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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, September 22nd, 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 and head to the different sites.

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

Guardian Angels Service Dogs: Clean dog crates and socialize with the dogs. Meet at Norman Garage at 8am

Gainesville Rabbit Rescue: Clean rabbit cages, groom rabbits and socialize. Meet at Norman Garage at 9am

Project Downtown Gainesville: Help serve lunch to the homeless and interact with English speakers from different cultures. Meet at Norman Garage at 12pm.

Emeritus: Interact with elderly residents. If you have an instrument, please bring it to play music for the elderly. Meet at the Norman Garage at 2pm if you need a ride. If you live close to Emeritus, meet us there at 2:30pm.

Please check the board as there may be more opportunities later in the week.

Remember to sign up for the volunteer activity of your choice by Thursday, September 20th at 4pm and arrive **ON TIME** at Norman Garage! Please don't sign up for an activity if it is already full. If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Chris in the CIP Office, Room 318.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to **Paynes Praire**. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Note from Daryl

Remember! If you would like to make an appointment to speak with Daryl, he will only be available Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays this term. Tuesday and Thursday he will be helping new students before they arrive.

Notes from the Office

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.

Letters of Recommendation

If you need a letter of recommendation, please ask your instructor first to see if she or he can write a letter for you. Please note that instructors' letters have to be an accurate description of your work and student skills so if you have a lot of absences or do not do the classwork, it will be very difficult to write a letter that will be helpful for you.

If your instructor agrees to write a letter for you, you will then have to go to the ELI main office and fill out a document request form. We will send the request to your instructor. Without this form, your instructor is not able to write a letter.

For all other requested documents, please talk to our receptionist. Documents can take from 3 days to two weeks.

When possible, please plan ahead if you need a document or letter from the main office or your instructor.

Daily Activities

The following is our afternoon activity schedule. Please check the Activities Board from time to time to see if there are any changes.

Day/Time	Activity	Location/Cost
Monday 7pm-10pm	Game Night (Maria Paulina)	Meet in the Reitz Union Game Room on the Ground Floor. Bring \$5-\$10 for games
Tuesday 7pm-10pm	Field Night (Travis)	Meet at Flavet Field. Free
Wednesday 7pm-10pm	Coffee Talk (Jeena)	Meet at 7 p.m. at the Reitz Union tables near Orange & Brew. Free
Thursday 7pm-10pm	Volleyball (Christina)	Meet at Lexington Crossing. Free
Friday 7pm-10pm	Volleyball (Genevieve)	Meet at Lexington Crossing. Free
Friday 6pm-10pm	Gator Nights (Chris)	Meet at the Reitz Union Information Desk. Bring your Gator!

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of September 17 to September 23, plus one that I missed last week:

Students:

September 19: Alessandro Brunini
Fuenmayor

September 19: Nara Lee

September 20: Maria Li

September 20: Timur Prokopyev

September 23: Michele Ferrer

Staff:

September 14: Chris Vizcarrondo (Sorry!)

September 19: Jennifer Schroeder

September 19: William McKell

Happy birthday, you cool cats!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why do people from the USA answer "American" when somebody asks "Where are you from"? I'm from Argentina and I'm American too.

A: Because "Unitedstatesians" doesn't sound pretty. It's true that Argentinians and Venezuelans are also Americans, and more specifically, South Americans. Canadians and Mexicans are also called North Americans. But since people from the US don't have their own nice sounding nationality, we call them "Americans."

Q: If I want gum and I'm in classroom. Must I share it with my classmate?

A: This is a personal preference. You can share with your classmates if you want but no one will look down on you if you choose not to. Remember that there are no food or drinks allowed in the classroom, however.

Grammar

Q: Which is correct for the negative shortened response form with "hope": "I hope not," or "I don't hope so."?

A: You've noticed that we're not consistent. With "hope" the correct form is "I hope not." However, for example, with "think", it's "I don't think so." They have slightly different meanings. If someone asks, "Is it going to rain later?", meaning is different depending on the phrase used.

"I hope not" means "I don't want it to rain."

"I don't think so" means "I have no idea and don't care if it does or doesn't rain."

Q: If "plan" doubles the "n" in the past tense, why doesn't "open"?

A: Actually, you've found one crazy spelling point in English that does have a pattern. In verbs of more than one syllable, we only double that last consonant when the stress falls on the last syllable. In "open" the stress falls on the "o".

Quote of the Week

Success is a ladder you cannot climb with your hands in your pockets.

American Proverb

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