

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STAFF

TRANSPORTATION TO CAMP

First time BUNAC, Camp Leaders, OLE and CCUSA Staff: BUNAC, CCUSA, OLE and CAMP LEADERS will arrange flights to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport. Some int'l staff who make their own flight reservations must fly to Minneapolis/St. Paul. Camp Kamaji will meet you at the airport on **Tuesday, June 8th** and drive you to camp. (The drive from the airport to camp takes about 5 hours.) You must arrive in Minneapolis/St. Paul **no later than 4:00 pm** on June 8th. Staff orientation begins on June 10th, however, we want you to arrive on June 8th so that you can have a full day at camp to relax and catch up on your sleep before orientation begins.

Returning International Staff: If BUNAC, CAMP LEADERS, OLE or CCUSA are making your travel plans, please make sure they are aware that you must arrive in Minneapolis no later than 4:00 pm on June 8th. If you are making your own travel plans and would like a ride from the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport to Kamaji, you must arrive at the airport no later than 4:00 pm on June 8th. If you have questions about flights and/or arrival times, please contact Kat ASAP. If you don't plan on riding in the camp van on June 8th, you will need to plan and pay for your own travel all the way to Bemidji.

There WILL be a returning Kamaji Staff Member that will meet everyone at the airport as you arrive. Kat will email everyone arriving on the 8th so that you can coordinate where/when to meet. If you have any questions regarding travel to camp, e-mail Kat kat@kamaji.com.

CAMP EQUIPMENT LIST

We understand there are luggage restrictions for international travelers and most international staff carry their belongings in a backpack. Given this, we suspect that our recommended Staff Packing List appears overwhelming. Therefore,

- (1) Camp Kamaji provides all international staff (with the exception of staff from Canada) linens, blankets, towels, pillow and laundry bags. There is no charge for this. While camp can provide you with sleeping bags for overnight canoe/wilderness trips, we strongly recommend that you bring a sleeping bag if you plan on traveling in the States after camp.
- (2) **We also urge you not to bring excessive toiletries and sundries as they only take up valuable luggage space. Items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste/brush, etc. can be purchased after you arrive at camp from our camp store or from any number of places in town.**
- (3) As for the suggested quantities of clothing on the Staff Packing List, you will need to use your own discretion coupled with whatever recommendations your agency provides you. Please know that all staff are responsible for either doing their own laundry on their weekly time-off or sending laundry once a week to an off-site laundromat. At the very least, it is necessary to have enough clothing for a ten day period. You should also know that temperatures can be quite variable with lows at night sometimes dipping into the low 40sF (8° to 10°C) and highs occasionally climbing into the 90sF (32°C). What this means is that you will need to plan on bringing both lightweight and heavy clothing including some type of long trousers (sweatpants/denim jeans) and sweatshirts/sweaters (jumpers as we believe the English call them!) plus a warm jacket in addition to bathing costumes, shorts and tee-shirts, etc. We do sell Kamaji sweatshirts through camp but they are costly. **So again we stress that you are wise to bring some heavy clothing for the cool weather.**

SPENDING MONEY

As per your contract, Camp Kamaji provides you with an agreed-upon spending allowance (salary) in addition to the monies paid to BUNAC, CAMP LEADERS, OLE and CCUSA. You can receive cash advances on this allowance during the summer or you may opt to leave the money intact until the end the summer when we will pay you in cash.

We know that your agencies make suggestions regarding extra cash needed for travel after camp. Former foreign staff tell us that the amount suggested is not enough. Please remember that the USA is quite vast and the distance between the East and West Coasts is 3000 miles. Transportation via plane, bus and/or train is expensive. Add to that the cost of food and lodging...and you can begin to understand that travel for any length of time can become costly. **We recommend that you bring, if possible and especially if you plan on staying/traveling in the States after camp, more spending money (in traveler's checks!) than is suggested by BUNAC, CAMP LEADERS, OLE or CCUSA.** Too, it is possible that your ATM (automatic bank teller machine) card will not work here in the States. You might want to consider that when planning your budget.

Incidentally, we have a safe in the camp office and will hold all your valuables (including money, traveler's checks, credit cards, airline tickets and passports) while you are at camp. As mentioned in the all-staff letter, cabin counselors will have access to their own locker which they are responsible for locking.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STAFF – continued

MOSQUITOES

Yes!!! There are a lot of mosquitoes (mozzies) at camp - especially if it rains a lot this springtime. We strongly urge you to take the advice about taking Vitamin B1 long before you leave home for camp as we have found the counselors/campers from foreign countries really react quite badly (often getting swollen, red and itchy welts) when they are first exposed to mosquitoes. Lest we've scared you off please know that when mosquitoes "bite" it is not the least bit painful - in fact, one does not feel it - and, while most don't react whatsoever to the bites, those who have never "experienced" the USA phenomenon of mosquitoes should come as best prepared as possible to ward off "attacks". All kidding aside, please take Vitamin B1 tablets continuously for about six weeks before leaving for the States and continue taking them while in the States. Secondly, once you are here we recommend that you wear some sort of mosquito repellent at all times and purchase an "Afterbite" product which, when applied, reduces the itching. These products can be purchased at camp.

HEALTH AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

It is our understanding that BUNAC, CAMP LEADERS, OLE and CCUSA offer medical insurance which does cover expenses for injury and illness (including medication) sustained anytime during your stay in the States. This coverage has a deductible (from \$20 to \$50) which you must pay. According to former staff, the coverage provided by your agency is more than adequate except in the case of serious accident or illness. We recommend that you find out from BUNAC, CAMP LEADERS, OLE or CCUSA the specifics of your coverage.

MAIL/PHONE/E-MAIL/INTERNET ACCESS

The most efficient way to communicate home would be through email. We do have two computers available for staff to write and receive emails. We do have a staff of 80+ so your time on the computer is limited! Please see the Camp Mail/Phones/E-mail/Internet portion of the introductory letter to learn more about emailing at camp.

For phone calls, we recommend that you purchase a phone card. There are many phone cards available for purchase in stores near camp. *Our international staffers from last year STRONGLY suggest purchasing phone cards from in town as they are the easiest and most economical way to call home.* The other popular option for international staff is to purchase a Prepaid Cell Phone from <http://www.tracfone.com/> or from other local stores in Bemidji. You can also get an international plan added to your personal mobile phones from home. Please just make sure that it will work in our area of Minnesota.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Regarding your travel home at the end of the summer: If BUNAC, CAMP LEADERS, OLE or CCUSA arranged your travel, we suggest that you learn their policies regarding changing your return flight. If you made your own travel arrangements, you should know your airline's policies regarding changes. We strongly suggest you do this before you finalize your travel plans. What we can tell you is that in the United States, all major airlines charge a minimum of \$100 each time you change the date of travel on a domestic ticket. Many international staffers wait to make their American after-camp travel plans until after they're at camp as often they coordinate travels with another staffer they befriend OR they befriend campers that live in fun places so you can stay with them and their family for free!
- Please understand that Kamaji cannot always provide transportation out of camp on your days off. Please reread the section of the All-Staff Letter that discusses the policy concerning renting a car from camp. We urge you to make friends with all the camp staff and especially with Kamaji staff who do have cars. Usually, this is not an "issue" but we thought it worth mentioning. If you are 21+ years old and have a valid driver's license in your home country, please bring a copy of your driving record with you to camp, this is required if you would like to be eligible to drive a camp vehicle.
- The legal drinking age in the United States is 21 years of age for EVERYONE. This is mentioned in the letter enclosed with this mailing; it is mentioned in the Personnel Policies; and it is mentioned in your contract ~ but we feel it is worth mentioning again as it definitely does affect international staff. For many of you, this is a huge cultural difference but one you must adhere to during your stay in the United States and Camp Kamaji. Failure to abide by the legal drinking age could land you in jail and is cause for your dismissal from Camp Kamaji.