



CONTACT:

Matt Fisher, Senior Vice President & General Manager – Passenger Department
Reading and Northern Railroad
610-562-2100
www.rbmnr.com

Reading & Northern Offering More All-Day Fall Foliage Train Rides

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2023 – Port Clinton, PA – The Reading & Northern Railroad is set to begin another busy season of all-day passenger excursions from various points on its system to the tourist attraction of Jim Thorpe. For the first time in the railroad’s 40-year history, fall foliage trains will operate from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Regional Railroad Station in Pittston to Jim Thorpe. Trains from Reading, PA and Pottsville, PA will also depart every weekend in October through the first weekend in November to Jim Thorpe.

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Regional Railroad Station was opened this past May in Pittston. Fall train excursions will depart the station at 8:45am with Standard Coach, Crown Class Coach, Vista Class Dome, and Lounge Observation seating. Prices vary by seating class. The new station is located at 718 North Main Street, Pittston, PA.

According to Matt Fisher, Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Reading & Northern Passenger Department, the Pittston to Jim Thorpe trip is very popular. “Tickets from the May Grand Opening through September have sold out. There are still some tickets left for the October Fall Foliage weekends, though demand is high. The employees of the railroad are looking forward to hosting the public over the Reading & Northern Main Line, 60 miles one-way to Jim Thorpe. The train will make an additional stop for passengers at the Penobscot Yard near Mountain Top, and traverse the entire Lehigh Gorge State Park, crossing the Lehigh River four times before entering Jim Thorpe. There are two tunnels along with scenic overlooks on the trip.”

Fall Foliage trips out of Reading and Pottsville also feature plenty of mountain and river scenery, following both the Schuylkill and Little Schuylkill River. There is one tunnel north of Tamaqua, and the highlight of the trip is the 1,000-foot-long, 160-foot-tall Hometown High Bridge. “Peak fall foliage will most likely occur one or two weeks after the peak color along the Pittston route. There are a total of five weekends to choose from if riding from the Berks and Schuylkill area to Jim Thorpe,” said Fisher. The Pottsville train makes additional stops at Schuylkill Haven and Port Clinton. The Pottsville trains will be powered by the railroad’s self-propelled rail diesel cars.

Reading Outer Station is situated at 3501 Pottsville Pike, Reading, PA. The Reading to Jim Thorpe trains from this location will feature the vintage F-Unit diesels from the 1950s; or, on



select days, steam locomotive #2102, which was built by the Reading Shops in 1945 and put back into service last year.

Tickets for all-day excursions are available by phone at 610-562-2102, or online at www.rbmrrr-passenger.com. All the above-mentioned trips are very popular and selling fast. Tickets are purchased on a first-come/first-served basis and range from \$49 per person to \$225 per person. Thousands of people will drive to Jim Thorpe in the autumn. The Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway will also have train rides that can be purchased on the day of the trip only. LGSR trips are 45 minutes long and depart from the historic downtown Jim Thorpe Station daily for those who want to explore the Lehigh Gorge.

Reading & Northern Railroad, with its corporate headquarters in Port Clinton, is a privately held railroad company serving over 70 customers in nine eastern Pennsylvania counties (Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland, Schuylkill, and Wyoming). It has expanded its operations over the last 40 years and now handles over 34,000 carloads of freight and 250,000 excursion riders annually over 400 miles of track. Reading & Northern operates both freight services and steam- and diesel-powered excursion passenger services, owns over 1,700 freight cars, and employs nearly 300 dedicated people. Reading & Northern has been repeatedly honored as one of the premier railroads in the nation, including being named Regional Railroad of the Year in 2020 by *Railway Age* magazine.