

Squaxin Island Tribe

ADA Policy

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. (PL101-336) The ADA is civil rights legislation which requires that persons with disabilities receive transportation services equal to those available on the fixed route service.

It is the policy of Squaxin Transit that, when viewed in their entirety, services, programs, facilities, and communications provided by Squaxin Transit are readily accessible and usable to individuals with disabilities to the maximum extent possible in order to meet the equivalent service standard of the ADA. (49. CFR 37.105)

1. Fare

Squaxin Transit is a free service provided to the general public.

2. Holiday Closures

Squaxin Transit does not operate on the following nationally recognized holidays: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day (observed), Memorial Day (observed), Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, the day after (Friday), Christmas Eve thru New Years Day.

3. Approved Equipment

In order to accommodate your wheelchair or power scooter on a Squaxin Transit vehicle it must meet the following standards:

- The equipment must have 3 or more wheels.
- The equipment must not exceed the manufactures lift limits.
- Walkers must be collapsible and stored between seats.
- Equipment must be in good working order, with batteries charged, tires inflated, footrests attached, and all parts secure. (49 CFR 37.3)
- Segway, motorized personal transportation devices, are allowed on Squaxin Transit when used as a mobility device by a person with a disability

4. Mobility Device Brakes

When occupying a lift or securement area, it is recommended that passengers apply the brakes on their mobility devices; however, they are not required to do so. With power chairs or scooters, it is recommended that the power switch be turned to the "off" position. Again, this is not mandatory.

5. Portable Oxygen Use

Individuals with disabilities who use portable oxygen devices are allowed to travel with respirators and properly secured portable oxygen supplies. Oxygen supplies must not obstruct the aisle. (49 CFR 37.167(h))

6. Securement Policy

Operators will use front and rear tie-downs to secure mobility devices. Operators will secure mobility devices at the strongest parts of the device; however, the passenger can indicate the most optimal tie-down spot. The mobility device will be secured front facing unless otherwise requested by the passenger. Drivers will assist passengers with securement systems, ramps, and seatbelts; however, drivers cannot assist riders using power chairs or scooters with the operation of their equipment. Squaxin Transit cannot refuse to transport someone whose mobility device cannot be satisfactorily restrained provided that mobility device fits within the definition described in Section 3. (49 CFR 37.165)

7. Stop Announcements

Drivers will announce fixed route stops and will announce special stops by request. (49 CFR 37.167 (a-c))

8. Personal Care Attendants

A PCA is someone who travels with, and helps, a rider who is not able to travel alone. You must provide your own PCA if you need one.

9. Service Animals

A service animal is any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Service Animals are permitted to accompany individuals with disabilities. However, to ride Squaxin Transit:

- The animal must be on a leash or in a container, remain under control of the owner, and behave appropriately.
- Birds, reptiles, amphibians, rodents, and cats must be kept in an enclosed carrier/container.
- The animal must remain at your feet or on your lap. It may not sit on a vehicle seat.
- The animal must not be aggressive toward people or other animals. (49 CFR 37.167 (d))

10. Boarding Assistance

Operators shall position the bus to make boarding and de-boarding as easy as possible for everyone, minimize the slope of the ramp, and use the kneeling option as needed. Bus operators shall provide assistance to passengers upon request. Passengers with disabilities shall be allowed adequate time to board and disembark the vehicle.

11. Maintenance of Lifts or Ramps

Bus operators must test the lift or ramp during the pre-trip inspection. Break down of accessibility equipment must be reported immediately to dispatch. A vehicle with an inoperable lift or ramp must be removed from service as soon as possible and cannot be returned to service

until repaired. If there is a lift or ramp failure, a replacement vehicle must be dispatched if the next trip to the destination of any passenger using a mobility device is scheduled in more than 30 minutes. If the next trip to the destination of any passenger using a mobility device is scheduled in 30 minutes or less, a replacement vehicle may be dispatched if available. (49.CFR 37.163)

12. Priority Seating

Upon request, bus operators shall ask – but not require – passengers to yield priority seating at the front of the bus to seniors and persons with disabilities. Drivers are not required to enforce the priority seating designation beyond making such a request.

13. Reserved Seating

Mobility device securement areas on buses are reserved. Passengers using common mobility aids shall be boarded if the securement areas are not otherwise occupied by a mobility device, regardless of the number of passengers on the bus. Bus operators are required to ask passengers sitting in the securement areas to move to other available seats or to stand.

14. Suspension of Service

A rider's privileges may be suspended for any of the following infractions on any Squaxin Transit property, including vehicles, bus stops, or stations:

- Smoking or carrying a lit pipe, cigar, or cigarette (unless in a designated smoking area).
- Discarding or dumping litter in places other than the recognized receptacles.
- Consuming alcoholic beverages or in possession of alcoholic beverages.
- Loud, raucous, unruly, harmful, or harassing behavior.
- Engaging in unlawful transit conduct as defined in RCW 9.91.025.

15. Notification of Policy

Squaxin Transit will notify the public of the ADA policy on the website and in the schedule.

16. Reasonable Modification

Requests for modifications of Squaxin Transit policies, practices, or procedures to accommodate an individual with a disability may be made either in advance or at the time of the transportation service. Squaxin Transit is best able to address and accommodate a request when customers make their requests before the trip. Contact Squaxin Transit office for questions.

17. Direct Threat

If a person is violent, seriously disruptive, or engaging in illegal conduct Squaxin Transit may, consistent with established procedures for all riders, refuse to carry the passenger. A person who poses a significant risk to others may be excluded [from service] if reasonable modifications to the public accommodation's policies, practices, or procedures will not eliminate that risk. (49CFR 37.5 App. D/ 29 CFR 36.208)

Behaviors that may cause immediate exclusion from the system include:

- Destruction of public property (the vehicle, and/or its furnishings)

- Doing violence to others or to oneself
- Behavior that is seriously unruly, seriously disruptive, threatening, or frightening to others
- Behavior that interferes with the safe operation of the vehicle
- Violations of service animal policy by failing to control one's service animal
- Violations of operating rules governing the provision of transportation system-wide
- Engaging in illegal conduct.
- Other conduct judged by Squaxin Transit to represent an actual or potential threat to the health, safety or wellbeing of oneself, the operator, other passengers, and/or transit personnel.

Passengers excluded from the system due to a direct threat have the ability to request an administrative appeal by contacting Squaxin Transit at 360-426-9781.