

Costumes

For male pioneers - males were not allowed to wear denim pants because they were not around yet in circa 1840's. Corduroy (especially wide wale) and canvas-type pants without zippers or pockets were pulled on and held up with suspenders. To resolve this, I tell the men and boys to wear cords or Docker-type pants and wear their shirt out long to cover the zipper and pockets. They can then add a belt (leather or rope) or a vest (wool, cotton, leather). Men always wore a hat also. Although the men's shirts weren't supposed to have pockets, I see a lot of men wearing dress shirts with a mandarin collar. Leather shoes for all, lace-up boots if possible.

For women pioneers: Wear a long cotton or wool skirt (cover those ankles!) in dark colors (pattern of the day was check, stripe or solid), a button up blouse that is demure (not white, that was the underclothing color), an apron, and a wide brimmed straw hat. If you don't want to wear a hat, put it up in a bun.

How to make a hoop skirt from Rita:

The computer suggests using clear hose. I did it and it works.. I used $\frac{3}{4}$ " hose and put it together w/a hose connector (from the garden supplies) I also successfully tried garden plastic trim that is sold in 15' segments. It is 3" wide so I cut it to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". (I was looking for lightweight products.) I took garden hose washers and sewed them (about 6) into the full skirt about $\frac{2}{3}$'s the way down on the skirt. I ran the hose through the washers and they stayed. When I tried the garden trim, I hammered a few holes around the 'hoop' and ran sandwich ties through to the rubber washers. I shied away from crinoline slips because of the outfit getting heavy or hot. Last year I think we hit 100 at the end of June.*

My experience w/the width of the hoop was around 3 feet. It depends on the height of the person and other variables.

I suggest garage sale shopping, etc., to get the full skirt for this one afternoon outing. The hose cost 14 cents a foot.. And the whole outfit can come together w/out too much stress.

