



## 2018 Tribal Canoe Journey: Paddle to Puyallup

July 28, 2018 – August 4, 2018

by Brady Rossnagle



**Mark your calendars and don't miss this great event!** The 2018 Canoe Journey will be held at the Puyallup Tribe 7/28/18 – 8/4/18. The main Canoe landing will be on Saturday 7/28/18 with Protocol (songs, drumming, dancing and stories) the following days. Here is the official Website for the [Paddle to Puyallup 2018](#) and their [Facebook Page](#). The Puyallup Tribe expects over 100 canoes and over 10,000 people to participate.



### What is a Tribal Canoe Journey?

Tribal Canoe Journeys retrace the paths, practices, and protocols of tribal ancestors. Traditionally, individual families could canoe from one native homeland to the next, asking permission to enter those homelands. There were often many stops during a journey that could last several days or weeks. Once permission was granted to come ashore, that Native community would care for you, by providing food and a place to sleep.

The revival of this traditional method of transportation and cultural experience began in 1989, when the "Paddle to Seattle" took place as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Washington's Statehood. That year the state and tribes signed the [Centennial Accord](#), formally recognizing indigenous sovereignty and our government to government relationships, and since 1993, Washington, Oregon and British Columbia tribes have hosted this annual event. While the annual Tribal Journey began in 1989, the protocol portion of the event is a variation of the ancient coastal tradition of potlatching, a gift-giving feast practiced by the indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast of the United States and Canada.

### Are Volunteers Needed? If so, in what Areas?

Yes. Volunteers play such an important role in the success of these Paddles. In fact, the Puyallup Tribe requests 600 volunteers from the community for the week of 7/28/18 – 8/4/18. Volunteers are also needed at soft landings at other tribes along the route in the days and weeks leading up to the main landing at Puyallup. Here are the [Draft Route Dates](#) (be sure to check with local tribes to confirm the date).

Volunteers are needed in all types of different areas, including: Registration, Safety & Security, Food Preparation and Meals, Kitchen & Clean-up, Hospitality, Merchandise, Medical, Youth Activities, Elders, Recycling, Transportation & Parking, Public Works & Camping, Event Equipment, Media, Vendors, etc.







### Why Participate or Volunteer?

- To build state/tribal relationships.
- To not only learn more about tribes and tribal culture, but participate in a tribal cultural experience.
- To enjoy everything that this event offers, including amazing people, canoes, protocols, presentations, prayers, songs, regalia, drumming, dancing, stories, food, and arts and crafts.
- Local Tribes need many volunteers for this community event.
- It is often hard work, but also very rewarding and a whole lot of fun.

### How do I Volunteer?

If you are interested in volunteering, here is the [Volunteer Application](#).

### Where Can I Find More Information about Canoe Journeys?

- DCS ARTICLES: Here are two DCS articles packed with tons of great information and pictures from the [2016 Paddle to Nisqually](#) and the [2013 Paddle to Quinault](#).
- VIDEO: [Puyallup Canoe Journey Hosting 2018 Video](#) (13 minutes).
- HANDBOOK: [Tribal Journeys Handbook and Study Guide](#).

If you have questions, feel free to contact:

- [Brady Rossnagle](#), ESA Office of the Assistant Secretary, 360-725-4661
- [Georgia Payne](#), DCS Tribal Relations Team, 360-664-5033

**\*\* ESA would love to know of staff who volunteer for this event, so if you volunteer, please email Brady or Georgia your name and the date(s) and location(s) of your volunteer experience.\*\***

