

## Bus Trips –Guidelines for Participation

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Trips are not for profit: fees include transportation, lodging and taxes, museum fees, admission charges, donations in lieu of admission fees, driver gratuity and the daily trip fees. Trip planners project costs and numbers of potential riders with the goal of keeping rider costs balanced with expenses. Unless otherwise designated in the trip description, meals are not included. Riders might be asked to provide their own sack lunch. Frequent rest stops are interspersed with activities. Participants wear name tags during all planned events. Sensible walking shoes are recommended. Those who have **Golden Age passes (Interagency Pass) are asked to bring them. Trips to Canada require individual passports.**

**INSURANCE:** Our charter bus companies carry the required liability and accident insurance. All riders are expected to provide their own medical, liability and accident insurance. Obsidians, Inc. requires each rider to sign a **Liability Waiver** prior to each trip. In addition, the Bus Committee requires that you fill out a medical information form that will be carried in a sealed envelope on all trips you participate in. This form will be used in the event of an emergency, thus the data must be updated annually. It will be held confidential. If you have serious updates during the season, please file a new form. Notify the reservations person if you do not have the form. Read trip descriptions, talk to the leaders and determine if you will be able to participate in planned activities.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:** Any Obsidian may sign up for these trips. Non-members may be assigned an Obsidian host and are welcome to join us. The trip leader has the authority to exclude anyone who may present a danger to the group or to him/herself because of physical, medical or emotional conditions.

**SIGN UP:** Signing up at the rally event held early in the calendar year for a trip indicates a commitment in participating as well as your intent to pay the costs by the due date. (Trips can also be paid for at the rally) Keep track of trips you sign for, pay on time and keep the leader informed if you must cancel. Leaders use the rally sign-up to determine if a trip must be canceled for lack of interest. We welcome additional riders, so check with reservations and/or leader if interested at a later date.

**TRANSPORTATION:** We charter buses which are modern, safe, clean, comfortable, air-conditioned and have an on board toilet facility. Drivers are professional and well trained to insure enjoyable traveling.

**LOADING SITE-ALL TRIPS:** We will load at Shopko on Coburg Road near the bus stop on Coburg Road. It is the south end of their summer garden shop.

Most of our bus trips begin loading at 7:30 a.m., departing promptly at 8:00 a.m. and return between 5 and 6 p.m. Specific times may vary depending on the destination and duration, so always check the monthly Obsidian Bulletin and any trip descriptions for details. On extended trips we encourage arranging private transportation to the loading site to avoid leaving private vehicles in the lot overnight. Also please notify the trip leader or Sharon Cutsforth (541-746-4929 or 541-735-4703) if you must cancel at the last minute.

**PAYMENT: Make a SEPARATE CHECK FOR EACH TRIP, payable to the **OBSIDIANS BUS TRIP ACCOUNT.** Please observe the due dates for payments, especially when advance deposits are required. Priority on trips is based on the dates you paid in full. Please pay in a timely manner so that the trip leader has an accurate idea of the total number of riders. When the numbers are low at the cutoff date, the trip often is cancelled. Reserving your space well in advance also helps guarantee the trip.**

**WAITING LIST:** A waiting list will be maintained if a trip is over subscribed. Only persons sincerely interested in participating should sign up. If your interests or availability change, please inform the reservations person and/or the leader. The leader makes the ultimate selection based on the vacancy.

**EXTENDED OR OVERNIGHT TRIPS:** Room costs are based on booking for non-smoking, 2 persons, 2 beds. You are requested to select your roommate. Sometimes the leader or reservations person can assist you in that selection. The final selection is the rider's responsibility. If you need special considerations, let the leader know. Frequently there are no elevators so pack luggage you can carry up a flight of stairs. Be sure your luggage is

labeled. **POLICY FOR SINGLES:** We encourage the single traveler to participate. Occasionally, we can provide a single room, at a much higher rate. Our basic policy is based on 2 persons, 2 beds in order to minimize cost of the trip.

**CANCELLATIONS: CAUSE PROBLEMS.** Leaders frequently must make guarantees and large payments 30 days in advance. Often motels require room lists 4 weeks in advance. If you must cancel, inform the leader IMMEDIATELY. Sometimes we are unable to recover costs; therefore you would be expected to pay them. If you are able to find a possible replacement that is appreciated but it will still be the leader's ultimate selection, subject to the approval of the roommate. Persons on the waiting list have priority. . . It is difficult.

**REFUNDS:** There will be no refunds on one day trips unless the leader is notified in advance, as there is sometimes a waiting list. On multi-day trips partial or full refunds may be made after the trip, if cancellations are made at least one week in advance of the trip. Any refund is also contingent upon recovery of lodging costs, fees prepaid, admissions, etc. Refunds will only be made if a trip has generated a surplus; such refund will be determined after the trip when all financial data has been examined.

**REBATES:** Sometimes rebates may be awarded at the end of our trip season, if a trip has a substantial excess in revenue. We donate excess funds to Obsidians, Inc.

**BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHER RIDERS:** The Federal Disabilities Act states that one should refrain from using scented deodorant, perfumes and heavy aftershaves in consideration of those who have allergies and related illnesses. On the bus, in close proximity to each other, it is important to be aware of common considerations of noise, volume, cell phone use and personal comfort. The microphone is available for anyone with points of interest or stories to share. We have a **RULE: ALL TALKING CEASES WHEN THE MICROPHONE IS IN USE. This is particularly important when the leader is giving instructions concerning the trip or program.**

**FINAL NOTE:** Dates, itineraries or boarding sites may be changed so watch the monthly Obsidian Bulletin for updates. A waiting list will be maintained if a trip is over subscribed. Following is a description for each of this year's offerings. Multi-day trips have detailed descriptions nearer to the departure date. We hope you will find the trips appealing and will join us for an enjoyable experience.

**On line sign up is not available for bus trips – please call the reservations person to sign up.**