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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 117, Issue 1
January 18, 2012



Skate Station Funworks!

Come out and have some fun!

Join us for a fun day! You can roller skate, play mini-golf, go rock climbing, use the batting cages, ride go karts, and play arcade games. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, practice your English, and try new activities!

Where: Skate Station Funworks

We will be meeting at Norman Garage at 12:30 p.m. and carpooling to the Skate Station. We will be at the Skate Station from around 1-5 p.m. Remember to sign up on the activities board!

When: Saturday, January 21st, 1-5 p.m.

Cost: Prices range from \$8.50 for one attraction up to \$25.50 if you want to do everything.

What to Bring: Bring socks (for rollerskating purposes) and comfortable shoes and clothes. You should also bring your Gator 1 ID for \$1 off the price!

Have a great day, everyone!

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be holding our first Volunteer Day of the semester. Details will be presented in the Volunteer Seminar, and also will be on the Activities Board and in the next *Weekly*.

Notes from the Office

Turns: When the office is crowded, please try to wait your turn. If everyone is patient, things move in a swifter and more orderly manner. Everyone **will** be served eventually.

Fire Drills/Alarms: Whenever you hear a fire alarm, whether in Norman Hall or in any other building, you need to leave the building quickly and quietly. Getting out in an orderly and expedient fashion may well save your life. Also, please note that the fire alarms must never, ever be pulled by anyone other than building management unless there is an actual emergency. Falsely pulling a fire alarm is against the law.

Afternoon Activities

Join us for the following activities this week.

Wednesday: *Coffee Talk* at Starbucks on Archer road, 7-10pm, Bring money for drinks.

Thursday: *Volleyball* at Lexington Crossing, 6-9pm. Free!

Friday: *Krishna Lunch* in the Plaza of the Americas, 12-2pm, Bring \$4 cash for lunch or your own lunch

UF Services

Recreational Facilities: As ELI students, you are able to use the pools, Lake

Wauburg, Florida Gym, O'Connell Center weight rooms, and other outdoor fields and courts by showing your Gator 1 card. On the other hand, ELI students do **not** have access to the Student Recreation & Fitness Center, Southwest Recreation Center and the Broward Outdoor Recreation Center because these facilities are funded by UF degree-seeking student activity fees. If you want to use these facilities, you'll need to pay a membership fee.

Libraries: UF has great libraries and you have full access to them, if you need to study. If you want to check out books, you'll need to pay your tuition, get a Gator 1 ID, get it activated at the Education Library in Norman Hall. You can check out a maximum of 5 books for a week.

Parking: If you drive to the ELI, this is very important! You need to purchase a parking decal to park on the UF campus. You'll need to get a letter from Judith in 315 Norman. Be sure to park in the "Green/Commuter" areas only. If you park in other places, including the Norman garage or the street close to Norman Hall, you will get an expensive ticket!

Bicycling: Bicycle safety is very, very important and it is taken very seriously here in Gainesville and on the UF campus. If you bike, be sure that you familiarize yourself with the rules of the road. If you're caught breaking them, in addition to possible injuries you might suffer, it can result in tickets and fines. Traffic violators on bicycles are subject

to the same fines as violators in automobiles, \$154 for a moving violation, \$104 for a non-moving violation, and \$52.50 for a violation specific to bicycle operation.

You should park your bike in well-lighted areas and lock it up when you park it. The best lock is a U-lock. This kind of lock looks like a U and is very difficult to cut or break. Be sure to put the lock through the bike's frame and wheel as well as the bike rack.

Also, register your bike with the University Police Department. If your bike is stolen, this will help the police find it. Registering is a very quick and simple process. Just go to the UPD building on Museum Road and ask the officer at the front desk to help you register. If your bike is stolen, call the UPD immediately. The faster you call them, the better the chance of them finding your bike.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of January 16 to January 22:

Students:

January 16: Carla Novara Tropea
January 17: Eric Decan Bermudez
January 19: Manal Alghamdi
January 19: Lenin Berrueta Navas
January 21: Yahya Bashumayl
January 22: Khaled Alosaimi

Staff:

January 17: Sandy Lu
January 18: Wesley Cambell

January 20: Danielle Berkow

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Don't forget to say happy birthday to your classmates!

Manners and Culture

Q: I wonder about American tip culture. Who should I tip? How much? In my country, we don't 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 this amount or even more is 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: \$2 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 in Florida have a minimum wage of only \$4.65 an hour, which is much less than the regular minimum wage of \$7.67.

Some restaurants nowadays automatically include a 18% gratuity in the bill for large groups. If you're splitting the bill and the restaurant didn't add the gratuity, make sure you calculate it and add it.

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

Some places, like grocery stores, have people that help you outside with your purchases. 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.

Grammar

No grammar questions yet this week. Please email me some for next week's *Weekly!*

Quote of the Week

Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.

Chinese Proverb

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