



For Immediate Release

Telluride Mountain Village Gondola Celebrates 10 years of Service

Mountain Village, Co (October 25, 2006) - Starting this winter season, the Town of Mountain Village will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the gondola system and the job it plays connecting the town of Telluride and Mountain Village while providing free transportation for locals and guest to the area. This Gondola system is the first and only FREE public transportation of its kind in the United States.

Starting on November 17th and continuing throughout the winter season there will be a variety of different events that will be taking place in honor of the 10th Anniversary. For more information on this and other Mountain Village events, log on to www.townofmountainvillage.com

About the Mountain Village Gondola

- This Gondola is the first and only FREE public transportation of its kind in the United States.
- The Gondola is owned and operated by Mountain Village owners and tax payers.
- The Gondola officially opened on December 20, 1996.
- The ride from Telluride to Mountain Village is 3 miles and takes approximately 13 minutes.
- Roughly 2.5 million passengers ride the Gondola each year. To date, it has safely transported over 26.7 million riders.
- A cabin travels 11 mph at full speed, which means that each cabin travels over 52,000 miles per year.
- The operation and maintenance of the gondola requires over 100,000 man-hours per year, and costs approximately \$3.1 million annually.
- The original capital cost for the system was \$16 million.
- The Gondola is open from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. during the winter and summer seasons – approximately 285 days per year.
- The longest section of the gondola has a vertical rise of 1,778 feet and is over 5750 feet long. The highest station is Station St. Sophia at an elevation of 10,500 feet above sea level.

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