

## **Paddle to Quinault Scheduled August 1-6, Volunteers Welcome**

### **Local News**

Posted by: David Haviland

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TAHOLAH, Wash. - The Quinault Indian Nation and the Quinault Canoe Society will proudly host the Paddle to Quinault 2013 August 1-6. All comers are welcome and volunteers are encouraged to register at [www.PaddleteQuinault.org](http://www.PaddleteQuinault.org). It has been 24 years since "Paddle to Seattle" first revitalized this long held Northwest tribal tradition, and the event has gained momentum throughout the Northwest ever since. "The cedar canoe holds great meaning for tribes throughout the Northwest and western Canada," said Fawn Sharp, President of the Quinault Nation and of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. "The annual journey reaches deep into the hearts and souls of our people—both young and old, and helps them fully realize the vitality and spiritual strength of their tribal identity, underscoring our hope for a sustainable and positive future," she said. This year's journey is expected to draw an estimated 100 cedar canoes and 15,000 tribal and non-tribal visitors to the Land of the Quinault on the Pacific Coast. The destination is Point Grenville, a Quinault beach near Taholah, approximately 40 miles north of Ocean Shores.

"All visitors are welcome, as is our tribal custom," said Guy Capoeman, Journey Coordinator. "The canoe journeys have always provided a great opportunity for tribes to get together, share our thoughts, stories, traditional dance and song, and strengthen our bonds of friendship. They are a great means to teach our children about their roots, history and traditional ways. They also provide a good opportunity for non-tribal people to get to know more about us, and strengthen relations between Indian and non-Indian communities," he said. "The contemporary canoe journeys began in 1989," said Capoeman. "Emmett Oliver, a Quinault Tribal elder organized the Paddle to Seattle as a part of Washington State Centennial Ceremony, revitalizing the canoe tradition, which had been lost for many years. We now know this as the Canoe Journey. The Canoe Journey has become symbol of cultural revitalization on a national and even international level. We can expect anywhere from 90 U.S. Tribes, Canadian First Nations, and even New Zealand to join the celebration. In the past we have seen canoes from Alaska and even Hawaii join in on this event. It truly has become an amazing part of revitalized Northwest culture," he said. "The Canoe Journey creates opportunities for tribal members to re-learn, strengthen and reinforce their canoe traditions. So many cultural values are learned from canoeing. Among these are positive pride, cultural knowledge, respect, and a sense of both personal achievement and teamwork," said Sharp. Volunteers are welcome to register at [www.PaddleteQuinault.org](http://www.PaddleteQuinault.org). "We need volunteers to have a successful event of this

magnitude,&rdquo; said Sharp. &ldquo;We will welcome one and all.&rdquo;  
Quinault is an alcohol/drug-free event.

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