



Beachlines

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Winter 2025

**A safety
newsletter for our
employees and
friends**



Dear Beach Transportation Team Members,

As we begin a new year, Scott and I want to take a moment to reflect with gratitude on the dedication, professionalism, and care each of you brings to Beach Transportation. The start of a new year is always a good time to pause, give thanks, and look ahead with renewed purpose.

Each of us has been given unique gifts by our Creator — gifts meant to make the world a better place. Thank you for sharing your talents and compassion with our company and for helping us provide safe, dependable transportation for the young people in our community.

While getting students to and from school may seem routine, it is, in fact, a vital link that allows every child — regardless of background — the opportunity to learn, grow, and pursue their dreams. This mission is vitally important to the success of our country and is at the heart of what we do every day.

The 2025–26 school year marks Beach Transportation's 85th year in business. Scott and I are proud to represent the third generation of our family to help transport the nation's future. Today, our outstanding team of 180 professionals travels more than 1,000,000 miles each year, safely transporting 3,500 passengers daily. We are proud of this record and deeply appreciate every team member who makes it possible.

Public service and the work we do often go unno-

ticed, but please know that we see and value your commitment. You make a real difference in the lives of countless students and families, and we are truly grateful for your hard work and dedication.

We also want to thank you for your service to our community. In 2025, our team supported food drives, helped provide coats for children with Northwestern Energy, filled backpacks with school supplies, and participated in the Safe Kids Coalition, among many other efforts. Many of you also volunteered through your churches and local organizations to help those in need. Let's continue this spirit of service and generosity throughout the new year.

As we move into 2026, may the year ahead bring you good health, happiness, and success. Thank you for all that you do — we look forward to another safe and successful year together.

Warm regards,
*Greg and Scott
Beach*

We are **HIRING**



Mechanic positions are open for the shop. See Carlin for details.



We are hiring Motor coach drivers as well. These trips sometimes go overnight and weekends too.



We are hiring school bus drivers and bus attendants. If you know someone send them in!

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From the GM:

Once upon a chilly January morning—somewhere between the last holiday cookie and the first cup of “back-to-work” coffee—the Beach Transportation fleet rumbled awake. Engines yawned, heaters stretched, and buses blinked their headlights as if to say, “All right, team... let’s do this.”



Across the city, our drivers bundled up, took a deep breath, and prepared for another year of transporting the most unpredictable cargo on Earth: students. And not just any students—these are the legendary early-morning scholars known for their mystical powers. Powers like:

- Asking 37 questions before the first stoplight.
- Producing mysterious sticky substances that would stump NASA.
- Changing seats faster than any GPS can recalculate.

Good thing our team is made up of heroes.

Whether you’re handling the wheel, keeping our buses in top shape, coordinating routes, or working behind the scenes, you make the magic happen. You navigate icy roads, sleepy Monday mornings, and spirited storytelling from the back rows with patience, humor, and an unwavering commitment to safety. And somehow, you still manage a smile at 7:00 a.m.—a feat that deserves its own award category.

Looking back at 2025, we truly saw it all. We weathered sudden snow squalls, adjusted routes on the fly, tracked down lost lunchboxes, and reunited at least one runaway backpack with its very relieved owner. We managed late bells, early outs, traffic tangles, and the occasional check engine light. But through every twist and turn, you showed resilience, professionalism, and genuine care for our students.

That spirit is what families trust. It’s what makes our buses more than just transportation—they’re part of the school experience, part of daily life, part of this community’s heartbeat.

As we roll into 2026, we’ll continue focusing on training, communication, and giving you the support and tools you need—not to mention maybe a few extra towels for whatever that sticky stuff is. I encourage you to keep sharing your ideas and stories. No one knows this work better than

you, and your input inspires real improvements.

Most importantly, thank you for showing up each day. Thank you for the warm greetings, the quick thinking, the problem-solving, the patience, and the big-hearted humor that keep everything running smoothly. You make Beach Transportation what it is.

Here’s to a safe, successful, and slightly less sticky New Year. May 2026 bring clear roads, cheerful riders, working heaters, and just enough adventure to keep things interesting.

-Carlin





For the next few months, most of our school bus routes will begin and end in darkness. Driving in low-light conditions presents unique challenges that require extra attention and adjustments behind the wheel.

Reduced visibility affects depth perception, color recognition, and the ability to spot hazards early making reaction time even more critical when transporting students.



LET YOUR EYES ADJUST. Our eyes need time to adapt to darkness. When entering your bus in low-light conditions, allow a few minutes for your eyes to adjust before pulling out. Keep dashboard lights dim to reduce glare inside the cab. If interior lights must be used, give your eyes time to readjust before driving.

MANAGE GLARE. Oncoming headlights can temporarily impair vision. Avoid looking directly at bright lights and instead focus on the right-hand edge line of the roadway to maintain lane position. If glare comes from behind, adjust your mirrors or use the night setting when available.

KEEP VISIBILITY CLEAR. Clean windshields, mirrors, and lights are essential for nighttime safety. Dirt or film can intensify glare and significantly reduce visibility. Even a light layer of grime on headlights can greatly reduce illumination. Make sure windshield washer fluid is at least half full and all lights are clean and working properly.

SLOW DOWN AND INCREASE SPACE. Never outrun your headlights, you should always be able to stop within the distance you can see. Reduced light means hazards may appear suddenly. Increasing your following distance gives you extra time to react and adds a vital safety cushion.



SAFETY FIRST. Driving a school bus in the dark requires heightened awareness. Slow down, scan continuously for students and pedestrians, and anticipate the actions of other drivers. Adjust for conditions, stay patient, and remember that arriving safely is always more important than staying on schedule.



Driving in the dark can be a challenge but by letting your eyes adjust, controlling glare, maintaining clear visibility, and allowing extra time and space, you help ensure safe travel for every student—no matter the lighting conditions.

Planning Ahead for Summer



Paws up has reached out to us to see if our drivers needed summer work! They are needing shuttle drivers for their guests to and from Missoula to the resort!



Not a driver? All good! The City of Missoula hires a variety of seasonal summer positions.



Logjam is a great summer option. They are needing lots of folks to help their concerts run from tickets to traffic to concessions.



Snowbowl is more than just snow. They operate in the summer too. They hire summer positions that are worth looking into.

**See Shawnae if you need help applying to summer jobs!*

Submit your photos all year round to Shawnae! Must have a bus in the photo from the 2025-2026 year.
No students in the photos



Welcome New Hires



Jesse Jaeger
Nadine LaRue
Russ Lodge
Shelley Skates
Derrick Cavill
Karen Terry
Stayc Hamilton
Marsha Nixon
Marcia Finnegan

Silvia Wirick
Sarah Thompson
Riley Twigg
Leo Ortega
Cindy Daniell
Bob Isaacs

LOOKING UP THE ROAD

SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS

Please check your email and mailboxes for changes to the calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Day- No School
- 2 No School
- 15 DeSmet- ½ Day
- 19 Martin Luther King- No School
- 26 MCPS HS- No School
Willard- No School



February

- 5 DeSmet- ½ day
- 6 DeSmet- No School
- 9 MCPS-No School
Willard- No School
Woodman-No School
Target Range- No School
- 13 Lolo-No School
- 16 President's Day- No School



March

- 12 MCPS EL-5: ½ Day
- 13 MCPS EL-5: No School
DeSmet- No School
Target Range- No School
- 16 Target Range- No School
- 30 Woodman- No School



April

- 3 Lolo-No School
- 6-10 Spring Break-No School
- 13 Woodman-No School
- 17 MCPS HS- No School
Willard- No School



January

Irene Nelson
Dan LaRose
Megan Hall
Kevin Verlanic
Mo Memoli
Dorrie Beach
Becky Pamin
Kelly Courage
John Turman
Adam Vylasek
Jim Dredger
Lynne Jensen
Ashley Duane
Jocelyn Houska
Tanner McKinney
John Kennedy

Scott Rohan-Smith
Kirk Johnson
Ken Howard

March

Regina Booi
Karra Gillingham
Paul Haviland
Sue Alley
Sierra Meredith
Scott Beach
Donna Kolar
Greg Miller
Thomas Hawkins
Sharon Wieder
Deb Flanke
Syrah Burchett
Vickie White
James Boone
Bob Palmer
Paul Bohan
Troy Lawrence



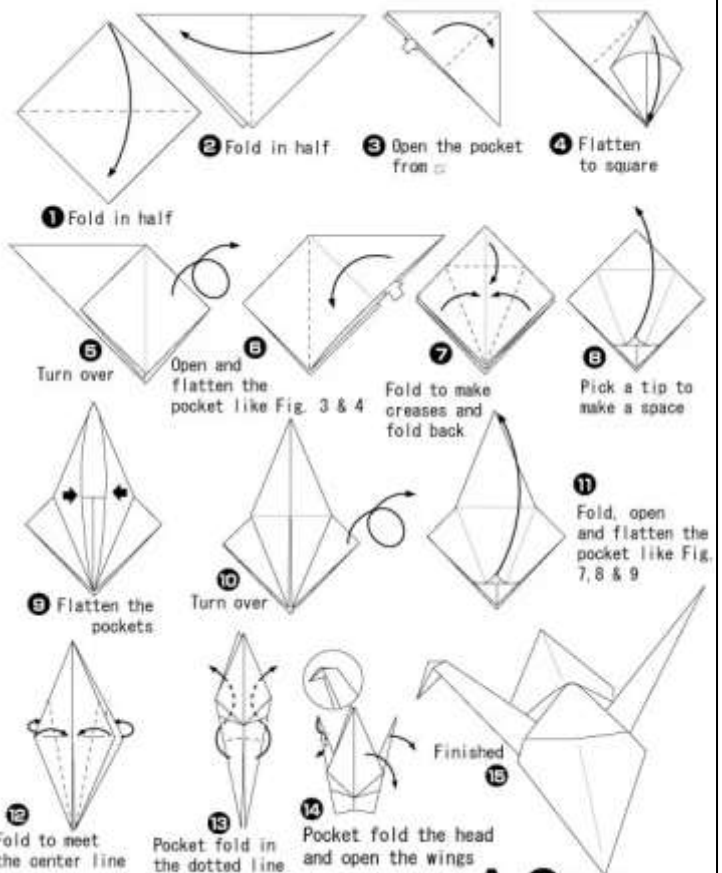
Russ Lodge
Leo Ortega
Bob Mitchell
Scott Whitmore
Cliff Laub
Sean McCoy

April

Bill Roduner
Anna Akey
Debbie Chism
Dan Grogan
Linda Otway
Mike Dickson
Will Van Olffen
Frenchie Leiritz
Shannon Beach
Wayne Harwood
Lisa Wilson
Debbie Funk
Tianah Shaw
Jake Venolia
Mickey Howell

February

Ken Stone
Charlie Haug
Pansy Vylasek
Jacob Hofeldt
Ruth Jones
Mark Peterson
Heather Hallford
Wayne Wade
Michelle Ellen
Suzy Shulund
Denise Rohan-Smith



Traditional
Diagram Fumiki Shingu

A Crane

Employee Profile: Adam Vylasek

If there's one thing Adam would tell you about himself, it's this: he's a simple guy who likes to stay busy, try new things, and keep life moving forward. But once you dig a little deeper, you'll find a whole mix of interests—from football and classic cars to Eagle Scout adventures and aviation scanners.

Adam was born in Havre, Montana, where winters are cold, windy, and not exactly forgiving. After moving around the state with his family—including stops in Miles City and Great Falls—he eventually landed in Missoula, which he's called home ever since. He attended Sentinel High School, largely because it was close to home (and back when school boundaries were a little more flexible than they are now). During his time there, he participated in football as well as shotput and disc.

After high school, Adam jumped straight into the workforce. "Work, work, and more work," he jokes. He held several jobs before starting with U-Haul around 2017, and shortly after that, he joined our team in 2018. Adam came on board at Beach looking for something new—and that's exactly what he found. One of his big motivators was earning his CDL Class B and gaining hands-on experience in a field where solid jobs can be hard to come by.

Since starting, Adam has trained with several team members, including Wayne, Jerry, and Tracie, picking up

knowledge wherever he could. He's the kind of person who's willing to jump in, stay productive, and help wherever needed. For Adam, staying busy beats being bored any day.



Adam's first solo ride on 201

game at the Kingdome in the 1990s. The game was supposed to be the stadium's final one, and Adam still has the ticket saved at home. (Turns out the Kingdome stuck around a bit longer—but it's still a pretty great keepsake.) While he occasionally watches NASCAR and the Mariners, football has a special place. He also keeps up with the Griz, usually listening or watching from home when work allows.

Adam has a strong appreciation for older vehicles. While Adam isn't big on heavy bodywork, he enjoys helping out with cleanup and maintenance and hopes to learn more

over time. That love for history and classics shows up in other ways, too. It's no surprise that his movie taste leans toward action-packed classics and historical settings. Favorites include *Fast & Furious*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* (the old ships are a big win), westerns, and the occasional paranormal or ghost investigation show—especially the "live" ones that make you think twice.

One of Adam's proudest achievements is earning the rank of Eagle Scout before turning 18. His Eagle Scout project involved planning and supervising the installation of a kiosk at Rock Creek Campground. While he couldn't physically build everything himself, he handled the planning, coordination, and oversight—skills that still come in handy today. Through scouting, Adam learned practical life skills, went camping often, traveled to Canada, and even tackled nighttime obstacle courses. These days, he camps less than he used to, but the gear is still at home—just in case.

Adam keeps things simple in the kitchen. He's not a big cook, but he can handle the classics: tacos, pizza, burgers—no complaints there. In his downtime, Adam likes to relax, listen to music, and keep tabs on what's happening locally. He's especially interested in aviation and owns a handheld scanner that lets him listen to air traffic and local activity. Music-wise, he enjoys a little bit of everything, with a soft spot for hits from the 1990s and early 2000s—plus some newer artists mixed in.

When it comes to the future, Adam keeps his expectations realistic. "Get rich," he laughs—but mostly, he wants to keep gaining experience, try new job opportunities, and see where life takes him. He's open to moving someday, as long as the climate is right and the job makes sense. He hopes to gain the chance to take to the skies himself with a pilot's license— including his own official scanner in the skies.

At the end of the day, Adam believes nothing lasts forever—and that's why learning, working hard, and staying open to new opportunities matters most. We're glad to have Adam on the team and appreciate the steady, dependable energy he brings to work every day. Be sure to say hi—and maybe talk Seahawks—next time you see him around!

Adam today with M75





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Follow us on our social media accounts to see neat stories and fun facts! Stay up-to-date on safety too!

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