

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT
of the
Squaxin Island Tribe's Involvement with the Canoe Journey 2024

This AGREEMENT of PARTICIPATION is made as of July 26, 2024, by the undersigned Participant.

I. Formation

The undersigned hereby form a General Agreement in, and in accordance with the laws of, the Tribal Canoe Journeys.

II. Name

The name of the Agreement shall be Stepping Stones Canoe Culture Training Agreement.

III. Term

The Agreement shall begin on July 26, 2024 and shall continue until August 6, 2024 unless earlier terminated as hereinafter provided.

IV. Purpose

The purpose of the Agreement shall be to define the role of the participation of the Squaxin Island Tribe's participation with the Canoe Journey 2024.

V. Meetings

Weekly practices shall be held regularly as determined by the Squaxin Island Canoe Family Committee.

VI. Management

Except as otherwise determined, all decisions shall be made by the Squaxin Island Canoe Family Committee.

XVIII. Suspension of a Participant

Any Participant who violates the Rules of Conduct may be suspended from participation in the Canoe Journey 2024. Written notice of a suspension of a Participant shall include a specific reference to this matter. The suspension shall become effective immediately and parents will be contacted to retrieve their child.

XXIII. Rules of Conduct

No Participant shall violate the following rules:

1. EVERY STROKE WE TAKE IS ONE LESS WE HAVE TO MAKE

Accept the workload of keeping the canoe moving forward. Each paddle stroke is a real movement and not a mistake. The canoe will not get to the final destination unless everyone works together. It is going to take honest effort to move your paddle through the water to pull the canoe ahead. Pay attention to the pace of the person in the seat in front of you, paddle at the same time. A canoe crew that keeps the same pace will travel easier. Concentrate and ask your ancestors for strength. Remember that Squaxin people have always respected the salt water that can provide so much.

2. THERE IS TO BE NO ABUSE OF SELF OR OTHERS

Respect and trust cannot exist in anger. Remaining safe and afloat depends on everyone in the canoe, including yourself. Don't ridicule your canoe mates, or yourself. The canoe has always been a sacred way of travel. The act of paddling is a blessing for you, for others, for the past, for the present, and for the future. Allowing yourself and the rest of the canoe crew to experience this sacred act will benefit everyone. Negativity has no place in the canoe.

3. BE FLEXIBLE

Be adaptable. If you get tired, ask your skipper for a short rest. If you need a drink of water, ask your skipper for a short water rest. If your muscles get sore or tired, ask the person next to you if they would like to switch sides, then ask your skipper to switch sides. If the skipper asks to move the balance weight or to retrieve something in the canoe, please do so with respect. The canoe commands may come quickly, so pay close attention and be ready to follow directions.

4. THE GIFT OF EACH ENRICHES ALL

Every story is important. The lead pullers set the pace and keep an eye out for obstacles, the canoe skipper is responsible for the safety of everyone in the canoe – everyone is part of the movement. The paddler who rests keeps the weight of the canoe even to allow the canoe to float properly. There is always that time when the crew needs a joke, positive remark, silence to keep going, and every person provides something for the canoe crew.

5. WE ALL PULL AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER

We are a family in the canoe. A canoe that doesn't have a crew that is like a family that is there for each other should not leave the beach. The canoe crew continuously checks in with each other to make sure everyone is doing well. When we know that we are not alone in our actions, we also know we are lifted up by everyone else.

6. A HUNGRY PERSON HAS NO CHARITY

Always nourish yourself. A paddler who doesn't eat at a good meal before paddling doesn't have enough strength to paddle. Make sure that you are hydrated and haven't skipped a meal. Paddling is demanding on the body, being appropriately fed and hydrated will increase your stamina and mental capacity.

7. EXPERIENCES ARE NOT ENHANCED THROUGH CRITICISM

Who we are, how we are, what we do, why we continue, flourish with tolerance. Everyone in the canoe is needed. By taking away all negativity in thought our action we will be allowed to show how wonderful every one of us really is. Everyone has their important roles. We are learning together how to reconnect to our traditions and we must allow each other to be comfortable. With purpose we were created differently and have grown different skills and abilities. The teachers, elders, and canoe captains are the ones who will provide instruction. Those who are learning should assist each other only with positivity.

8. THE JOURNEY IS WHAT WE ENJOY

Although the start is exciting and the conclusion gratefully achieved, it is the long, steady process we remember. Being part of the Journey requires great preparation; being one with a Journey requires great awareness; being on the Journey, we are much more than ourselves. We are part of the movement of life. We have a destination, our will is pure, and our goal is to go on.

9. A GOOD TEACHER ALLOWS THE STUDENT TO LEARN

We are all teachers for each other. The Canoe Skipper has the responsibility and provides the direction for the canoe crew but we all learn together. Paddlers with more experience in the canoe can help those with less experience with how to hold the paddle, how to paddle in sync, and how to utilize your core muscles along with your arms to paddle efficiently. We all learn at our own pace. Perfection is something to seek but we can't expect it to come quickly without positivity and acceptance.

10. THE CANOE IS NOT A BOAT

Some canoes are hand carved out of ancient cedar trees, some are constructed with strips of ancient cedar trees, and some are fiberglass made from traditional styles that were made in a factory. All canoes carry a name and are vehicles that allow us to return to our tribal customs. By this action, they have their own spirits and require respect.

In our custom, we do not call it a boat because that word doesn't recognize the importance of the canoe. We all make mistakes, but in the case of calling the canoe a boat you are required to jump in the water to wash your mistake away and to show the canoe that you're willing to show respect and honor. This is a funny rule. We can laugh along with each other for our little mistakes. We must not make each other feel bad. We will continue to show support for each other even when we make mistakes. Submerging ourselves in the water is an ancient sacred practice, it continues to be a form of blessing. Another form of blessing is to submerge ourselves in the water after we get in the canoe for the first time of the new season or when we skipper for the first time of the new season.

11. ZERO TOLERANCE

Drug and alcohol usage is not permitted. Cigarettes or e-cigarettes are also not allowed. There is to be no violence.

12. NO FRATERNIZATION

Participants can not fraternize. This means no "hooking up." Friendships and relationships are natural but no inappropriate contact, or behavior is allowed.

Canoe Journey 2024 Paddle to Puyallup Schedule:

- July 27 & 28 Pack Box Truck with Camping gear
1pm – 5pm both days, at the parking lot next to Law Enforcement & Squaxin Gym
- July 25 Canoe Families arrive in Squaxin Territory @ Kamilche to camp
5:30pm – Dinner at Community Kitchen
- July 26 Arcadia to Allyn
9am - Launch canoes at Arcadia
1:30pm – Approximate Landing in Allyn
- July 27 Arcadia to Olympia
6am - Launch canoes at Arcadia
10am – Approximate Arrival @ Swantown Marina
- July 28 Arcadia to Skookum Park
7am - Launch canoes at Arcadia
9:30am – Approximate Landing @ Skookum Park
- July 29 Arcadia to Nisqually
4:30am - Launch canoes at Arcadia
10am – Approximate Landing @ Solo or Luhr Beach
- July 30 Canoes travel from Nisqually to Owen Beach
5am – Estimated Launch of canoes (Nisqually has more info)
- July 31 Canoes travel from Owen Beach to Puyallup Final Landing

Camp Gear Supplies:

Individual Equipment

- A copy of your insurance/medical billing information
- Your own waterproof bag with supplies in it—safety blankets, change of clothes, rain jacket.
- Mini First Aid Kit – for minor cuts and scrapes, it's good to have your own supply
- Pocket knife – caution is advised
- Handkerchief – a little old school but it can help in many ways
- Sunscreen – this is a must, the Sun rays reflect off of the water
- Lip balm with sunscreen protection – lips will get chapped and burned without using this
- Insect repellent – there are many alternatives to the classic spray-on cans
- Whistle – with clip to clip on to life vest
- Something to cover your head – helps to protect the scalp and provides additional skin protection for the face
- Sunglasses – polarized is best, eyes can get sunburned as well
- Emergency poncho/rain gear – cheap plastic ponchos get blown around by wind
- Extra clothes – Wet cotton clothing draws heat away from the body
- Extra food
- Water shoes – some are made that resist fungus and bacteria growth that can happen in non-water shoes; sandals are used also but if planning to spend time in the canoe or on the beach, fuller foot coverage prevents cuts and scratches from barnacles

Camp Gear Equipment

- Tent – a 3 man tent will allow storage of camp gear (clothes, supplies, etc) due to the summer morning dew that will soak any camp gear left outside, large tents take up more space and they are more complicated to set up and break down
- Sleeping Bag – make sure that it has at least a temperature rating of 30 degrees, blankets are easier to unfold and get loose and mixed up in everyone else's camp gear during transport, therefore getting more dirty or misplaced
- Sleeping Pad, Cot, or Air Mattress – Any padding is better than sleeping on the ground, sleeping bags are temperature rated with the idea that a decently thick sleeping pad is used; Cots are easy to set up and break down; air mattresses require pumps (manual pumps work but they require a lot of time and effort) and they should be durable and be able to fit comfortably inside of a tent
- Storage Totes or Durable Suitcases – totes of 32 gallon or a little above will allow for better packing, suitcases should be sturdy to handle repeated loading and unloading
- Flashlight or lamp – non-flammable lamps required, kerosene lamps are not permitted for safety concerns
- Shower Supplies – towels, soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss (participants will be required to maintain hygiene)
- Clothing – if spending time in the canoe, plan to change at least twice for each day
- Sunburn lotion – this will help recover

The Canoe Family Committee has caused this 2024 Canoe Journey Participation Agreement to be executed on the date indicated below, effective as of the date the listed participant below joins the Squaxin Canoes for the 2024 Canoe Journey.

| Participant (Printed Name) | Participant (Signature) | Date Signed |
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