

Shuttle service gets Kah-Nee-Ta employees to work

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Priscilla Frank and Missy Scott both understand hectic work schedules.

For Frank, the problem was finding a way to get to work at Kah-Nee-Ta at 9 a.m. after her grandson took the car at 5:30 a.m.

For Scott, it was finding a way to get her son to work at Kah-Nee-Ta when she works in the housing department.

This summer help came in the form of a 12-passenger shuttle service from Warm Springs to Kah-Nee-Ta.

According to Frank, "I think there's been a drastic result where people have hung onto their jobs, and I think transportation was one of the problems."

"It's just really a convenience," she added.

Scott agreed that the shuttle has made her life less complicated. She said, "It's helped out financially, with having to drive him clear up to Kah-Nee-Ta and then back down to Warm Springs."

"It's been a big help. I'm really glad that they've found the money to do this for the community," Scott added.

Julie Quaid was one person responsible for getting the shuttle service started. She said the idea behind the service was to motivate youth workers to have good attendance and to be able to keep their jobs all summer.

In the end, she said it has also benefited adult employees.

Scott Moses, in the Human Resources department at Kah-Nee-Ta, said, "We definitely see a great attendance participation

from all of our youth workers." "It affects our employee base all the way around," Moses added.

"There's a lot of different aspects that it does help out."

The shuttle service began on June 14 and will continue until Labor Day weekend.

The shuttle has been making three round trips each day and has seen a steady increase in the number of riders.

Frank said she's spoken to several fellow riders in the morning. "I do a lot of talking to get feedback from them," she said. "I think the transportation has really helped up our numbers in our employment."

It's something that has made such an impact, Frank said, that "I sure wish that in the future we would have year-round transportation for people."



Photo courtesy of Julie Quaid

Four Kah-Nee-Ta employees got to work a little easier this summer with the help of a new shuttle service. The shuttle employed two drivers and one substitute driver.

Mt. Hood Meadows recognized for program with tribes

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort recently received the Silver Eagle Award for Stakeholder Relations from the National Ski Areas Association for its work with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Beginning in the summer of 2004, Mt. Hood Meadows created voluntary exclusive use areas for huckleberry harvesting within the ski area permit area. Meadows then began work with Congress to recognize the tribes' need for further resource protection.

One year later, Meadows hosted a lunch at the ski area for Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs leaders, congressmen Greg Walden and Earl Blumenauer, and their respective staffs to discuss including "exclusive use" authorities in a legislative package that will help shape public land management strategies for the greater Mount Hood region.

The objective of the exclusive use program is to protect

the tribe's traditional, cultural and historic uses of the land while enhancing the quality and quantity of the cherished huckleberry bush.

"Huckleberries are a 'first food' and have tremendous spiritual and cultural importance to the tribes," said Dave Riley, vice president and general manager of Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort.

"Berry bushes are being crowded out by brush and tree growth and by the commercial

harvesting, which is conducted by non-tribal members. Our intentions have been to bring the Congressional delegation, tribal leaders, the Forest Service, and ski area management together to help enhance the long term viability of the tribes' huckleberry resource."

The recent Silver Eagle award is the third that Mt. Hood Meadows has received in the last ten years. Established in 1993, seven Silver Eagle awards and one Golden Eagle Award

are conferred annually. The Eagle awards program recognizes exceptional environmental programs at North America's myriad ski area facilities.

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort and staff were honored with four other awards this year in addition to the Silver Eagle Award for Stakeholder.

Other recognized programs are: a new hospitality training program, a marketing award for season pass sales, a cooperative partnership program with the

community of Hood River and a coveted individual award for a 30 year veteran of Meadows' staff.

"To be recognized for such a variety of programs is testament to the talent and the vision of our management team," said Riley. "We are especially proud of the environmental and community partnership awards which demonstrate that our efforts go beyond the daily operations of the ski resort."

A word from Voc-Rehab

We have staff members working together to provide quality Vocational Rehabilitation services to the Warm Springs Community.

Staff includes three Voc-Rehab counselors - Gerald Danzuka, Stacy Fasthorse and Morris Holliday - and intake coordinator, statistician and VR secretary Andréa Smith.

The job of Voc-Rehab is to help you redirect your future to meet your employment needs, bringing financial security and stability to families. This is accomplished with a well thought out plan and goals.

If you are interested in pursuing these services, you will need to attend orientation, which is held every Monday at 3 p.m. at the Voc-Rehab office, next to the Commodities warehouse.

The orientation is an opportunity to learn about the program and ask questions about the eligibility process. There are 5 eligibility criteria that need to be met in order to obtain services:

One: An individual wanting VR services must be an enrolled mem-

ber from a federally recognized Indian tribe and show proof.

Two: The individual must reside on the Warm Springs reservation at the time of application, or within a 65-mile radius of reservation boundaries.

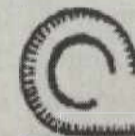
Three: The individual must have a medically or psychologically diagnosed disability, which can be verified by a professional in writing.

Four: The disability must result in a substantial handicap to employment.

Five: there must be a reasonable expectation that the provision of vocational rehabilitation services will lead to employment.

The individual will begin working with the VR counselor to develop an individualized plan for employment after criteria are satisfied.

Voc-Rehab wants the individual to choose employment that will make him or her happy, as long as the employment choice does not aggravate the disability, or the individual does not ignore their doctor's recommendations.



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