

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STAFF

TRANSPORTATION TO CAMP

First time BUNAC, Camp Leaders, OLE and CCUSA Staff:

BUNAC, CCUSA, OLE Staffing and CAMP LEADERS will help to arrange flights to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport. For those international staff who make their own flight reservations must fly to Minneapolis/St. Paul. Camp Kamaji will meet you at the airport on **Thursday, June 7th** and drive you to camp. (The drive from the airport to camp takes about 5 hours.) You must arrive in Minneapolis/St. Paul **BEFORE 3:00pm (1500 hours) on June 7th**. Staff orientation begins on June 9th, however, we want you to arrive on June 7th so that you can have a full day at camp to relax, perhaps run errands in town for essentials, and catch up on your sleep before orientation begins.

Returning International Staff:

If BUNAC, OLE, CAMP LEADERS or CCUSA are making your travel plans, you have a choice of arriving into Minneapolis/St. Paul on **either June 7th or June 10th**. You must arrive in Minneapolis **BEFORE 3:00pm (1500 hours)**.

We are offering a Kamaji 'shuttle' bus from the airport to Kamaji – but again, you must arrive before 3:00 pm (1500 hours) to catch the bus!!

If you are planning on taking the shuttle bus, you must let kat@kamaji.com know your flight information including airline, flight number and time of arrival.

There WILL be a returning Kamaji staff member who will meet everyone at the airport as you arrive on June 7th. Kat will email everyone arriving on the 7th so that you can coordinate where/when to meet.

If you have questions about flights and/or arrival times and/or travel to camp, please e-mail kat@kamaji.com.

If you have questions about flights and/or arrival times, please contact Kat ASAP.

If you are not catching the shuttle bus on either on June 7th or June 10th, you will need to plan and pay for your own travel all the way through to Cass Lake/Bemidji.

STAFF PACKING 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 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.** We will run shuttles into Bemidji on June 8th if you need to get such essentials.

STAFF PACKING LIST (continued)

(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 doing their own laundry on their weekly time-off at 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 40s F (8° to 10°C) and highs occasionally climbing into the 90s F (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) plus a warm jacket in addition to bathing costumes, shorts and tee-shirts, etc. While we do sell Kamaji sweatshirts through camp and you can also purchase inexpensive jumpers at Target or Walmart in town, it will be much more economical for you to pack some warm clothing for the cooler 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 (or however you would prefer).

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 very 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 than is suggested by BUNAC, CAMP LEADERS, OLE or CCUSA. Better yet plan on bringing a credit card (not to be confused with a debit card!!) especially if you plan to book flights, excursions, hostels, etc. as credit card payment is usually the required method of payment for these.

Too, it is possible that your ATM (**A**utomatic bank **T**eller **M**achine) card will not work here in the States. You might want to consider that when planning your budget and contact your bank before traveling to the USA.

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 a 'personal' locker for which we strongly advise you to bring/purchase a combination padlock.

MOSQUITOES

Yes!!! There are a lot of mosquitoes (mozzies) at camp - especially if it rains a lot this springtime. 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". We used to recommend taking Vitamin B1 tablets continuously for about six weeks before leaving for the States and continue taking them while in the States. But recent studies have shown that this is not as effective as previously thought. The best thing to do is once you are here to 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 in town or 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 \$25 to \$75) which you are responsible for if you make any kind of insurance claim. According to former staff, the coverage provided by your agency is more than adequate except in the case of serious accident or illness or dental work. 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 vintage 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 a myriad of reasons, we do encourage staff to bring a laptop computer to camp; understanding that there are baggage limitations on international travel, we can appreciate that you might think it better not to. That is your decision. We suggest you make sure your travel insurance covers any damage to or loss of your computer. In the past most international staff do recommend bringing laptop so that you can have easier access to a computer, you can stay connected to family and friends via email and skypeing, you can use it when making/calendaring travel plans post-camp, etc.

Many of our international staff also have told us that buying a sim card in the UK/Australia to use in the States is a waste of money as there is much better pricing available in the US. For phone calls, we recommend that you purchase a phone card in Bemidji. There are many phone cards available for purchase in stores near camp. ***Kamaji's international staff STRONGLY suggest purchasing phone cards from Bemidji, MN as they are the easiest and most economical way to call home.*** They found that the best plan is to buy Worldwide calling cards from WalMart (in Bemidji) which has great rates.

The other popular option for international staff is to purchase a Prepaid Cell Phone from Verizon (which can be done once you are here at Kamaji) or from local stores in Bemidji, in order to communicate/text with other staff/friends within the United States on time-off.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Regarding your travel home at the end of the summer: If BUNAC, OLE, CAMP LEADERS 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 \$150 each time you change the date of travel on a domestic ticket.
- Many international staff wait to make their American after-camp travel plans until after they're at camp as often they coordinate travels with another staff they befriend OR they befriend campers/camp families who live in fun places. Our international staff members highly recommend waiting to make your travel plans until you are at camp (if possible); they further recommend planning on having at least a few weeks to travel post-camp.

MISCELLANEOUS (continued)

- Please understand that Kamaji cannot always provide transportation out of camp on your days off. Be sure to reread the section of the All-Staff Letter that discusses the policy concerning use of Kamaji vehicles. We urge you to make friends with all the camp staff and especially with Kamaji staff who do have cars so you'll have a way out of camp in your time-off. That said, if you think you might want to use Kamaji vehicles during time-off know that
 - you must be 21 years old or older
 - you must have a valid driver's license to operate a car;
 - you must have a 'clean' driving record with no moving violations attached to it AND
 - you must send a copy of your government-issued driving license along with a notarized motor vehicle report from the appropriate 'governing agency' affirming that you have a clean record. PLEASE begin your efforts to procure this documentation now as it often takes time to get the necessary paperwork.
- 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. Regardless 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.