

The Inter Tribal Canoe Journey
Healing, Rebirth and Hope



Potlatch Fund



2009 InterTribal Canoe Journey: Images courtesy of the Chinook Indian Nation.

September 1, 2009

Dear Canoe Journey Supporter,

Thank you for helping sponsor the **Ohilxqwsen Canoe Family** during the 2009 *Paddle to Suquamish*. Without your help, I would have never been able to experience this culturally enriching and uplifting event.

Although the Canoe Journey itself has grown in its popularity over the years, this was the first time I was able to participate. It was a life-changing experience that I am very grateful for. Every part of the Journey offered lessons and opportunities to grow. From learning the importance of contributing on camp (cooking, cleaning, setting-up tents, breaking down tents), to pulling/paddling your own weight while on the canoe, and to dancing and singing during protocol despite uneasiness or shyness—each of my experiences led me to define myself in new ways, and in my perspective, have helped me to become a better person.

The Canoe Journey allowed me to experience a sense of cultural pride that I had never experienced before. At the final landing site in Suquamish, it was so powerful to hear a common song being sung on shore, and each canoe paddler singing along and tapping their paddles to the beat of the drum. We had learned each other's songs, the tribal nations, during the course of the journey, building momentum for the final celebration. It was at the end of this journey, as we all sang in sync, that I realized we had all become one. There were over 1,000 canoe pullers and we had all become one family. We were united in the spirit that kept us paddling when our bodies wanted to rest, and the spirit of our ancestors that traveled those same waters hundreds of years ago.

It's hard to describe the awe and gratitude that I felt by being a part of the Canoe Journey. I am so grateful that my elders, Smitty and Lutie Hillaire invited me to paddle on the Ohilxqwsen—and even more grateful that the healing that took place during the journey has empowered me to be a better mother, daughter, wife, and friend. It has helped me put my work into perspective and re-energized me to help my Lummi community.

Thank-you (Hy'Shqe) for supporting such a powerful and wonderful experience.

With deep gratitude,

Shasta Cano-Martin

Shasta Cano-Martin

Potlatch Fund *A Tradition of Giving*

2009 Grants

Nineteen groups received grants for the summer 2009 Journey to Suquamish, helping with ground support, food, safety equipment and other living costs during the weeks-long journey.

A total of \$34,750 aided 25 canoes. Funding was provided by:

the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

First Nations Development Institute

contributions from the 2008 Potlatch Fund Gala

matching funds by the WK Kellogg Foundation

Groups receiving grants: [# of canoes]

The Suquamish Tribe [Host Tribe]	Suquamish WA, \$4,000
Chinook Indian Nation [3]	Bay Center WA, \$2,500
Makah Canoe Society [2]	Neah Bay WA, \$2,500
Lee-Choe-Esse	Forks WA, \$2,250
Ohileqw-sen Healing Center	Bellingham WA, \$2,250
Snoqualmie Tribe [2]	Snoqualmie WA, \$2,250
The Morris Canoe Family	Kirkland WA, \$2,250
Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation [2]	Kingston WA, \$2,000
Squaxin Canoe Family	Shelton WA, \$2,000
Blue Heron Canoe Family	Kent WA, \$1,750
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Longview WA, \$1,750
Raven Spirit Canoe Family	Bellingham WA, \$1,750
Oliver Canoe Club	Kingston WA, \$1,500
Pink Paddle Project	Port Angeles WA, \$1,500
Samish Canoe Family [2]	Anacortes WA, \$1,500
The Carver's Camp	Tacoma WA, \$1,500
The Tulalip Tribes [2]	Tulalip WA, \$1,500
Hoh Indian Tribe	Forks WA, \$1,000
Quileute Ocean Going Society	La Push WA, \$1,000



2009 InterTribal Canoe Journey: Image courtesy of The Makah Tribe.

My name is Maggie

My name is Maggie and I traveled in the 2009 canoe journey with the Cowlitz canoe family. From the first day to the last, so much fun drumming and dancing in the protocols and during the jam session with various tribes. I learned so much of the history of the Native American Culture. For example, when visiting tribes arrives at host tribe's land the visiting tribe has to ask permission to land and leave the host land. I learned the Cowlitz paddle song dance and we were excellent. I learned how to pull and the importance of everyone having to work together. I love my new family so much. I am proud to be a Cowlitz. I am 10 years old.

2009 InterTribal Canoe Journey: Story courtesy of the Cowlitz Canoe Family.

Three things that I learned from the canoe journey "Paddle to Suquamish" are...

1. I learned how to play the drum. During protocol our Oliver Canoe Family played drums with the Quinaults. I learned how important drumming is to our native people. It was a great moment of pride to be standing there playing drums with the Quinaults during protocol. Nothing mattered more than the relationship between friends and family.
2. I learned how to paddle in a native canoe and the rules of the canoe - what is respectful and what is not. There should be no fighting amongst the pullers and the skipper in the canoe. Never put the tip of your paddle down. Treat the paddle and the canoe as you would treat yourself. Don't drag the canoe because it's disrespectful to it. Paddle in unity. Paddling in the canoe was a time to have fun with your friends and family. Pull hard, get to where you need to go.
3. I learned more about other native cultures and my own. How different songs are between the tribes. How different the regalia is.

Steven Oliver

Age 13

2009 InterTribal Canoe Journey: Story courtesy of the Oliver Canoe Club.



2009 Final Landing (Suquamish): Image courtesy of the Oliver Canoe Club.



2009 InterTribal Canoe Journey: Image courtesy of Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.

Austin
14 yr old

I wanted to better myself and learn to focus without my medicines. That didn't work. I did pull good and I stayed awake but I need my meds. so I can do what I'm told.

My friends I made last year were there. That was cool. Because we took off from the north. The north is so beautiful.

I wanted to better myself and learn to focus without my medicines. That didn't work. I did pull good and I stayed awake but I need my meds. So I can do what I'm told.

My friends I made last year were there. That was cool. Because we took off from the north, we didn't see each other till the end. But I'll see them again soon. We share songs and dances as well as football. Every year my goal is to build muscles. Be strong and I did get bigger muscles. I'm small for my age. I missed my brother who only pulled once or twice.

First week we cooked whatever we wanted. That was cool. I cooked dinner. Morgan and my cuz made pancakes and bacon. We had fun.

We used the sail in the canoe that was cool when we were on the island. It was fast and we moved without paddling in the right direction.

My cuz from California came for the first time. That was cool. It was their first time camping too. We all made our paddles that we used on the journey. But we are going to put the design on later when we get back.

It was hot this year and we got to cool off on our breaks.

I want to go next year because its in Makah. I have a lot of friends at Makah. We go to see June, Long Legs, old girlfriend and Morgan goes every year.

I'm getting good at pulling and my grandma and papa are proud of me. I like to share songs and dances.

Urgent Need. Strong Response.



2009 InterTribal Canoe Journey: Image courtesy of The Makah Tribe



Potlatch Fund

*To inspire and build upon the Native tradition of giving and
to expand philanthropy in Northwest Indian Country.*

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Cover image courtesy of Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.