- **BMD Production Team Participation.** Points are awarded per hour for serving on planning teams for various aspects of the festival (kid zone, feud competitions, parking, logistics, sanitation, fundraising, parades, marketing, cultural activities, etc.)
- **Each month total points per individual and town are published using all The Feud’s communication tools.** Points are given for every new “settler” recruited in the prior month, five point per hour invested in Feud activities and events, and time served on festival planning committees. One point is earned (per individual & per town) for each dollar raised to produce the festival or to support a local nonprofit organization.

AWARD FOR HIGHEST POINTS EARNED: The individual from each town who earns the most points receives a personal plaque, their name on a town plaque displayed in the respective watering hole, and a cash prize (amount TBD). The winning town name is prominently displayed on an identical perpetual plaque placed in each watering hole.

NOTE: It is uncertain when the BMD website will be fully functional with the new gaming software to track points online. If the two towns are set-up and ready to begin earning points prior to our July 17-18 event, the points will be managed by the Town Clerks in partnership with the BMD Website Town Content Managers. This allows the BMD 2021 Feud Awards to be presented on July 18 (at the end of the Ore Cart Finals) IF the towns are set up and ready to earn points in June and during our two-day downtown event.

INTERGENERATIONAL TEAMWORK & GAME MANAGEMENT: Youth with a passion for technology will work with adults to maintain the virtual structure of The Feud. Youth with a passion for social media and making promotional videos, will work with BMD Social Media Coordinator to promote BMD.

SELECTION OF BOHEMIA CITY FEUD GAMES BUILDS COMMUNITY: Slabtowners and Lematians are encouraged to organize face-to-face game practices and town potlucks to build camaraderie among their respective settlers and to generate creative ideas for new competitions. In a joint meeting, the two town councils discuss any new competition suggestions and then determine what Feud games will be played in July in “Bohemia City”. The individual town councils then establish a training schedule of practices in the months leading up to the Celebration’s championship contests.

The BMD 2021 Production Team plans a scaled-down two-day celebration, July 17-18, in the Historic Downtown District to introduce a new Feud competition: Mine Ore Cart Races.

SCHEDULE OF BMD 2021 & BMD 2022 PROPOSED FUNDRAISERS

(subject to change)

■ **MAY-JULY:**

- **Printing & Selling Town Masks** (Red for Slabtown/Blue for Lemati with town name)
- **Selling limited number of 2021 collector buttons**
- **Sell Raffle Tickets** (Items TBD with drawing on July 17)
- **Sell Bohemia City façade wall sponsorships** (placed on the Coiner Park Tennis Court Fence this year)

■ **JUNE 2021-JUNE 2022:** (See detailed description of Food Fight below)

- **Monthly Feud Fundraisers** (to be determined by town council with settlers’ input)
- **BMD Feud Food Fight: “Passport to Culinary Adventures”** at participating eateries and coffee stands

■ **JULY 17-18: The Inaugural Slabtown vs. Lemati Ore Cart Races and Parades** (subject to COVID restrictions)

PROPOSED SCHEDULE (& subject to change)

- **Saturday, July 17** (Main Street closed to traffic from 5:30-9:30 pm)
 - 10 am: Grand Miners Parade (10th Street to Main St. to Gateway Blvd.)
 - Noon – 9 pm: Live Music in All America City Square
 - Noon – 9 pm: Silent Auction & Raffle, Bingo, & Vendors
 - 1:00 – 8:30 pm: Kid Zone (Washington Avenue between 6th & 7th next to Armory)
 - 6 pm – Kiddie Parade and Ore Cart Procession
 - 6:30 pm – Ore Cart Time Trials (Main Street between Sixth & Seventh Streets)
- **Sunday, July 18** (Main Street closed to traffic from 1:30-6:30 pm)
 - Noon – 5:30 pm Live Music in All America City Square
 - 2 pm: Main Street Parade featuring Bloomer Ladies and Ore Cart Team Entries
 - 2:30 pm: Ore Cart Finals
 - 6 pm: Award Ceremony on Main Stage in All America City Square

■ **SEPT: Slabtown vs. Lemati Golf Tournament to support BMD 2022 operations**

■ **OCT: Live (SLTV/Internet) televised Jeopardy-style Slabtown vs. Lemati Local History Trivia Contest**

Create competition between Slabtowners & Lematians to see which town can raise the most money for the contest to pay the show’s production expenses and to raise operating expenses for BMD 2022. This fundraiser is coordinated with support from Cottage Grove’s Partners in History organizations.

■ **DEC: Live (SLTV/Internet) televised Family Feud-style Slabtown vs. Lemati Game Show**

Each town decides on a list of questions and seeks responses to those questions from Grovers. The two towns face off to guess the top answers for prizes. Townspeople vie to earn the most money to produce the program and support BMD 2022 operations.

■ **FEB: Live (SLTV/Internet) televised Slabtown vs. Lemati “Newlywed Game” Valentine’s Day Special**

Townsppeople from both towns audition to appear on the show and answer fun questions about their spouse . The couple winning the most points earns a romantic weekend get-away. Slabtowners & Lematians compete to raise the most money to pay the show’s production expenses and provide monetary support to produce BMD 2022.

■ **APR: Live (SLTV/Internet) televised Slabtown vs. Lemati “Grovers Got Talent” Game Show**

Townsppeople from both towns audition to appear on the show and showcase a variety of talents. Viewers use online voting to determine the top three acts. Slabtowners & Lematians compete to raise the most money to pay the show’s production expenses and provide monetary support to produce BMD 2022.

ORE CART RACES: July 17-18, 2021

Modeled after Virginia City, Nevada’s Outhouse Races (which is also rooted in an actual historical event in their frontier town), the Slabtown v. Lemati Mine Ore Cart Races feature a homemade Mine Ore Cart operated by a three-person team. Saturday evening time trials determine a hierarchy of heats that culminate in a championship race between the two fastest carts.

BMD FEUD FOOD FIGHT: “Passport to Culinary Adventures!”

Inspired by the seasonal Food for Lane County Grilled Cheese Experience, this is a year-round fundraiser at participating restaurants, food trucks and coffee stands. The business owner creates or identifies one item on their regular menu and calls it the “BMD Feud Special”. The item can change seasonally or become a signature dish/sandwich on their menu.

The item is priced above the ingredient costs and allows \$1 to be donated to BMD. Proceeds are collected monthly. BMD prints a passport of participating businesses and provides a unique stamp to each location to reduce fraud. The names of those who submit a completed passport are placed in a monthly prize drawing of a gift certificate and in an annual grand prize drawing (weekend get-away for two).

Participants in the BMD Feud identify themselves on their completed passport to earn one individual point and one point for their respective town. Due to passport printing costs, eatery owners sign up to participate for on a quarterly basis.

For questions or more information contact Cindy Weeldreyer at bmd@BohemiaMiningDays.org or call 541.942.5064.

05.28.2021