

Eagle Cap Excursion Train is ready to roll again

Go! staff

ELGIN — The Eagle Cap Excursion Train has announced its 2022 season, which begins a bit earlier this year with a mid-week ride on Wednesday, May 4.

"Early May is such a beautiful time of year," said Ed Spaulding, the organization's president. "We want to offer another chance for people to enjoy the spring scenery along the rivers."

He said the early trip is a drill to ensure volunteers, equipment and the track are ready for the busy season ahead.

Following two disrupted seasons, the 2022 schedule offers 20 train rides from early May through October. Included are two robberies, conducted by the High Country Bandits; a special Father's Day outdoor lunch beside the river; and a couple short rides.

While most trips are on Saturdays mornings, there are some that depart in the afternoon to take advantage of evening light, and there are a few mid-week



Janet Dodson/Contributed photo

The Eagle Cap Excursion Train's season begins May 4.

trips. A ride with a Bavarian theme is on the schedule for Wednesday, Sept. 21, to coincide with Oregon's Alpenfest in Joseph. Passengers can expect German fare on the menu, accordion music and costumed representatives from Alpenfest.

The round trips depart from

the Elgin Depot. Descriptions and the schedule are posted on the website and reservations can be made through the online booking service at www.eagle-captrainrides.com or by calling the Elgin Depot, 541-437-3652. For assistance from the reservations manager, leave a voice

message or send an email to weishaar73@gmail.com.

Because the train is under the category of "transportation conveyance," it must adhere to CDC restrictions. Adjustments to this year's operations include fewer passengers and more elbow room; no moving from

car to car; sanitizing surfaces between rides; and face mask requirements for volunteer car hosts and passengers, except when eating or drinking. These rules may change as the season progresses. Passengers with reservations will receive updated information prior to their ride.

A boxed lunch and beverages are included in the ticket price for most trips. Ten Depot Street, a La Grande restaurant, prepares the lunches for most trips, with Island City Market & Deli catering some of the themed rides.

FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPH BRANCH

The all-volunteer crew of certified engineers, conductors and car hosts are members of the Friends of the Joseph Branch, the nonprofit that manages the Excursion Train on the Willowa Union Railroad.

To become a member of the Friends or learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Peggy Weishaar at 541-786-0094 or weishaar73@gmail.com.



EMERGENCY





April 1st-30th, 2022

Reception on April 1st, 6-8pm

1006 Penn Ave, La Grande OR 97850

Weds-Fri 12pm-5pm, Sat 10am-2pm

