

ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of the English Language Institute

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Ichetucknee River Trip

Spend the day in true summer bliss: floating down crystal-clear water, relaxing on an inner tube, and getting warm in the sun. This **Saturday, May 20**, the Cultural Immersion Program (CIP) will sponsor a trip to the Ichetucknee River.

Meet at **9:30am** in the Norman Hall Garage. Each car will decide when to return, though most will return around 3pm. To participate, **sign up on the activities board by 4pm on Thursday, May 18th**. In case of rain, call 392-3354, extension 230, after 8am, to find out if our plans are still the same.

Entrance to the park is **\$5** per person, and you must bring another **\$5-\$10** for inner tube rental. Also, you should bring your **bathing suit, sunscreen, and a lunch**. And you may want to bring goggles or snorkeling equipment, which can be rented from several places in town. See the activities board for details.

Coffee Talk

Every Wednesday, beginning this week, the CIP will host Coffee Talk -- a time to socialize with other students and browse one of Gainesville's Farmers' Markets -- at the downtown Starbucks in front of the Hippodrome Theater. Meet at the bus stop outside the **Norman Hall Parking Garage at either 3 or 4:45pm**, depending on when you finish classes. Make sure to bring your **Gator ID** so you can ride the bus for free.

Countries Represented

This semester, the ELI has students from the following countries:

Benin	Korea
Brazil	Saudi Arabia
China	Spain
Ecuador	Taiwan
Haiti	Thailand
Honduras	USA
Iran	Venezuela
Japan	

ID Cards / Gatorlink Accounts

This **Friday, May 19th**, 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 number on it, 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 together.



Inside this issue:

Ichetucknee River | Notes from the Office
ID Cards and Gatorlink Accounts | Tips

Manners and Culture

Q: When do you tip?

A: Well, most often, you tip for services received. There are many situations where tipping is expected, but there are some that you might think require tipping that don't. Here are some general guidelines:

- * **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 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.

If you have a question about U.S. manners and culture, please email our *ELI Weekly* editor, **Nora Spencer**, at noraspencer@gmail.com, or put questions in her mailbox (marked *Spencer* in the ELI Main Office).



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Notes from the Office

Immunization Deadline -- Proof of immunizations must be received by **Friday, June 2**, or you will not be allowed to continue to attend classes. No exceptions.

Student Mailbox -- Please come to the office from time to time and check the mailbox for any mail that you may have received over the last few weeks. If you are waiting for something and do not see it, however, you may assume that it has not come yet, and you will not need to ask the office staff.

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. **If students miss more than 15% of classes during the semester, they will not receive a certificate.**

This Week's Birthdays

Happy Birthday wishes to:

- May 19: Misfer Al Ghamdi
- May 19: Jill Blythe (LA)
- May 23: Sattam Almadani
- May 24: Adel Hadal
- May 26: Ali Al-Deshan