Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, January 28th, we are holding our first Volunteer Day of the fall term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend.

We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet at the NRN Garage and carpool to the different sites.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, January 26th.

There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity.

Jungle Friends – Come and help build and clean up the habitat of the lab monkeys! Wear clothes that can get dirty and come with a great attitude! Great English practice as you will get a nice training on how to take care of the animals! We will meet at the NRN Garage at 9:15am and return around 1pm.

7th Annual Air Potato Roundup— Help save our area’s nature parks by collecting invasive, non-native air potatoes (vine-like plants that smother and kill other plants). Join the fun and help restore Gainesville! We will be gathering air potatoes around the UF President’s house. We will meet at the NRN Garage at 8:30am and return around 12noon.

Dudley Farm Gardening— Come and help around the garden, plant and water flowers, vegetables and fruits. All students will get a grand tour of the park and will wear traditional clothes. Great way to practice your English and have a wonderful time! We will meet at the NRN Garage at 12:15pm and return around 3pm.

St. Francis House Homeless Shelter— Help prepare and serve meals for homeless people: bake bread, make salads, cook rice, meat, potatoes, and make gallons of juice! Help set up tables, clean up and wash dishes. Great way to practice English and meet people! Wear clothes that can get dirty. We will meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 9:30am and return around 2pm.

Have a great day, everyone!

Notes from the Office

- Immunizations: Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. Please don’t get caught unaware; if we don’t have them, we must pull you from classes. The deadline this semester is Friday, February 10th.

- 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.

- Smoking: Remember, students, that it is state law now that not only is there no smoking inside state buildings, you must be at least 50 feet from the building to smoke at all.

Sports and Activities

The following is our activity schedule for the semester; this may change from time to time, so please watch the Activities Board.
Activities may be added or cancelled during the semester; we’ll keep you updated!

**The Next Trip**

Next weekend, we will be here in Gainesville for the annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week’s *Weekly*.

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**Birthdays**

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of January 28th to February 2nd:

**Students:**

- January 31: Hyo Jung Kim

**Staff:**

None this week!

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**Basketball (Allison) 4:15pm Tuesday**

Meet at NRN Garage; Free; Bring your UF ID

**Coffee Talk and Farmer’s Market (Daniel and Mounoud) 3:15 and 5:15pm Wednesday**

Meet at NRN Garage; Bring money for coffee.

**Soccer (Anne) 4:30pm Thursday**

Meet at NRN Field; Free

**Gator Nights (Martin) 6pm Friday**

Meet at Reitz Union, Second Floor; Free; Bring your UF ID

**Manners and Culture**

**Q: Why don’t the people work in gas stations?**

A: I’m guessing that you are wondering why almost all of our gasoline is self-serve these days. It’s cheaper. If we don’t have to pay extra people to pump the gas, then the gas can be sold for less. Most people in the US seemed, when the concept was first introduced, to prefer to pump their own gas rather than to pay more for the gas.

**Q: Why do American people talk so loud on their cell phones in public?**

A: Mercifully, it’s not all of us. Those that do are rude, plain and simple. Unfortunately, we have a lot of really rude and thoughtless people roaming around these days.

**Q: Why do people in the US like to suntan?**

A: Because there are a lot of idiots who are slaves to fashion over health, and it’s still considered by some people to be fashionable.

**Q: Why do Americans use so many plastic bags in the supermarket?**

A: They’re more convenient and easy to carry. Thankfully, we do have a choice; we can request paper bags. Also, many supermarkets have recycling bins for used plastic bags. Personally, I do use the plastic ones (I live in a 2nd floor apartment—it’s MUCH easier to carry them up the stairs!), but I always take them back to the store on my next visit and put them in the recycling bin.

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**Quote of the Week**

One must learn by doing the thing, for though you think you know it, you have no certainty until you try.

---Aristotle