

## Highlights

- Canoeing
- Birthdays
- IDs
- Manners

# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Canoeing on the Santa Fe River

*Come out and see some of what Gainesville has to offer outdoors!*

This Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, join ELI students and LAs for a day outdoors canoeing on the Santa Fe River. We will rent canoes and float down the river for approximately 2 hours. Along the way, we can see several of Florida's famous springs, as well as lots of birds and wildlife! We will meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 9:30am and likely return to Gainesville around 3pm.

The cost for renting a canoe is \$16-18 per person. Be sure to wear a bathing suit and shoes that can get wet. Also, bring water and a picnic lunch (you will not be able to take these on the river, but you can leave them in the car). Don't bring any valuables that could get lost on the river. If you bring a camera, be sure to put it in a sealed plastic bag so it won't get wet. Also, bring sunscreen and a towel. Join us! It'll be a great day!

## Notes from the Office

- **Immunizations**-Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. The deadline this semester is Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. We often have quite a few students who are very surprised to be pulled out of classes at this particular time for this particular reason. Don't be one of them!

- **Class Attendance**-Remember, your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day.
- **Student Mailbox**-Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time. There is mail for some returning students already.

## Computer Accounts/IDs/Trip Passes

This Friday afternoon, we will walk you over to purchase your UF Gator 1 ID and get your UF computer accounts. You will need to bring \$15 for the ID, your ELI Tuition Receipt with your ID# on it (you may take your receipt to Sonja in the ELI Main Office to get your ID number), and a photo ID, such as your passport or a driver's license. We will meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 12:45pm and walk over. Also, at this time, we will go to the TRiP Office to purchase transportation passes for next week's trip.

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be holding our first van trip of the semester to **Universal Studios Islands of Adventure Orlando**.

Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from September 5-13:

Students:

September 5: Abdulla Alghunaim

September 6: Hyunmi Ahn

September 7: Abeer Alzahrani

Staff:

September 9: Sara Ahmad

Happy Birthday to one and all!

## ELI Countries Represented

The following is a list of ELI Countries represented by our students, listed by the country or area you put down when you signed in:

Brazil	Mozambique
Colombia	Nicaragua
Congo	Norway
Costa Rica	Panama
Côte d'Ivoire	Peru
Cuba	Poland
Ecuador	Saudi Arabia
France	Spain
Germany	Taiwan
Honduras	Thailand
Iran	Turkey
Japan	Ukraine
Korea	USA
Kuwait	Venezuela
Mexico	Vietnam

## Manners and Culture

We could use some questions, everyone! Teachers, it's a great idea to have students write down a few as a small project; and students, if you have anything that you would like to ask about, don't be shy! Just write down your questions and give them to your teacher, or just walk into the ELI Main Office, 315, and place it in my mailbox—the teacher box marked **ALLEN**. Meanwhile, recently, several students have inquired about tipping rules. So, we're running our traditional beginning-of-the-semester column on tipping:

When do you tip? Well, most often, you tip for services received. The origin of the word "tip" is something that is not 100% certain, but the most common story is that it comes from the acronym To Insure Prompt Service. There are many situations where tipping is expected, but there are some that you might think require tipping that don't. The following is a pretty good

indicator--though not a totally exhaustive list--of when and where and how much you should tip:

**Hairdressers and Nail Sculptors:** 15 to 20% of the total bill

**Hotels:** Bellhops, \$1 per bag; \$5 minimum total; Concierge, \$5 to \$10 for special services; Maids, for long stays, \$1 per person per night, at the end of stay; Room Service, 15% of total--sometimes already added in bill (check!)

**Parking:** Valet parking at a hotel or restaurant, \$2. Note that many people now tip both dropping off and picking up.

**Pizza Delivery:** \$1 per pizza

**Restaurants:** 15 to 20% of the total bill; more if the service was particularly memorable or if you have many special requests which are promptly and cheerfully honored. Tipping in restaurants is particularly important here in the US; servers in restaurants have a minimum wage of only \$2.13 an hour—only about 40% of the national minimum wage.

**Taxis:** \$1 minimum, 15% on fares over \$8. Drivers in large cities expect 20%.

Additionally, in some places, there will be people who help you outside with your purchases (as in the grocery store). With a particularly helpful person or a particularly large order, you may offer a tip of a dollar or two--but if you see a sign inside the store (once again, as in many grocery stores), that employees are not allowed to accept tips, don't offer. Another note to remember about tipping is that when you are part of a large party in a restaurant and you are splitting the bill, make sure that you calculate and include the tip in the amount you contribute to the total amount paid; this is a common error which often shortchanges the service person. Some restaurants nowadays automatically include a 15% gratuity in the bill for large groups.

## Quote of the Week

Tradition is a guide and not a jailer.

--W. Somerset Maugham

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