

Overseas Staff

We are happy to welcome you to our country, and for you to share the camp experience with us at Fernwood this summer. Some of our customs may seem strange to you at first, but we shall do our best to make you feel "at home" at Fernwood very quickly.

Here are a few things that may make your transition to the US and to camp a little easier.

1. **Travel:** Most of you will arrive in New York or Boston and will need to make your way up to camp. Some of you will have an orientation with your agency and then take a bus up to camp. For those of you making your own travel plans, getting to the bus is very simple. Even if you have told me your arrival time in Portland prior to your arrival, your plans may change. Please call us at 207-998-4346 if you do take a different bus so we are sure that we are there to pick you up.
2. **Forms:** Remember to bring all documents to camp. Documents include your passport, driver's license, certifications, health form, health insurance and emergency forms, social security card (if you already have it), visa documents, and I-9 Forms. Some of the orientations will give you the papers for your social security cards, but you will also be able to obtain these documents during our orientation.
3. **Salary:** Your contract that we have sent you includes your salary. Your fee to your agency whether it is Bunac, Camp America, CCUSA, Camp Leaders in America, ICCP, or Interexchange, all have specific fees that will be taken out of your contracted salary. For instance if your salary is \$2000, and your fee to ICCP is \$550, your ultimate salary will be \$1450. You will not need to set up a bank account in the US. There are many places in Maine where you will be able to cash your pay checks.
4. **Lots of Stuff:** Most of our international staff tend to acquire many things throughout the summer. Whether you buy clothes, souvenirs, make things in ceramics, or get presents from the girls or staff, you will end up leaving with more than you arrived with. We recommend bringing a small duffel bag as an extra piece of luggage. Also, if you do not want to bring toilet trees or other things and want to travel light, you will be able to buy anything that you need when you arrive to camp. Walmart, a discount department store, is only ten minutes away. There you can purchase anything from phone cards, to toothpaste, to white shirts.
5. **End of Camp:** Most of our international staff figure out their travel plans after camp with staff they have met during the summer. Some staff have a couple of weeks and make travel plans with other staff. Since our US staff are from all over, there are many places to stay! Other staff will find a route to travel cross-country whether in a bus or a used car they decide to buy. If this is the case, make sure that you have a ticket that you are able to change the departure ticket.

Please let us know if you have any other concerns about your arrival and stay with us. We can't wait to meet you!