

Eagle Quest brings together Native youth along the river

The Eagle Quest Culture Camp is in its fourth year serving Indigenous youth along the Big River, the Columbia.

This summer Eagle Quest Culture Camp brought together on average 50 children daily. Peak attendance reached 65 participants.

The two-week camp serves children from both Oregon and Washington throughout the Mid-Columbia River Gorge.

Beyond traditional cultural crafts and activities like stick game instruction, the camp addresses a critical need for Indigenous youth living some distance from reservation communities.

“Our community is away from the reservation, and because of that can be disconnected,” said Russell Spino, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Chief of Police.

“This camp gives the children an opportunity to meet new Indigenous people for relationships and friendships and identify with others like them.”

The camp operates with 10 youth counselors, 11 support staff, and 14 teachers, with Police Chief Spino contributing throughout the entire program. Camp coordinator Venus Allison volunteers weekly alongside her regular duties as CRITFC Victim Advocate; and many more volunteers and staff.

Each morning, campers gather in community circles where they greet each other with ‘niix macqi’ and ‘inme naymuma,’ reinforcing the camp’s central theme of strengthening access to and use of language.

The daily gatherings aim to emphasize to participating youth—from not only the four Columbia



Eagle Quest Culture Camp drumming session.

River treaty tribes but other tribal nations as well—who are part of a larger Indigenous community and family.

Through consistent messaging about community throughout the two-week program, organizers

hoped to help children understand they are never alone and have a network of Indigenous peers and mentors they can consider family, according to Spino.

Eagle Quest is organized by the Johnson O’Malley-Title VI Indian

Parent Committee in collaboration with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Other partners are The Next Door Inc., Native Supports Team, and Columbia Gorge Education Service District.



Eagle Quest Culture Camp, and traditional dance session.



photos courtesy CRITFC

Community notes...

The Warm Springs Prevention team will be set up before the Simnasho and Seekseequa district meetings from 4-6 p.m. to pass out information for individuals and families. They will also give out gun lock cases to those who have not yet received one.

Every Tuesday in Warm Springs, there’s a Community Health and Wellness group at 11 a.m. in the old elementary school cafeteria, and a Wellbriety meeting at 1 p.m. at the Behavioral Health Center. Both open to the

public. Also on Tuesdays, for current clients, there is a Building Relationships group at 3 p.m., Adult Alcohol and Drug Education at 4 p.m. and Youth Wellbriety at 4.

Thrive Central Oregon can help connect people to local resources for housing, health, basic needs, benefits assistance and more.

They have drop-in hours in Warm Springs and Madras once a week. Tuesdays they are available at the Warm Springs Housing Authority from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m.; and Thursdays at Jefferson County Public Health, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Apprentice deck mechanic position

An Apprentice Deck Mechanic position is open with Tidewater. Founded in 1932, Tidewater has evolved into a multi-commodity transportation and terminal company serving the diverse and evolving transportation needs of the Pacific Northwest, Canada and beyond.

With headquarters in Vancouver, Tidewater operates the largest barge transportation and terminal network on the Columbia-Snake River system.

The deadline to apply for the Apprentice Deck Mechanic position

is Monday, August 24. Starting wage is \$35.73 per hour for the first 1,080 hours worked and \$41.23 per hour for the second 1,080 hours worked. Upon successful completion of the Apprenticeship Program, the starting wage as a Deck Mechanic is \$54.97 per hour, with full-family medical, dental and vision coverage.

The Apprentice Deck Mechanic works a 15-day on, 15-day off work schedule consisting of 6-hours on and 6-hours off shift rotations while onboard a vessel.

This position is responsible for: conducting all deck operations aboard the tug as well as the barge

tow, maintaining the engine room and mechanical systems of the vessel, and performing all routine inspections and house duties as required by the operation.

Deck operations include the handling and placement of a variety of tow-rigging including steel cables, straps, and rope lines. This role is responsible for cooking, cleaning, and a variety of daily tasks and projects. Crew members work in close quarters with other crew members sharing community spaces and must maintain common courtesies.

For more information, and to submit an application, go to: www.tidewater.com/careers



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Be part of the intertribal work to protect salmon and treaty fishing rights!



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(based in **Portland, OR**)

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- Police Officer • \$32-38 per hour
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