



INSPIRING THE NATIVE TRADITION OF GIVING

POTLATCH FUND



July 26, 2012



2012 Paddle to Squaxin



Since 2005, Potlatch Fund has awarded grants to Tribes and Canoe Families participating in the annual InterTribal Canoe Journey. The annual "Journey" revives the centuries-old tradition of transport, trade and gatherings among nations by the Coastal Tribes of the Northwest.

2012 marks 23 years of the modern "Journey" which was revitalized by Emmett Oliver, a Quinault Tribal Elder, who helped organize the "Paddle to Seattle" to celebrate Washington State's centennial in 1989.

Native youth are the focus of the "Journey" which teaches participants traditional knowledge around family, environment and culture. Twenty-eight groups received grants for the 2012 Paddle to Squaxin Island, helping with ground support, food, safety equipment and other costs.

Funding was provided by:

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Kalliopeia Foundation
- OneFamily Foundation
- Eulalie Bloedel Schneider Foundation
- Jeffris Wood Foundation
- contributions from the 2011 Potlatch Fund Gala



[2012 Awardee List](#)

The Potlatch Fund Board and Staff raise their hands to all of those who have supported the InterTribal Canoe Journey!

Pah-Tu Pitt: Canoe Journey Reflection

This year I had the opportunity to expand my pulling experience by canoeing with the Quinault Canoe Society. Pulling on the ocean felt good especially as the Coastal Canoes stuck together and the





Some of Quinault's Haynisisoos (HanaShú) Canoe pullers at Suquamis



Canoes at Port Gamble S'Klallam



Dana receives a custom handmade paddle from Joe Seymour (Squaxin Island Artist)



Uncle Smitty & Aunt Lutie Hillaire sing a song to send off the Lummi canoes in prayer



support boats hung close by. The seabirds seemed a bit surprised to see us, but quickly returned to their business. I felt like this experience was a natural progression in expanding my repertoire as a puller and remained consistently impressed observing how well the Coastal Tribes support each other.

Many aspects of the canoe journey, I hold tight, such as becoming closer to my ancestors from along Wemulth (the Columbia River), connecting with distant neighbors, wildlife, waterways and landscapes. Observing so many people investing in themselves and their communities uplifts my spirit and allows me to continue to grow as a person. My desire is that my experience is one drop in the vast pool of strength and education existing within our communities and that I allow journey to keep working within me year round. One of my elders reminds me that "people and industry will come and go, but Indians have always been here since time immemorial and always will be therefore we make decisions based upon staying true to future generations" and sometimes you have to dig deep as the ancestors did before us to continue supporting our way of life.

Dana Arviso: Canoe Journey Reflection

This is my first Tribal Journeys and I have been really lucky to travel on the Ohileqw-Lani (Happy Lady) Canoe from Lummi under the guidance of "Uncle" Smitty Hillaire. I am pulling with the Lummi CEDAR Project, a Potlatch Fund grantee who works with Native youth by teaching them the lessons of canoe culture. Lummi CEDAR Project is headed by Shasta Cano-Martin & Misty Kopplin, both Potlatch Fund LEAD Program alumni. We are also traveling with the Cedar Rose Canoe which was made by Lummi Councilman Levi Jefferson with pullers from the Autumn Rose Canoe Club.

It is hard to summarize what my first Tribal Journeys experience has been like because I have learned a lot in just the first week and still have three more days left until the final landing. One of the lessons I have learned is a saying I have heard in nearly every stop of the way, "You don't know what you don't know until you know it." This applies not only to the physical activity of pulling canoe together as a team and as family but to the sense of humility you experience from your surroundings and from the guidance and wisdom shared by Elders and Tribal communities around you.

But here is a glimpse into the travel diary that I have been keeping along the way [\[MORE\]](#)

Funder Tours: Final Landing and Potlatch Protocol

Since 2005, Potlatch Fund has scheduled tours around the final landing of the InterTribal Canoe Journey. This year's final landing will take place on Sunday, July 29, and we are striving to provide a variety of opportunities for individuals to participate in the *Paddle to*



Longhouse Education and Cultural Center



Skokomish Tribal Nation



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Squaxin. As such, we are planning smaller group tours around the final landing, and the weeklong potlatch protocol.

Details for the two tours, and selected background materials, may be found below. Space is very limited, but if you are interested in joining one of our tours, and learning more about the "Journey", kindly contact, [Lawrence Leake](#) at 206.624.6076 x 13.

Final Landing 2012: Squaxin Island

Agenda (Sunday, July 29):

- 9:30AM Depart: Columbia between 1st and 2nd
- 11:00AM Arrive at the Final Landing site in Olympia
- 12:30PM Canoe scheduled to begin landing
- 2:00PM Depart for the Squaxin Island Reservation
- 5:00PM Arrive Seattle, tour ends

Three Stops, Traditional Foods and Cultural Experiences

Agenda (Wednesday, August 1):

- 12:00PM Depart: Columbia between 1st and 2nd
- 1:30PM Arrive: **The Evergreen State College**
- 3:15PM Arrive: **Skokomish Tribal Nation**
- 5:00PM Arrive: **Squaxin Island Tribe**
- 8:00PM Arrive Seattle, tour ends

Background Material

- [Guidebook](#) – An overview of the InterTribal Canoe Journey
- [Articles](#) – Three recent articles
- [2011 Booklet](#) – Photos and stories from the 2011 "Journey"

Your Opportunity to Make a Difference

You can help Potlatch Fund strengthen Tribal communities and Native organizations through contributions of your time, talent and treasure. Learn more about our mission and how to get involved on our website, or call: 206.624.6076.

[Become a supporter of Potlatch Fund today, and make a difference for generations to come.](#)

All donations to Potlatch Fund are tax deductible: EIN 73-1712905.

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801 Second Avenue
Suite 304
Seattle, Washington 98104
US

