

# AIO LOGISTICS AND REMINDERS

## SUMMER 2021

**Please read the following information carefully for travel and equipment specifics.**

### ***Arrival and Departure Information***

Arrival to AIO is on the first Sunday between noon and 5 pm. Due to Covid, only students and staff will be allowed in the building so drop off will take place outside. Students should not plan to arrive earlier than noon since the staff is off duty until then. The first meal is dinner served at 6 pm.

Departure is the last Friday of the session between 9 am and noon. (if you need to depart earlier on that day, just let us know). Due to Covid restrictions, we will not be offering a family cookout this year and pick up will be in the same vein as the drop off.

If you travel by bus or plane, let us know your arrival info in advance so we can be there to meet you. We will arrange for transport to and from both the Bangor and Bar Harbor airports at no charge. As of this writing, the following airlines service Bangor: American Airlines, United, Delta and Allegiant Air. Bar Harbor is served by Silver Air and Cape Air (both part of JetBlue). **NOTE:** Students under 15 years of age are automatically considered unaccompanied minors by some airlines, which entails an additional fee paid to the airlines. You won't be able to register an unaccompanied minor when booking a flight online so you'll need to contact the airline directly. You may initially list my name (Sheryl Gilmore) then I will contact you a few days before arrival with the staff member's name and contact info. You will also need to leave luggage fee money with your child for the return trip. Sometimes you can pay online just prior to the flight. Check the airline for the exact charges.

### ***Driving Directions to Seal Harbor***

You'll want to use your GPS or mapquest.com for specific directions (enter the ending location as 9 Lower Dunbar Rd, Seal Harbor, ME). Here are some general directions, however: Once in Maine, take I-95N and follow signs towards Augusta. Near Portland you will

take I-295 N and stay on this until you rejoin with I-95 just south of Augusta. North of Augusta, you have two choices: follow Rt. 3 to Belfast and then north or stay on 95 to Bangor and then take 1A. Either will reconnect you in Ellsworth with Rt. 3 towards Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor (18.2 miles away). You will see National Park visitor center as you approach the island... a great place to get a map and information. As you come onto Mt. Desert Island you may either curve left on Rt. 3 to Bar Harbor or go straight onto 198—this route is the most direct to our site but requires a couple of turns (left at the lights just past the Mobil station and then left when you leave Rt. 198 and rejoin Rte. 3— you'll see a sign quickly after the turn that reads "Seal Harbor 3 miles."). Coming from Bar Harbor on Rt. 3, Seal Harbor is 3.1 miles from Otter Creek. AIO is located on Lower Dunbar Rd., which is the second right as you come into Seal Harbor from the north or the second left from the south after going through the village of Seal Harbor. Proceed one block and you'll see our sign in front of the brick schoolhouse on the right. Please stay in your car and await staff instructions.

### ***Equipment***

Optional equipment is just that... optional. We do not recommend you buy any equipment listed on the optional list unless you plan to use it after you leave AIO. If you wish to snorkel, you'll need your own snorkel and mask though you may borrow fins. If you feel your child needs a wetsuit, we recommend buying it used and only if it will be used after the program ends. The ocean water will be in the upper 50's to 60° F. We will offer laundry service for one load per student during two-week sessions. Be sure to bring a laundry bag or extra pillow case for dirty laundry. Please put your name on all equipment and clothing that you want to keep. Items with names are returned

### ***Flotsam and Jetsam***

Health forms must be completed and signed by you, your parent and doctor. We prefer you email or send the form prior to the start of the session so that the nurse may go through them. Maine law dictates that each participant may not enter a camp without a health form and must be seen by a doctor within one year of attendance. Also include a copy of the student's health insurance card. The state requires forms for those students who carry emergency only medicine such as an epi-pen or inhalers. You have received forms that must be returned if you wish your child to carry one of these items.

Due to our protocols to reduce contact with anyone outside of the program, we will not take students into Bar Harbor. Plan to bring enough snacks for the two weeks and they won't need spending money unless they are flying home (for food at the airport, etc.). If you are driving, you may choose to go on a whale watch or visit Bar Harbor after the program but we ask that you don't expose the student to Bar Harbor prior to the start of their program. See our **Covid-19 Protocols** for more information.

A sleeping bag is the favorite choice of bedding. This, in combination with a fitted sheet, serves as a comfortable solution for all kinds of weather. Don't forget the pillow!

We're working on our new t-shirt design for this year but we also have some from last year. If you have pre-ordered a shirt on the registration site, I'll send you an email in the spring with the design. The shirt will be available when you

The address for students and staff in the summer is P.O. Box 285, 9 Lower Dunbar Rd, Seal Harbor, Maine 04675. The summer phone number is 207-276-9364. Students can be reached at that number during their free time. They will only be pulled from an activity for a phone call if it is an emergency. Please no calls after 9:55 pm. Students also have access to their e-mail unless you request otherwise.

### **Lodging**

High season on Mt. Desert Island begins July 4 with the month of August tending to be the busiest. Ellsworth is the least expensive option and is approximately 30 minutes away. You have received a sample list of hotels in and around the island in your registration packet but here are a few sites I would recommend to find just the right one for your stay:

- <http://barharbormaine.com/> This is the site of the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce. They will send you an informational packet on the area and provide you with details about reserving space.
- <http://www.nationalparkreservations.com/acadia.htm>

arrive. If you didn't pre-purchase one, you can purchase a shirt during your session.

You'll need a water shoe that has good traction. An old sneaker or aqua sock works well. You will also need a raincoat since we work outside rain or shine. A rubber slicker works best. Bring your own water bottle!

### ***Additional Programs***

***Belize*** - Our next tropical program at the TREC on Ambergris Caye, Belize will take place Nov 20-28, 2021. Students who perform exemplary in an advanced session are welcome to apply. We'll hold an orientation meeting during this summer's sessions to provide details and provide registration material.

***Florida Exploration Program*** – The 10<sup>th</sup> Florida Exploration will be offered November 18-23, 2022. For 5 days, students will explore the northwest coast of Florida by swimming with manatees, snorkel the Devil's hole, meeting with State Park Rangers and end with a program at SeaWorld. Students 14 years and up who have shown maturity and a strong interest in marine biology may apply after attending an informational meeting during their session. This program is limited to 30 students and you may apply at the end of each session.

***College Credit*** – if you have applied to take the first advanced session for credit, please return the forms that will register you at the Univ. of Maine Machias to AIO before May 1. Do not send them to the University.