

January 11, 2017



Twenty Six Miles Across the Sea....

Dear Parents and Students,

*The big day is fast approaching! If you have not already turned in your completed registration form, please do so right away! The Institute at Catalina will not admit students without completed and signed registration forms. Also, remember that **all medication and doctor instructions must be turned in by Wednesday, January 25th**, so our school nurse can organize all of the medication before we leave. We cannot take medicine on the morning of the trip.*

Early Morning Departure: *We will leave Buena Vista at 4:15 A.M. on February 1st and return at approximately 8:00 P.M. on Friday, February 3rd. It is crucial that you **have your child at school on the 1st no later than 4:00 A.M.** so we can load and hit the road. We must leave at this time in order to get through L.A. traffic and arrive at Long Beach in time to catch the ferry. Please leave the bus area in front of the bike racks open on the morning of the trip and on the evening of our return so the busses (2) can park there. We will need everyone's help to load the luggage, so please lend a hand with that. Student bus assignments will be sent home next week.*

Sleeping Bags and Luggage: *Please have your child practice rolling up and tying his or her sleeping bag several times, as they will need to do it by themselves at Catalina. Also, it must be placed in a durable bag (no trash bags). This will help everyone stay organized. (You might consider putting the sleeping bag into a second duffel bag so it is easier to carry. Otherwise Walmart or Big 5 may have drawstring nylon bags in the camping section.) Remember to tag and label all of your child's possessions with his or her name and Buena Vista School. Also, please tie a piece of **tan ribbon or yarn**, provided, on each piece of luggage your child brings. **Each student will need to be able to carry whatever they bring.** A duffel bag or small suitcase, (rolling bags are good), back pack, sleeping bag and pillow are usually best. We do have to walk quite a ways carrying our school's belongings several times during our three day trip.*

Money: *There is a souvenir shop that the students will be able to visit at scheduled times. Some of the prices are: short sleeve tees-\$15, hooded sweatshirts-\$30, water bottles-\$13 and baseball caps /beanies-\$12. Each child will also need to put **\$5.00-\$10.00** in a separate envelope with their name on it for our dinner stop on the way home. Please enclose any other money you are sending with your child in another envelope with their name on it. They may hand the envelope(s) to their group chaperone on the morning of the trip.*

Food: *We suggest that students eat some breakfast before we leave on Wednesday along with taking an all day motion sickness pill, however, you still might want a breakfast type snack (muffin, breakfast bar, fruit, dry cereal, etc.) packed with some water in their backpacks since we have gotten the okay to eat on the bus. Please don't send them with a bunch of extra snacks, as they cannot take any extra food to **CIMI**, and a bunch of junk food is not a good idea before the boat ride (not to mention the mess on the bus). In addition, pack a good **sack lunch** and a snack for Wednesday, with disposable items in a sturdy bag marked with your child's name (chaperones too!), and they will be available to eat as soon as we get to Catalina. We will be arriving home on Friday after the dinner hour. We will stop at a fast food restaurant on the way home to eat. Please remember each student must bring \$5.00-\$10.00 to purchase dinner at this stop.*

The CIMI Experience: *The institute has wonderful, highly trained personnel who handle thousands of children each year. The children learn a lot, and are well looked after...and they all love the experience!! Keep in mind that no child HAS to go snorkeling, but we will encourage it, and they all seem to want to try it. It is fun and exciting, and one of the highlights of the trip! (Everyone will put on a full wet suit, and they make you float like a cork!)*

We are looking forward to a great trip..... And thank you for your support. It's worth it for our kids!

Sincerely,

Fifth grade teachers

CIMI Packing List for Students and Chaperones

There are many items that students will want to bring to CIMI. Some are necessary and some may just be extra baggage that they may never use. This is a camping experience and the students should pack appropriately. We advise guests to bring no more than they can comfortably carry. Guests will carry their luggage not only on and off the boat, but also several hundred yards to their sleeping accommodations. They will repeat that process on their day of departure. Unnecessary items should be left at home. Everyone's arms will get enough of a workout just from the kayaking and snorkeling!

Be sure to mark all clothing before arrival on the island.

Essential items:	Non-essential:	Do not bring:
Water bottle (important) Old shirts and shorts Jeans or old slacks Long Sleeved shirt or sweater Raincoat or poncho Underwear/socks Bath Towel Toothbrush and toothpaste Toiletries (soap, shampoo, etc...) Swimsuit Large beach towel Warm sleeping bag (or extra blanket) Flashlight Tennis shoes or boots for hiking Sunscreen	Sunhat Sunglasses Flip flops or water socks Camera and film Pillow Day pack Extra swimsuit Money for souvenirs, t-shirts, jackets, etc. Personal mask and snorkel Contact lenses (glasses cannot be worn under masks, but some prescription masks are available) *chapstick *plastic bag	Knives Spearguns Firecrackers Curling irons Valuables Alcohol or drugs TV's, cell phones, iPads, video games, etc. Waterguns/balloons Gum, candy, seeds Fishing gear Anything not allowed at school is not allowed at CIMI.

If students used IPODS or electronics on the trip over, please collect these and leave them in the CIMI Program Office until departure. CIMI does not assume responsibility for lost/stolen items.

Please pack personal gear in a suitable and well-marked container with your name, address, and school name. Luggage with wheels is best. Please attach your designated colored yarn to each piece and keep items separated (i.e. do not tie sleeping bag to luggage).

Inclement Weather

The weather on Catalina Island is usually very good, however, it is possible to have rain, wind, fog, or a combination of these conditions at anytime. Be prepared for all types of weather. All students and chaperones must have rain gear. Plastic trash bags can function as an inexpensive, although not very durable, rain poncho. Programs will occur as planned or will be altered to meet conditions. If there are bad winds, it is possible that your boat transportation will be postponed until the winds have died down.

It is prudent to pack a plastic bag for wet articles from rain or last-morning water activities.

* Sample Schedule

Daily Schedule

FIRST SEATING

7:00am Wake up
7:10am Breakfast Set-up
7:15am - 7:45am Breakfast
7:45am - 9:00am Free Time
9:00am - 12:00pm Morning Program
12:10pm Lunch Set-up
12:15pm - 12:45pm Lunch
1:45pm - 4:45pm Afternoon Program
5:10pm Dinner Set-up
5:15pm - 5:45pm Dinner
5:45pm - 7:00pm Free Time
6:10pm - 6:30pm Store
7:00pm - 8:30pm Evening Program
9:00pm - 7:00am Quiet Hours
9:30pm Lights Out

Departure Day:

Clean/Pack **After** Breakfast
8:30am Dorm Checkout
8:45am Morning Program Begins

SECOND SEATING

7:00am Wake up
7:00am - 7:55am Free Time
7:55am Breakfast Set-up
8:00am - 8:30am Breakfast
8:30am - 9:00am Free Time
9:00am - 12:00pm Morning Program
12:00pm - 12:55pm Free Time
12:55pm Lunch Set-up
1:00pm - 1:30pm Lunch
1:45pm - 4:45pm Afternoon Program
4:45pm - 5:55pm Free Time
5:55pm Dinner Setup
6:00pm - 6:30pm Dinner
6:30pm - 6:50 pm Store/Free Time
7:00pm - 8:30pm Evening Program
9:00pm - 7:00am Quiet Hours
9:30pm Lights Out

Departure Day:

Clean/Pack **Before** Breakfast
8:30am Dorm Checkout
8:45am Morning Program Begins

Fire drill @ 8:50am before first morning program