



Troop 21 2024 BVI Information Packet



Troop 21 BVI 2024

Dear Scouts, Parents and Captains:

After a year of planning, we will soon depart for the BVI. The purpose of this packet is to provide you with all the information to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. Please read the enclosed information carefully. We ask that all parents supervise their son's packing. Due to space constraints on the boat, please bring only what is specified on the equipment list. Most persons returning from previous trips feel that they over packed. All personal gear will be “carried on” as discussed below. Below is the pre-sailing schedule. Details to follow.

	Saturday, June 22, 2024	Saturday, June 29, 2024	Sunday, July 7, 2024
Alex Babusis	x		
Janak Chenna	x		
Luther Ciorba			x
Sean Dixon	x		
Alex Farn	x		
Joe Intagliata	x		
John Panzer	x		
Quinn Piskorowski	x		
Tyler Richter			x
Sebastion Schmitt-Arango			x
Lance Sheets		x	
Alex Siedband		x	
Max Yamilov	x		
Gustavo Arango			x
Liam Briick			x
Praveen Chenna	x		
Katie Ciorba			x
Tom Coscia	x		
Jenny Dixon	x		
Ken Schmitt			x
Mark Siedband		x	
Alexey Yamilov	x		
Total	12	3	7

Trip Meeting:

There is a highly informative and mandatory meeting for all trip participants and their parents on Tuesday July 9 from 7:00-8:00 At the Intagliata's, 5146 Waterman, St. Louis, MO 63108. We will cover important trip information and collect paperwork. Two trip shirts will be distributed at that time. If for some excellent reason you cannot attend, you must contact Tom Coscia ASAP in order that the important information can be reviewed and forms can be collected.

Final Payment Due June 1st

If you have not done so already, a final payment of \$1,200 is due June 1st. You can pay here on the Troop Venmo. <https://troop21clayton.org/payments/>

Passports:

It is suggested that you scan a copy of our passport and email it to yourself as this will be easily recoverable and will facilitate reissuance if you should lose this document. **Please bring a copy of your passport to the trip meeting so Tom can have a paper backup.**

Emergency Contact:

We will be difficult to reach in the BVI as we will spend most of our time out sailing. Cell phones may work depending on your plan, but international voice and data/text rates will apply. For legitimate emergencies, contact the Moorings in Road Town, Tortola at (284) 393-2404. Our group is "Boy Scout Troop 21." Tom Coscia will be on an international phone plan where he can receive phones calls and text messages with no additional fees.

Travel July 13, 2024:

We will meet at 4:00 am sharp on Saturday, July 13 at the American Airlines ticket counter inside the MAIN terminal at Lambert Airport to check in for our flight. Attire for the day will be trip shirt (distributed at the July 9 meeting), khaki pants and boat/tennis shoes (no flip-flops). It would be best to eat breakfast beforehand as food may not be available at the airport at that time of day. We will be flying to Miami and then connecting to the British Virgin Islands. Flights are as follows:

AA	2981	STL-MIA	Leave 5:29 am	Arrive 9:20 am
AA	3989	MIA-EIS	Leave 10:05 am	Arrive 1:15 pm

There will little time to buy breakfast in Miami so you may bring a sack breakfast.

Upon arriving in the BVI, we will transfer by taxi to the Moorings Operations base to check in and receive boat assignment. You may wish to carry a snack as we will not have time to stop for food and dinner will be midafternoon.

Tentative Itinerary based on our last trip in 2012

- July 13 Fly into the British Virgin Islands. Take a taxi to the Moorings. Group dinner at the marina. Captain briefing. Sleep on the boat overnight at the dock.
- July 14 Farewell to land! Our first day of sailing. Afternoon and evening at Manchioneel Bay on Cooper Island across Sir Francis Drake Sound. Swim and play on the beach. Dinner on board. Watch the amazing sunset.
- July 15 Sail to the Baths on the southern tip of Virgin Gorda. Explore giant boulders on a white sand beach. Sail on to North Sound. Explore the Bitter End Yacht Club. Dinner at Saba Rock watching the giant tarpon swim by.
- July 16 Weather permitting, venture into open seas to visit Anegada, a remote coral island. Spend the afternoon snorkeling at Loblolly Bay. Dinner at the beach club. Try the lobster!
- July 17 Sail back along the north coast of Tortola to Cane Garden Bay. Swim on the beach or visit the historic distillery. Dinner on board.
- July 18 Sail to Jost Van Dyke and explore the long sandy beach. Swim and snorkel.
- July 19 Head to Norman Island and the "Pirate's Bight." Snorkel at the Caves and see colorful fish. Return to the marina late afternoon. Join your friends for our farewell dinner. Sleep on the boat.
- July 20 Take taxi to the airport in British Virgin Islands. Fly to Miami and then on to St. Louis.

Return Trip	AA 3989	EIS-MIA	Leave 1:55 pm	Arrive 4:45 pm
	AA 1581	MIA-STL	Leave 9:00 pm	Arrive 11:03 pm

Attire for the day is trip shirt and khaki pants. We will eat dinner in Miami. Parents should plan to pick-up their Scouts at the airport.

Food:

Meals while traveling are at your expense. A cold breakfast (cereal) and lunch (sandwiches, etc.) will be served on the boats each day. There may be occasions when your boat crew as a group may wish to have lunch onshore ("Cheeseburger in Paradise") at individual

expense. We will mix eating on the boat with nights out to offer variety and a chance to sample the delicious local cuisine. The troop has budgeted an amount for each meal out; if the items you wish to have are more than this, you may contribute a bit of cash to make up the difference when the check arrives. Our group is too large to have separate checks. Extra cash is definitely a plus if you would like to “upgrade” some of the Troop offerings, buy personal snacks, etc.

Scouts and adults will work together to prepare meals on board and clean up afterward. There will be a duty roster. Captains are exempt from meal preparation duties. Mealtimes will be announced; please do not inconvenience your large group of friends by being otherwise occupied when it is time to prepare and eat meals or at the time we are supposed to arrive for a dinner reservation.

Cash:

You will be responsible for your own cash. Storage in your cabin on board is considered relatively safe. Consider carrying a “money belt” on your person while traveling. These are available at any travel store or may be ordered online at www.magellans.com. The US dollar is the official currency of the BVI. Credit cards are widely accepted. It is strongly suggested that you contact your credit card issuer prior to departure to inform them that you will be traveling to the BVI to avoid having a “fraud alert hold” placed on your account. Also check if your credit card charges foreign transactions fees. If so, you may explore alternate credit cards. ATMs are available, but there is no assurance that they will work with your account at home. The suggested cash amount varies by personal preference, but \$150-200 in smaller bills should be plenty.

Health:

A current medical form is required for all trip participants, ***including parents and captains.*** The form may be downloaded by visiting www.troop21clayton.org. Some of the information is completed by you and some by your physician. Forms will be collected at the **July 9** meeting, or may be emailed or mailed to Tom Coscia at 647A Sugar Trail Court, St. Peters MO 63376. Do not wait until the last minute to complete this document.

A first aid kit will be available on the boat. Make sure to address any nagging, seemingly minor, medical or dental problems before leaving. Be sure to bring prescription medication with you if needed.

Use common sense regarding food selection. Cooked foods will be delicious; but avoid uncooked foods especially from street vendors. It is generally okay to “drink the water” in the BVI but recommend getting a water bottle with a filter straw.

The use of alcohol or other dangerous substances by scouts during this trip is strictly prohibited with no exceptions. Those with judgment bad enough to violate this policy will be

separated from the group and sent home on a same-day one way ticket to St. Louis at a price of about \$1,600. This will be paid by you or your parents (not the Troop). You will also forfeit the cost of your prepaid trip.

Smoking is not permitted on the boats and is not permitted by scouts at any time regardless of age.

Drugs are said to be a problem in some areas of the BVI. Be aware of the situation, stay in groups and do not engage in conversation if approached by someone with something to sell. Drugs are illegal in the BVI despite what you may be told by "vendors" and penalties are harsh.

A health issue which may be encountered on this trip is **seasickness**. Most persons do not experience it, but cases are generally mild and subside after a few days. If you have had issues with seasickness in the past, you may wish to contact your physician for advice and consider obtaining a prescription for scopolamine patches which can be helpful. Dramamine can help in milder cases.

Sunburn is a very real concern in the BVI, even with seemingly adequate protection. Bring sunscreen (SPF 30 or greater) and use it frequently. A long-sleeve sun shirt over your T-shirt and wide-brim hat (not a baseball cap), possibly with neck flap for extra protection, are highly recommended. Not all fabric is adequately protective against sun. Columbia makes several excellent sun garments and hats. A bad sunburn will limit your ability to participate in many of the cool trip activities and is to be avoided at all costs.

We will essentially be living outdoors for a week and it can be hot (85-90 degrees) during the day. Because of the close quarters on board, good hygiene is a necessity as well as a politeness. A shower facility is available at the Moorings. Otherwise, you may take a very brief cold shower on the boat after swimming to wash off the salt. Our water tanks hold only 185 gallons and this must last for the week. Showers occur on a platform off the back of the boat and consist of a quick spray to wet your skin and hair, lather up, and then a quick rinse. Do not waste water as it is in very limited supply.

The Boats:

We have chartered two 50' Catamarans. There are 5 cabins below along with a dining table in the galley which folds down to create a large bed. A propane stove and icebox are provided as is a com station with marine VHF radio and weather band. There are five bathrooms ("heads") on board. Crew and cabin assignments will be announced at the July 9 meeting. Captains will have their own cabins. Many scouts prefer sleeping in the cockpit on the comfortably wide cushions as it is considerably cooler there, but we will have AC. The table bed will be made up each night in case the scouts on deck are driven below because of a passing squall. Bedding and towels will be provided by the Moorings; sleeping bags are

not necessary. More information regarding the boat can be found here: [Moorings 5000 - 5 Cabin Catamaran | The Moorings](#)

Captains:

We are fortunate to have two experienced captains – Denny Taylor & Gerald Donaldson - accompanying us without whom this trip could not happen. Your safety is their first concern and their instructions are to be followed exactly and immediately. You will find them to be interesting and kind people deserving of your greatest respect. They will teach you a lot about sailing if you are willing to learn.

Expectations:

- This is a high adventure sailing experience for older scouts (not a vacation) which will challenge you in ways you may not yet realize.
- Scouts will assist in the WORK of sailing the boat which can be considerable.
- Scouts will organize and assist in the WORK of daily onboard activities: making ready to sail, cleaning, meal preparation, etc. There will be a duty roster.
- Safety is the first consideration.
- Scouts will conduct themselves in a mature and gentlemanly manner which will reflect well on our Troop, families and community.
- Scouts will have an incredible amount of fun sailing in an exotic place with old and new friends to create a memory which will last a lifetime.

Troop 21 Safety Rules while Sailing:

- EVERYONE must wear a lifejacket whenever forward of the cockpit on deck, during rough weather or as directed at any time by the captain.
- Non-skid boat shoes or water socks shall be worn by all crewmembers on duty, while the boat is underway.
- Sunscreen (recommend SPF 30 or more) will be applied each morning (& as needed) by all scouts.
- Scouts must have permission from an adult leader before swimming or leaving the boat to go ashore. The buddy system should always be in place.
- Scouts will see that personal gear and other equipment are properly stowed to prevent injury or loss.
- Scouts will only use boating equipment that they have been trained to use and follow any rules for appropriate use of that equipment.

- Scouts will follow right of way and seamanship rules that they have learned.
- Scouts will take care not to get fingers caught in winches or blocks, and to look for and avoid other potential sources of injury.
- No Scouts will be aboard a boat without adult supervision present.
- Hand washing and safety precautions will be followed in preparation and storage of food

Do Not Even Think About:

- Being late to the airport on July 13.
- Using alcohol on this trip.
- Swimming alone or at night.
- Approaching a swimmer in the water with the dinghy motor running.
- Separating from the group without adult leader permission.
- What will happen if you lose your passport.
- How high your cell phone bill will be if you go on a text binge at international rates.
LOL!
- Forgetting sun protection, even once.

PACKING

You will not be checking luggage on this trip; all personal gear will be carried on board. We will be moored at remote locations where a lost bag will not find us and to arrive without your bag would compromise your enjoyment the trip. It is fine if you want to check a bag on the return flight, but an airline fee of \$40 will apply (\$35 if paid online).

You are allowed two carry-on items. One is your main bag with maximum dimension determined by the formula WIDTH + LENGTH + HEIGHT = 45inches. **A soft duffle bag is preferred as there is limited storage for rigid rolling bags on the sailboat.** Take the time now to identify and measure the bag you will be using. It is imperative that you not have an oversize bag that is rejected as a carry-on. The importance of getting this right is not overstated.

A second smaller carry-on item could be a smaller backpack, but this will need to be small enough and not so engorged with gear to the point that it will not fit underneath the seat in front of you. Only one bag per person will be placed in the overhead compartment. Pack lightly!

TSA enforces the 3-1-1 restrictions for carryon bags. See www.tsa.gov/311. Basically, no container can contain more than 100 ml of liquid or gel and all containers must fit inside a 1-quart Ziploc bag for screening. Keep this bag easily accessible at the airport for TSA screening. You will need more than 100 ml of sunscreen, so transfer it into smaller containers when packing. Do not bring aerosol.

Parents are asked to supervise their scout during the packing process.

On departure day, Scouts should wear:

- Trip shirt and khaki shorts.
- Shoes suitable for on-shore outings (i.e.: tennis shoes, boat shoes)
- Please do not bring: pocket knives, valuables, aerosol cans, or fresh foods that you will not be eating before we go through customs in the BVI.

Bring the following:

- ___ Passport
- ___ Spending money (\$125-175) to cover 3 travel meals, souvenirs, extra food, etc;
- ___ Digital camera or phone: May wish to bring single use waterproof camera for beach use
- ___ Sunglasses- POLARIZED, with retainer strap
- ___ Empty water bottle
- ___ Sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- ___ Hat with a brim that covers your ears, possibly with protective neck flap
- ___ Prescription medication/eyeglasses you may need.
- ___ Cell phone and/or books (we will have two long days of travel)

Other items to pack:

- ___ 2 Trip Shirts—one you will wear the day we leave.
- ___ Boat shoes (must have white or light colored non-skid soles - water socks or other inexpensive types are fine - but no sandals on board)
- ___ Quick drying swimsuit (Two recommended so you can alternate suits each day)
- ___ Rain jacket (a poncho is OK if you don't have a rain jacket)
- ___ Sailing gloves OR work gloves
- ___ 6 changes of underwear
- ___ 6 pr of socks
- ___ Shorts – preferably quick drying material – no more than 2-3 pairs

- ___ T-shirts (light colored - either cotton or quick drying synthetic) – 6 shirts
- ___ 1 pr long pants (preferably quick drying material – not blue jeans, etc.)
- ___ 1 long sleeve sun shirt
- ___ Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, comb & other toiletry items
- ___ Chapstick (SPF 15)
- ___ Insect repellent- not aerosol
- ___ Sleep clothes
- ___ Headlamp flashlight with fresh batteries for use on board
- ___ Personal snacks as desired.
- ___ Seasickness medication if needed- see “health” section.

Optional Items:

- ___ Prescription Snorkeling Mask – all standard masks, snorkels, and fins will be provided by the Moorings.
- ___ Binoculars
- ___ Sandals
- ___ Small board games/cards
- ___ Extra towel if desired