

Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School 2008

Camper Memo

Dated April 15, 2008

To: Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School 2008 Attendees
From: Barbara McOwen, Marcie Van Cleave, and Carolyn Ramm
Re: Preparing for Camp
Date: April 15, 2008

Website

You are encouraged to download, print, and read over the information sheets on the CAMPER INFO LINKS page in advance of camp, to keep them handy for your preparations, and to check back to the website occasionally for updates. We will notify you of any major changes. The website is easily accessed at - www.bostonharborfiddle.com.

Preferences Form

You will receive by email a link to the Preferences Form on the web, where you can let us know your travel plans/needs, housing requests, job requests, etc. Please fill one out for each individual at camp, and send it back by May 1st.

Packing

We will use the Fire Brigade method of loading and unloading the ferry; please pack accordingly, using sturdy medium-sized closed bags with handles. There is a truck which will run the luggage from the pier on Thompson Island to the dorms. In addition to each person's own luggage, we are transporting the amplification system, the music store, and many other amenities for all campers, so we need everyone of sound body to help with the Fire Brigade, and to distribute large items to their proper locations.

Arrival & Departure

Our Welcome Committee will be at the Thompson Island dock in South Boston from 1:00-2:30 pm, Saturday, August 9, ready to assist you. You and your belongings must be on the dock by 2:00, for the 2:30 ferry. See the Transportation page for more information on getting to the dock. The first camp meal will be dinner at 6:30 pm. The last camp meal will be breakfast on the following Saturday, August 16th, after which we will take the mid-morning ferry back to the Thompson Island pier, arriving in South Boston at either 11 or 12:00 noon (to be confirmed).

Please notify us in advance if you have specific travel needs, or if you are arriving on a ferry other than the 2:30 ferry, on Saturday, August 9th.

Ferry Schedule and Thompson Island

There is a ferry schedule posted on the Thompson Island website, www.thompsonisland.com (click on "Directions"). You can also "tour" the island and its facilities and history. For photos of previous fiddle camp years, go to www.bostonharborfiddle.com.

Registration Packets

Upon arrival on the island, and after the Fire Brigade, walk up the path to the quadrangle (about a quarter mile) and sign in at the registration table. You will receive a packet with a welcome letter, your room assignment, name button, job assignment, map of the buildings, and a detailed daily schedule. You'll have some free time then to get your room ready before dinner.

Camper Jobs

Each participant will have a camper job during the course of the week. We will assign jobs based on the Preferences Form and needs of the camp.

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Visitors Day

Tuesday, August 12th is our famed Visitors Day. Friends and family of School participants, and the general public, are invited! Pre-registration is required as we have to plan for meals. Registrations and cancellations are due by Friday, August 8th; signups after that date will be placed on a waiting list. Tell your friends and family to register right away and come for a world-class Scottish concert, dinner, visiting, jamming, and island ambience. We will be dining al fresco, with a special menu (including vegetarian options) and a cash bar. The price includes the unforgettable round-trip ferry ride and musical welcome on the island.

Telephones & Electronic Devices

There are limited electrical outlets in the dorm rooms and in the classrooms and halls. Mobile phones work somewhat sporadically because of the proximity to the airport. There is a pay phone available on the island, and island personnel can be reached 24/7 in case of emergency; "Contact Info During Camp" will be emailed to registrants in July. In 2007 there was free wifi available for checking email and the web; hopefully it will be working again this year.

Record Shop

The Folk Arts Center shop (fondly referred to as "The Little Shop of Horas"!) will be available on the island. We will be featuring CDs and books from our teaching staff and campers. All School participants are encouraged to bring their CDs and any other materials available for sale; the FAC charges a 10% commission for this service. Please call Marcie at the FAC offices if you have any questions.

Alcohol

Alcohol is permitted on Thompson Island. There will be a cash bar on the Tuesday (Visitors Day) and on the Thursday (New England Clambake). Participants may bring alcoholic beverages for their own consumption at dinner and evening parties.

Please note that the legal drinking age in Massachusetts is 21, and it will be STRICTLY enforced.

Auctions

As in years past, we will be holding an auction on Thursday evening, the proceeds of which go into the Fiddle School scholarship fund. Donations of items and services are most welcome! Small items are also encouraged, for smaller budgets, which can be put into the Chinese auction. Be creative!

Swimming

There is a designated swimming area. It is a bit of a hike but looks eastward and is very attractive. You will need beach shoes as it is a rocky bottom. There is no lifeguard and any swimming is at your own risk. Swimming alone is not permitted.

Minors - Campers Under Age 18

A Medical Form (available on the web) is required for each minor. A Guardian Form is required for those age 13-17 who will not be accompanied by a parent.

Security

While we are the only occupants of the dorm space, we share the island and the cafeteria with Outward Bound staff and attendees. We have been assured, and our experience in previous years confirms, that security problems are extremely rare on the island. We recommend not leaving your instrument unattended for long periods but, given normal precautions, instruments and people are safe.

Barbara
Marcie
Geolyn

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Safe travels!

See you on the island!