

Karuk Language Program Director

Reports To: Director of Administrative Programs and Compliance

Location: Karuk People's Center - Happy Camp, California

Supervises: Research Assistant, Course Monitor, Course Instructor

Salary: \$42,000 to \$56,000, depending on experience

Summary: Shall be responsible for directing activities within the Karuk Language Program, including language and culture learning materials development and production, a Karuk Language distance education class

1) What are your typical job responsibilities?

My typical job responsibilities according to my job description: directing activities within the Karuk Language Program, including language and culture learning materials development and production, a Karuk Language distance education class

2) How do you *really* spend your day?

Reading, writing, speaking and listening.

3) How do you organize your day to ensure you get everything done?

Currently, I try to use a set of daily routines and weekly routines to help me get a little of everything done and prevent me from getting sidetracked by the computer. I get a lot of help from the book *Sink Reflections*, by Marla Cilley, also known as The Flylady. She also has a very good web site at <http://flylady.net/>

One Flylady concept that helps me get things done is this: I can do anything for 15 minutes at a time. When I have a task that I have been avoiding, I will set a timer for 15 minutes, and usually that will be enough time to get me past whatever has been blocking me with regards to that task.

4) What education/career paths lead you to this position? Were there any life changes that guided your way to this position (ex; closing of the mill, desire not to leave area, family)?

I have always been interested in my history and my culture, but I grew up away from Karuk territory. In high school and college, I enjoyed studying languages. After I finished my Bachelor's degree, I moved to Orleans to see if there were opportunities to learn about my culture. I started taking language classes right away, and my teachers started getting me involved with teaching the language and working on the language.

Seven years later, I went to the University of Oregon to get my Master's degree in Linguistics because I wanted to be able to interpret Bill Bright's book on the Karuk Language for my students.

5) Uppers; what is the thing that you love most about your job?

The thing I love the most about my job is that it is the intersection of many interests of mine: languages, helping people, computer technology, teaching, and learning.

6) Downers; what is the thing that you love least about your job?

The hardest thing about my job is experiencing the losses and setbacks that come with working on a severely endangered language. When one Karuk speaker or expert on the language dies, it's a huge loss to the language. We lost two important mentors last year, and that's been hard both professionally and personally.

7) What inspires, excites, and/or motivates you in your job?

Learning new things inspires me. Having a successful conversation in Karuk inspires me.

8) What does your average work week schedule look like (ex; hours worked, meetings, appointments, traveling, etc.)?

I am a full-time employee, so the minimum I put in is 40 hours. I attend tribal council meetings, meetings with the Karuk Language Restoration Committee, the People's Center Advisory Committee, and the Karuk Dictionary Advisory Group. I go on work-related travel about two or three weeks a year.

9) How do you relieve stress?

Playing with my toddler son, and taking good care of myself spiritually, mentally and emotionally are things that help me relieve stress. Exercise helps when I do it.

10) Does your job include a lot of traveling? Do you enjoy it?

My job includes two or three weeks of traveling per year. I do enjoy traveling because I learn about how other tribes are working on their languages and I get ideas that benefit the Karuk language. One of my mentors told me that I need to go to work-related conferences regularly so that I could get to know other people in my field and so that they could get to know me.

11) What advice would you give to someone interested in this line of work?

Learning a language, even when it's your own ancestral language, takes time and practice.

Documenting a language, even when it's your own ancestral language, takes even more time and practice.

Surround yourself for the most part with people who support your language learning and revitalizing efforts, but be open-minded and respectful to people who have different ideas than you do.

12) What does a typical day in your world look like?

There's a lot of time in front of a computer involved in my typical day.