

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE AMERICAN-POLISH PARTNERSHIP FOR TCZEW CAMP

ARRIVAL IN WARSAW

Please let me know your flight plans for arrival in Warsaw or Gdansk. Some of us are flying to Poland earlier so the airports or camp will be our meeting place. When you deplane follow the crowd through Passport Control (US Citizens look for the signage "ALL OTHERS"). Then get your luggage and head out the doors marked "Nothing to Declare." As you enter the arrivals hall you should look for the "TCZEW" sign. It is always exciting to meet everyone. There is an ATM in the arrival hall. We will then travel to Tczew from Warsaw via train. It takes about 4 ½ hours.

WHAT TO PACK

I have spent a summer where it rained everyday and another where it was 95* and humid every day. Bring a jacket, swimsuit, and at least one long pair of pants or jeans. Usually, it is in the 80's and sunny. We dress informally. Shorts and t-shirts are fine. (There is a reason for this. We want the students to see us as easily approachable for conversation). Pack one dress outfit, such as a shirt and tie and dress slacks for the men, skirt or summer dress for the women. (We dress up for the Opening Ceremony, visits to the Mayor and President of the County).

We also go by first names. Again, it is easier for them to speak with us. They are very respectful so you will not have classroom management problems. Having Halloween the first week allows them to see us being silly and more approachable. Bring a costume.

THE DORM

Rooms are doubles with your own bathroom. Linens and towels are provided and we change them weekly. The towels are small. The rooms are quite nice and many have a TV but most of the programs are in Polish. We have rooms on the first floor and the students are on floors 2-4. The school is a culinary school so the food is very good. There is laundry service at minimal charge. For a few dollars, you can drop off your laundry in the dorm lobby before breakfast, they will wash, dry, and fold your laundry, and you pick it up before lunch. For those who need a hair drier, you might want to purchase a hair drier in Tczew (\$20 or so) because the heating element on US driers does not like the conversion of the electricity. Other electrical items can be charged with a converter so bring a converter. We will provide you with a phone number for the dorm should family need to get in touch with you. The address is:

Internat

Ul. Gdanska 17

Tczew 83-110 Poland

We have Internet access. There is an office with two computers in the dorm and computer labs in the school. We ask that you limit your time on the computers in the dorm to 20 minutes so everyone can

use them. If you bring a laptop you can type up your email and download it to a jump drive and then send mass emails to family and friends. You do not need to bring a laptop, however. I have one and you can borrow mine. There is now wireless access in the dorm but you might have to sit in the kitchen on our floor to access it.

Cell phones work but contact your provider for international roaming plans/rates. I have ATT and international costs \$5.95/month but I only keep in on for the summer. I get less expensive roaming rates this way. It is nice for emergencies.

MONEY

Travelers Checks are hard to cash in TCZEW and Kantors (cash exchange) have inconvenient hours. **I highly recommend ATM debit cards.** ATMs or Bankomats are within a few blocks of the dorm. The directions are in English and I find the exchange rate is just as good as the kantor. The exchange rate is around 3 zloty to 1 US\$.

With the ATM debit card, ask your bank if you can open an account for the summer. Also tell them it will be used in Poland because they may shut it down if they see withdrawals from Poland.

You only need spending money for toiletries, snacks, pizza, and pączki (donuts!) . There is a safe in the dorm. I am the only one with the keys. You will be given an envelope for your passport and any valuables to be stored. You will not need to carry your passport while at camp.

MEDICAL

We have a nurse on staff and they take us to the doctor or hospital when necessary. Please do not suffer in silence. Let us know and you will be given care and rest. Bring medications that you take regularly. Remember you are in a foreign country so we are not use to their water. They provide us with bottled water. Do not drink tap water. Check with your provider. They do not charge us for minor medical but you might want travel/medical insurance – it is up to you.

SCHOOL/LESSONS

On July 2, we will organize the camp and set up classrooms. The school is a short walk (about 100 yards) from the dorm. Please plan on bringing photos of your family, home, town, pets, etc. to share with the students. Posters are a nice touch as well. Please bring a postcard from your town or state as we will have a map of the US and post our cards so the kiddos can see where we all hail from. The rooms are bright and airy.

The students have been studying English anywhere from 2-8 years, either in school or with private tutors. (They may study 3-4 languages). They have good vocabulary and grammar skills and usually write well in English. **THIS IS A CONVERSATIONAL CAMP.** You want to teach something where the students are talking. Some ideas for teachers:

A math teacher taught them the English names for shapes (the kids struggled with parallelogram). In one lesson she had two to a team. One team used plastic shapes to design a pattern. They described the shapes and colors and had the other team recreate their design without being able to see the design. One teacher had them interview us and write a newspaper. Jim teaches baseball, it is amazing to hear them understand things like "She hit it out of the park during her interview." In three weeks they learn to play the game and the Superintendent of Education in Northern Poland was amazed to see the kids playing. He kept asking, "You mean these are Polish students?" Jean is teaching board games and card games. One teacher had them research the 70's, 80's and 90's and then taught the students dances and songs from those years. The kids loved performing for us one night. Another teacher had them videotape commercials. Whatever you want to teach make it FUN. I had US high school students write letters to the Polish students. Please let me know what you plan to teach so I can set up a schedule where the students have a variety of lessons in a day. You only need five lessons as we rotate groups.

There is a person who makes copies for us. Please bring the copies with you that you need the first two days as he will not be there until Monday morning.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Breakfast is at 8 am. Everyone, teachers and teaching assistants, should be at all meals. Conversation at meals between students and TAs is part of the experience. Classes start at 9 am. The schedule is:

9:00-9:30 HOMEROOM (You will have the same students for all three weeks)

9:35-10:25 Period 1

10:30- 11:20 Period 2

11:25-12:15 Period 3

12:20 Staff meeting in Teacher's Lounge

1:00 Lunch (This is the main meal of the day. It includes soup, meat, potatoes, vegetables, and dessert.)

3:00-5:00 Activities. We do things like baseball, volleyball, jewelry making, crafts, movies, etc. The students love to make friendship bracelets, scrapbooking, etc. Please bring supplies for an activity such as these. Some things you can purchase there but we do not have a budget for supplies. You can write off donations on your taxes (keep receipts).

Does anyone know how to make friendship bracelets or any of those things young kids make? Even the 19 year olds in Poland like to make them. Can you bring some supplies for this kind of activity?

Does anyone line dance. The kids love to dance.

We need someone to take charge of the music for dancing. Any volunteers?

- 6:00 Evening meal consists of cold cuts (similar to our lunch).
- 7:00-9:00 Evening Activities. Similar to above but we also have Halloween, Valentine's, and a Luau. Bring a costume! We have hundreds of Valentine's cards and leis.
- 9:00-10:00 we sit around the dorm and listen to music, play cards, and talk with the students.
- 11:00 the loud snores coming from room #26 will be mine!!!!

It's a full day but lots of fun. When we all work there is time for each of us to have free time some afternoon or evening.

On weekends, the camp takes us on tours of northern Poland. The students look forward to traveling with us and showing us their country. This is an opportunity for conversation. We go to Hel, Gdansk, Gdynia, Sopot, Oliwa, Kartuzy. Each trip is special. On Sunday we leave after mass.

QUESTIONS

I am sure you will have questions. Please ask so that I can fill others in as they probably have the same questions. I am here to help. My phone number is 702-682-4819 or just email me. If you are under age 18, I will need parent's phone numbers and email addresses. I will send parents copies of all emails as well.

Parents, please send me a notarized letter giving me temporary guardianship of your child for the month of July (maybe make it to August 31 in case the volcano erupts this year). I will contact you immediately if your child needs medical care. Also let me know of any allergies, etc.

Jan