Celebrating America’s Best Airport Employees

When it comes to what makes an airport truly unique, it’s not the runways, the roadways, the airplanes or even the control tower. It’s not the amenities like free Wi-Fi or a pet relief area, or even the local flavors provided by a selection of curated concessionaires. No, it’s the people – the people who work in that control tower, who keep those shops and restaurants running, who maintain the pet relief area. It’s all of you who truly make PDX America’s Best Airport and, without you, we wouldn’t top Travel + Leisure magazine’s annual list even once…much less five times in a row.

From Tuesday, Sept. 5 through Saturday, Sept. 9, we’ll show our appreciation for your hard work, commitment and contribution to the PDX team. We’ll show it with donuts and cookies and ice cream…but also with vouchers you can spend at the shop or restaurant of your choice. And while the emphasis might be on food, you can be sure there will be more than enough hugs, handshakes and high fives to go around.

So look for the celebration to make a stop near you in the week ahead. And, once again, thank you for all you do to help us remain America’s Best.

Customer Compliments

“PDX is an airport sent by the gods! Everyone here – from the TSA staff to the people working at the gift shops and restaurants – is so friendly and accommodating. If a TSA checkpoint is over-crowded, they’ll personally direct you to a shorter one, and their willingness to answer any questions you have was just amazing.”

Steven H., Covina, Calif
On Monday, Aug. 21, the Portland area experienced a special celestial event – a partial solar eclipse. While PDX travelers and employees didn’t experience totality, the 99.2 percent coverage was still remarkable, and more than 1,000 people were able to don safety glasses and join in the fun.

Blue Star Donuts at PDX got into the eclipse spirit, serving up a custom creation filled with strawberry custard and topped with gooey dark chocolate and edible gold.

Passengers onboard a special Alaska Airlines charter flight were among the first to see the moon’s shadow cover the sun, and they kicked the day off with a pre-flight news conference. Watch a video from the extraordinary flight at blog.alaskaair.com/alaska-airlines/solar-eclipse.

Rental car reservations were up 300 percent over the same time last year, thanks to eclipse travelers. This necessitated a special plan for coordinating the high volume of returns, particularly on Tuesday, Aug. 22.
There’s now a convenient place to fill up your tank and grab some snacks on your way to PDX! The long-awaited PDX Travel Center featuring a 7-Eleven gas station and convenience store is open for business at the intersection of Airport Way and Northeast 82nd Ave. Keep your eyes peeled for Dutch Bros. Coffee and Taco Bell to open in the coming weeks.

**SSP America to Bring Two Renowned Breweries to PDX**

Sometime next summer, you’ll be able to enjoy a Black Butte Porter or a Survival Stout at PDX, thanks to SSP America and two new additions to the PDX family. The award-winning Deschutes Brewery, an Oregon craft beer pioneer, will join the Concourse D concessions program and Hopworks Urban Brewery (HUB), Portland’s first eco-brewpub, will join Concourse E.

“With more than 260 craft breweries throughout the state and 19 million annual brewery visitors, the craft beer industry is a cornerstone of the Pacific Northwest experience and a tradition embraced by locals and tourists alike,” said Chris Czarnecki, Port of Portland director of PDX terminal business and properties. “For that reason, we’re particularly excited to welcome two of Oregon’s most celebrated breweries to the food and beverage program at PDX, where they will further the local presence so widely appreciated by our passengers.”

Look for the new breweries, along with retailer Johnston & Murphy, to open in 2018!

**Fun fact – HUB donates 1 percent of their beer sales to environmental causes.**

*Subscribe to PDXaminer online.* Go to [http://www2.portofportland.com/Inside/PDXaminer](http://www2.portofportland.com/Inside/PDXaminer); then click on “Sign Up Now.” Fill out the simple registration form, selecting “News for Airport Employees” from the list of topics.
Salt & Straw Creates Special PDX Flavor…and here’s how you can taste it!

Feast Portland is known for bringing trendsetting chefs and foodies from all over the world to celebrate two inspiring places: Portland and Oregon. This year, they’re adding a third inspiration – our own Portland International Airport!

For the sixth year of the food and drink festival, local favorite Salt & Straw has created a very special ice cream flavor that pays tribute to the epic experience of flying into our airport. As they describe it, “being swarmed by the misty rain as Mt. Hood comes into view, soaking up a deep breath of spruce-laced Pacific Northwest air, being chilled to your bones and loving every moment of it.” Bringing to mind rainwater and spruce tips, this scoop is Portland’s beautifully rainy, gorgeous scenery packed into ice cream form.

On Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., you’ll be able to taste a sample for yourself when Salt & Straw sets up shop on Concourse D. You can also purchase a four-ounce cup at their two PDX purveyors – Tender Loving Empire and the Country Cat at PDX – until supplies run out. Don’t miss out on this exclusive opportunity!

Did You Know?
Two years ago, we launched Jobs @ PDX, the website filled with opportunities to join our airport team. Since that time, we’ve posted 2,735 jobs and had 63,388 clicks to “Apply Now” via the website. For the super curious, here’s the breakdown: 48 percent of postings are for concessions positions, 31 percent for airlines, 17 percent for rental cars and 6 percent for other services. Know someone who might want to join our PDX team? Send them to jobs.pdx.com!

PDX Columbia Store Launches Clothing Recycling Program
Don’t toss that old coat, recycle it! Columbia recently launched ReThreads in all their retail locations (including PDX), a program that encourages consumers to bring in their used clothing and shoes to be given a new life. Columbia will donate $1 for every pound of clothing collected at stores through Sunday, Sept. 10 to one of three non-profit organizations: American Hiking Society, National Park Foundation or the Children & Nature Network.

Flybys
American Airlines is growing their team, with Russ Chavez, Frank Rosalin, Jose Gonzalez, Shawn Endecott and Salote Unga added to the fleet service team, and Dawn Bilden, Kevinn Doern, Reyna Nguyen, Michael O’Mahoney, Yong (Mark) Shin and Jennifer Soto added to the ticket counter. Welcome to PDX!