

SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA

Canoe Use Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define the intended use, users, and the procedures for requesting use of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's (STA) canoe.

II. Definitions

- A. *Cultural Use*: Approved activities that promote Alaska Native culture.
- B. *Educational Use*: Organized approved activities that are part of the STA Education Department's youth cultural education program.
- C. *Native Organization*: A local chartered (ANB/ANS, SEARHC, etc.) or unchartered (most clans) organization or group that represents Alaska Natives.
- D. *Tourism Activities*: Viewing/display of the canoe to promote cultural tourism and enhance economic opportunities for Sitka Tribal Tours and the Naa Kahidi Community House. This does not include actual physical use of the canoe.

III. Ownership

STA is the sole owner of the traditional canoe created through a collaborative effort by STA, the Sitka National Historic Park, and the Sealaska Heritage Institute. STA does not recognize any other claims of ownership to the canoe and retains the right to approve or deny its use.

IV. Approved Uses

The canoe is intended to be used for educational, cultural, and tourism activities.

- A. Educational activities for youth are the primary approved activity for canoe use. The STA Education Department is responsible for the development and implementation of educational programs for tribal youth and in this capacity is a preapproved user of the canoe.
- B. STA's Resource Protection Department is responsible for protecting cultural and natural resources within the traditional territory of STA and in this capacity is a preapproved user of the canoe.
- C. The canoe is to be permanently stored at the Naa Kahidi Community House. This storage location provides maximum protection for the canoe while allowing access for its use and provides an enhanced visitor experience for Sitka Tribal Tours and Naa Kahidi Community House patrons.

- D. Departments and programs operating under the STA tribal government take priority over all other users.
- E. Educational or cultural use of the canoe by Native organizations outside of STA will need to get approval by the Tribal Council (see V. Use Application Process).
- F. Use by individuals or persons not associated with a recognized Native organization will not be approved.

V. Use Application Process

All uses and users not previously approved in this policy will need to receive approval by Tribal Council prior to being allowed to use the canoe. This includes **all** entities that do not operate under the STA tribal government.

- A. The Canoe Use Application form along with a letter signed by the authorized representative of the organization requesting use of the canoe will need to be complete and returned to the STA a minimum of one month prior to the proposed use. The letter should detail the intent, extent, and duration of the proposed use. The application and supporting documentation needs to be submitted at least one month prior to the requested use date.
- B. STA will submit the application and supporting documentation for inclusion on the next Council meeting agenda.

VI. Liability

STA will assume liability for any damage to the canoe or private or public property while being used by departments and programs operating under the STA tribal government. All other users will be responsible for any damage to the canoe, private or public property, and any personal injuries or loss of life while the canoe is in their possession, and are required to indemnify STA against loss or damage.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Policy was adopted at a duly called and convened meeting of the Tribal Council held on July 20, 2016 at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 8 IN FAVOR, _____ AGAINST, and 1 ABSENT.


Michael A. Baines- Tribal Chairman

Attest:



Wilbur Brown - Tribal Council Secretary