

NW Tribes help kick off Julyamsh with Canoe Landing on City Beach Thursday

Heather Keen/Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Plummer, Idaho – This Thursday, tribal canoes from several tribes across the Inland Northwest will kick off the Julyamsh weekend with a canoe journey across Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Six dugout canoes from the Coeur d'Alene, Colville, Kalispel, Kootenai, and Spokane Tribes will join together to paddle from Camp Larson to City Beach in Coeur d'Alene. These dugout canoes will be accompanied by 6-10 sturgeon nose canoes, the majority of which were handmade by Coeur d'Alene families. The journey will be the culmination of a *qhest* (good) life conference hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Native Wellness Institute. The canoe journey will also be the lead-in to Julyamsh, the outdoor powwow hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, which begins this Friday, July 22.

The canoes are expected to depart from Camp Larson immediately following a 8 a.m. blessing ceremony. The canoes will land at approximately 3 p.m. on City Beach where they will be greeted by drumming and singing. The public is welcome to join the tribes at City Beach for the landing. After the landing, the tribes will transport the canoes to the Kootenai County Fairgrounds where they will be on display during the Julyamsh powwow July 22-24.

Boaters out on Lake Coeur d'Alene are asked to please keep their distance and keep their wake to a minimum when passing the traditional canoes.