

July 13, 2016

Bonjour Travelers,

As of today, July 13, we are 330 days out from our estimated departure date. We have requested a departure of June 8, 2017 from Knoxville, TN. We will know 90-120 days out exactly what our date will be.

Passport Update/Suggestions

It is time to start working on your passport if you haven't started the process already. When I went to get mine, the passport agents said they had been seeing people for our trip fairly regularly! Yay!

- We recommend you log on to the government's website to learn more about getting your passport.
 - <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/information/where-to-apply.html>
- All passport data must be submitted to EF tours 150 days prior to departure (Our goal is to have your information in by **January 1, 2017**). At this time, it is taking about 4-6 weeks to get a passport; however, it can take up to 14 weeks to get a passport! So our suggestion is to get a move on!
- Important Notes:
 - A passport for a 16 year old lasts for 10 years.
 - To apply for this passport the student must have a valid driver's license
 - A learner's permit does not work nor does the temporary license that drivers receive while they are waiting for their real license to arrive
 - A passport for a person under 16 only lasts 5 years. However, depending on birthdays and processing times, it may be necessary to get this one.
 - You can get your passport from two locations in Kingsport:
 - U.S. Post Office (Eastman Road). This office requires an appointment. The number to schedule an appointment is (423) 230-6306.
 - City Hall. This office offers walk-ins Monday-Thursday 9:30-11:30 and 1:30-3:30.
 - You have a fee to pay to the Department of State. This fee must be paid with personal check or money order (See the website above for more information). The fee I had to was \$110.
 - You will have a fee to pay to the passport clerk.
 - At the post office you can pay with debit/credit card. The fee I paid at the Post Office was \$25.
 - My understanding is that at City Hall you must pay this via cash (I would call to confirm).
 - Passport Photos:
 - You can get your photo made at Wal-Mart, Walgreens, or CVS.

- I had mine made at Walgreens. I did find a coupon online for a discount at Walgreens and spend about \$12.00.
 - The passport agent suggested we use Wal-Mart. She said it is the least expensive (around \$8.00).
 - Your photo can be taken at the Eastman Road Post Office but not at City Hall. The fee at the Post Office is \$15.00
- You will need to bring with you:
 - Driver's License or alternate id (See website if you have questions).
 - Photo copy of your drivers license
 - Birth Certificate (Note: This has to be the "long form". Mine from SC was not the long form so I had to order a copy and that took a couple of weeks. The "long form" is not the hospital copy that was received when you were born. It must contain the names of your parents on it.
 - If you are an adult traveling with us and you have ever used another name, you will be asked to provide information regarding that (marriages, divorces, etc.). Be prepared to know important dates regarding those instances.
- Submitting Passport Information:
 - To submit your passport information, you will log on to your personal trip website and confirm your passport information or call customer service at 1-800-665-5364.

Weebly/Web Site:

Finally, we have created a weebly website for ongoing communication. This is a work in progress and will be updated with important information as we get closer to our departure date. You can access the site at:

- <http://europe2017dbhs.weebly.com/>

Meeting:

We will plan a communication meeting after school gets up and running. But, feel free to email us at any time!

We are super excited for June 2017!

Mrs. Dill and Mrs. Nash