

HOUSEBOAT PARENT FAQs

Questions: Victoria F @ victorlaf@occ.org or 425-284-2547

BORDER CROSSING AND DOCUMENTS

1. What documents do I need for my child to safely enter Canada and re-enter the USA?

Each student needs to have the necessary legal documents to cross the border to and from in order to participate in camp. That means, one of these three options! 1) **VALID** US passport, 2) **ORIGINAL** birth certificate and **picture ID** (State ID, license, school ID) or 3) **an enhanced ID or license**. Please contact us with questions about these documents.

2. What other forms do they need?

Upon check-in (the morning before, July 7th) we will also be collecting from parents an OCC medical release form (available on occsm.org or in person) **AND** students will have to fill out in person a Canada declarations form. All this will be collected at check-in

3. Will my child have cell service in Canada?

Most students' phone plan will consider Canada out of their service and it will not be covered. Some providers (like T-Mobile) will have data, but do not depend on this for communication because we will be boating in and out of service locations (even for Canadians). Emergency contact information will be available (see below). Also students' cell phones will be collected during camp to ensure a good camp experience as well as phones not being dropped in the water.

CHECK-IN and PACKING

1. What is this "day-before" check in business for luggage and documents? What do we need to do?

On July 7th from 8:30-10:30 AM Houseboats check-in is happening in the **REAR parking lot of OCC**. This is a mandatory process for students to do in order to go to camp the following day. Students must bring their luggage, their documents for border-crossing to turn in, and complete their two forms at this check-in.

2. What happens if we cannot be there for check-in?

It is required to communicate with Victoria if a family cannot make check-in and please find a proxy to go in your place. If other arrangements need to be made, they need to be coordinated and approved through Victoria.

3. What should my child pack? Not pack?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sleeping Bag (MARKED WITH NAME) & Pillow• ONE duffel bag• Clothes for 5 days• Jacket or Sweatshirts• 1-2 swimsuits (modest swim-wear for both gals and guys)• Tennis Shoes• Sandals• Hat | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bible & Pens• Beach Towel• Toiletries• Water bottle labeled w/name• Sunblock• Bug repellent• Sunglasses• Flashlight• Money for 4 fast food meals during travel |
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Please do not bring: drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, water balloons or any toys that could be destructive to boats or encourage dangerous behavior. Extremely nice or expensive things (clothes, gadgets, and otherwise) we suggest to stay at home—things tend to get wet, dirty, and go can even go overboard occasionally. **ALSO**

PLEASE NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT BRING OR BUY ANY PRODUCTS WITH NUTS TO CAMP! WE HAVE SEVERE ALLERGIES AND NUT PRODUCTS ARE ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED AT HOUSEBOATS

LEAVING AND RETURNING FROM CAMP

1. What time should we be at OCC and where on July 8th?
Please arrive to the front of OCC at 5am on the dot on July 8th! Check-in will not be open before then, but busses leave promptly at 5:30. We run a tight schedule this day!
2. What time will you be returning on the 12th?
We are scheduled to return to OCC at 9:30PM on July 12th, however, this is pending buses operating at normal speed and normal wait times/ no issues at border control/customs. So, please be aware that our arrival time back to OCC is dependent on factors we cannot control, but we will be sure to be communicating with you. *(See communication section for tips on how to be looped in to our camp communication methods)*
3. How is my student eating while you all travel all day coming to and from camp?
Students will be eating 4 meals during travel at stops along the way (2 there and 2 back), so please send money with students to buy food accordingly. You are welcome to pack food for the way there if your student prefers. We guarantee a proper food stop for each meal but each bus goes to a different location so we cannot predict what restaurant or grocery your student will be eating at. Food at camp will follow the dietary instructions and restrictions indicated in registration.

AT CAMP

1. How is my child supervised at camp? Tell me more about leaders...
Your student will be supervised by bus captains and leaders while in transit. During camp, your child will be in small groups where their leaders will be present and in charge of their care. On boats, your child's group will most likely be bunking with another small group and therefore most boats have 4-5 leaders aboard.
2. Where is camp/what is your location?
SM partners with Twin Anchors, whose office is located at 200 Old Town Road West, Sicomous DC. However, once the boats push off we are moving around from beach to beach in Lake Shuswap, each day being a slightly different location than the day before.

COMMUNICATION

1. If I need to get in contact with my child, or vice-versa, what are our options?
Emergency contact 1 is Victoria Falkner at 425-749-6157
Emergency contact 2 is Neely at 949-636-8349
Paul Blay will also be our camp doctor, who will have communication options in case of a medical emergency.
2. Is there a way I can receive updates about camp? Travel updates?
YES! Here's how!
 1. **EMAIL** – you should have received an email from Victoria before today. If you have not, please email her at victoriaf@occ.org to get on the Houseboat Parents email update list.
 2. **SOCIAL MEDIA** – we will also post updates on Facebook as needed while we travel. So, follow us at @occsms or Overlake Student Ministries. We are also on Instagram @overlakesm