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### **Six New Interpretive Programs Greet Visitors at Lake Crescent Lodge**

PORT ANGELES, Wash. —June 27, 2011—Set along the pristine Lake Crescent within Olympic National Park, Lake Crescent Lodge has been a place for rest, relaxation and recreation for the past 95 years. For the 2011 season that is truer than ever, thanks to six new interpretive options it has added to its activities line-up.

“The new interpretive programs provide guests with several opportunities to learn about and explore the beautiful surroundings of the lodge,” says Roger Blain, director of interpretation for ARAMARK Parks and Destinations, Olympic Peninsula. “These programs, in addition to the lodge’s setting deep in the forest and on the banks of stunning Lake Crescent, make the area perfect for a nature-rich vacation.”

The lodge is located 20 miles from Port Angeles on the north side of Olympic National Park. Along with the historic Lake Crescent Lodge, the grounds have three guest buildings and cottages, a restaurant that features local and sustainable cuisine, access to area trails and boat rentals in addition to its robust interpretive program.

Guests can become immersed in the area’s camera-straining natural settings by partaking of any of the brand new interpretive programs at the lodge. The activities range in cost from free-\$45 and are available daily through the summer.

**Lake Crescent Guided Kayak Tours:** A perfect outing for guests who want to learn on the lake, the guided kayak tour mixes education with fun as you paddle around the lake. On this excursion, visitors learn some of the secrets of the lake: its formation, unique ecology, legends and history. Cost: \$45 (life jackets and instruction included); Length: 3 hours.

**Interpretive Mount Storm King Hike:** Mount Storm King looms behind the lodge at an impressive 4,537 feet of elevation. This strenuous 3-hour hike goes to the end of the park-maintained trail at a spectacular viewpoint. During the 2,000-foot elevation gain, guests learn about the different forest zones and unique geology of the Olympic Mountains. Cost \$35; Length: 3 hours.

**Interpretive Moments in Time Night Walk:** When night falls, the primeval forest surrounding Lake Crescent Lodge is transformed into a moon-lit landscape. This easy 1-hour trek allows visitors to explore the forest’s “changing of the guard” as the night light illuminates the lives of nocturnal animals. Cost: Free; Length: 1 hour.

**Interpretive Marymere Falls Hike:** The lowland old growth forest leading to Marymere Falls is a rich and unique ecosystem within Olympic National Park. On this guided walk, visitors explore the rich, colorful flora and fauna, old growth forest characteristics, unique geology, Crescenti cutthroat trout lifecycles, watershed and water quality as well as weather activities of the National Park. The walk's big reward comes when you reach the spectacular and iconic Marymere Falls. Cost: \$35; Length: 1 ½ hours.

**Interpretive Barnes Creek Hike:** Olympic National Park protects areas such as Barnes Creek where the rare Crescenti cutthroat trout spawn. This guided hike gives visitors a chance to explore the creek's unique ecosystem, its surrounding flora and fauna, old growth forests, geology, the life cycle of the trout, watershed and water quality and its weather patterns. Cost \$35; Length: 2 ½ hours.

**Interpretive Campfire Program:** The campfire ring at Lake Crescent Lodge offers families a unique venue to bond while exploring the cultural and natural history of Olympic National Park. Guests can enjoy s'mores and other campfire goodies, while listening to storytellers weave tales of the forest and to park guides who entertain with educational programs for families. Cost: optional \$5 s'mores kit; Length: 1 hour interpretive, with the campfire continuing afterwards.

A complete schedule of programs, events and more information on other activities at the lodge can be found at [www.olympicnationalparks.com](http://www.olympicnationalparks.com).

*Lake Crescent Lodge is managed by ARAMARK Parks and Destinations and is authorized by the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to serve the public within Olympic National Park. Prices are approved by the National Park Service.*

### **About Lake Crescent Lodge**

Constructed in 1916, the lodge is an historic property on the banks of Lake Crescent that is nestled within a forest of giant fir and hemlock trees. The property features historic lakefront Roosevelt Cottages, lodge rooms and three guest buildings. The lodge is near numerous hiking trails and its staff provides guided hikes, canoe and kayak rentals, kayak tours, fishing, biking and campfire s'more events. The dining room features local cuisine and wines from Northwestern wineries as well as views of Lake Crescent.

### **About Olympic National Park**

Located on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state, Olympic National Park offers 922,651 acres of preserved coastal, mountain and rainforest terrain. It is the fifth most visited national park in the United States, drawing 3.3 million visitors in 2010. It is located near Seattle, Wash., Vancouver, British Columbia, and other Northwestern population centers. Declared a national park in 1938, the region boasts World Heritage Site status and is an International Biosphere Preserve. Its pristine nature is preserved as 95 percent of the land expanse is designated as wilderness, a designation above national park status.

### **About ARAMARK Parks and Destinations**

ARAMARK Parks and Destinations, a division of ARAMARK, delivers authentic and memorable experiences at national and state parks, national forests, specialty hotels, museums, and other tourist destinations throughout the United States. In partnership with its clients, ARAMARK Parks and Destinations seeks to enhance the guest experience by offering industry-leading hospitality, environmental stewardship, recreational, and interpretive programs. For more

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