

AIO LOGISTICS AND REMINDERS

SUMMER 2022

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). We are pleased to offer a family cookout at 12 pm on the last Friday if you have time to join us.

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 (UM) 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. Send a pre-paid card or debit card for luggage fees at the airport. If not traveling as UM, the parent can pay for luggage in advance. 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 may want to bring your own snorkel and mask or you may borrow our gear. 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. Students will do laundry on the middle weekend. We recommend bringing a roll of quarters and laundry bag or pillowcase for dirty laundry. We supply a hypoallergenic laundry soap. Put your name on all equipment and clothing that you want to keep.

Flotsam and Jetsam

Health forms must be completed and signed by you, your parent and doctor. Email or send the form prior to the start of the session so that the nurse and cook can prepare accordingly. 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.

While we don't know what the CDC Covid-19 protocols will be by summer 2022, we are prepared to do what is necessary to keep everyone safe. Since we plan to reinstitute the whale watches and trips to Bar Harbor, we are requesting that all participants are fully vaccinated from Covid-19 and provide proof of such. If you are unable to be vaccinated or chose not to be, we ask you to wait one more year before attending AIO. We'll have more information in the spring. 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. We also carry other AIO merchandise which you can order at the link in your registration information. Pre-ordered merchandise will be available when you arrive.

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>

Items will also be available for purchase during the 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 or buy an AIO water bottle.

Additional Programs

Florida Exploration Program – The 10th Florida Exploration will be offered November 18-23, 2022. For 6 days/5 nights, 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.

Belize - Our next tropical program at the TREC on Ambergris Caye, Belize will take place Nov.18-26, 2023. 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.

College Credit – if you have applied to take the first advanced session for credit, be sure to create your account at the link provided on the email confirmation letter for Univ. of Maine Machias ASAP.