

CAA FIELD SCHOOL FAQs

Welcome! We are delighted that you will be joining us in Kampsville. Please take a moment to carefully review these notes; they contain important information that will help make your experience with us an enjoyable one!

Where is the CAA located?

The CAA has made Kampsville, Illinois its home for over fifty years. Situated within rural Calhoun County, we're approximately 300 miles southwest of the Chicago area (about a 5-6 hour drive) and 80 miles northwest of St. Louis (about a 90 minute drive). Calhoun County is peninsular, bounded on the east by the Illinois River and to the west and south by the Mississippi River. One of the few unglaciated regions within the State of Illinois, Calhoun is well-known for its majestic limestone bluffs and scenic beauty. It's a popular area to enjoy eagle watching (December-March), fall color, locally-grown fruit (peaches in summer, apples in fall) and, most importantly, ARCHEOLOGY!

How do I get there? When should I arrive?

We encourage you to make your travel arrangements early; our office must be notified of your travel plans at least two weeks in advance of your scheduled arrival date!

PLANE: CAA participants may arrive by plane at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport in St. Louis, Missouri. CAA staff can provide shuttle service between the airport and Kampsville for a fee of \$40/person, round trip (individual enrollees); group rates are available (call our office for a quote). Participants are met on arrival at the airport and escorted for the return on departing flights. Transportation fees must be paid in advance.

TRAIN: CAA staff can provide shuttle service to and from the Amtrak train station in **Alton, Illinois** to Kampsville for \$30/person, round trip; group rates are also available. Please do not book your trip through to the St. Louis depot.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES: Individual participants should make plane and train arrivals for Sunday afternoon between 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm CST (if possible) and departures for Saturday morning between the hours of 10:00 am and 12:00 pm CST, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Main Office.

DRIVING: Individual participants and their families who will be driving to Kampsville should plan to arrive between **4:00 and 6:00 pm** CST on the Sunday evening, and to depart no later than **11:00 am** CST on Saturday morning. If you're planning to drive, please consult your road atlas for the best possible route; a map of Kampsville will be sent with your enrollment packet.

Where do we meet & how will you recognize me?

All arriving participants under 18 are required to submit photo ID at the time of registration (copy of school or passport photo is sufficient). This enables us to identify students quickly & alleviates stress for both the student and staff in busy transportation centers. CAA staff also display a sign saying "Center for American Archeology" at the meeting location. Students arriving at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, Main Terminal meet CAA staff at the **Hertz Rental Car Desk**, which is located near the baggage claim area. Students arriving at the East Terminal meet CAA staff at the Baggage Claim area. Minors traveling alone may be

eligible for an airline staff escort; please contact your carrier for details and availability. Participants arriving at the Alton, IL Amtrak station meet CAA staff at the station house.

What should I bring with me?

Check your CAA Gear List! Through the years we have revised the list many times and always try to be sensitive to your most essential needs while in residence. Remember that Kampsville is very small, and has one small convenience store only!

What will I eat?

A meal plan is included in the cost of your program, and covers breakfast, lunch, and dinner unless otherwise noted (check your program description!!). For example, a week-long program starting on Monday will include breakfast, lunch, and dinner Monday through Friday. Weekend meals are not provided. Meals are served buffet-style, and include basic cafeteria food with a brown bag lunch prepared for midday.

If you have any special dietary concerns or restrictions, please notify us when you register. We will make every effort to accommodate you, but please note that specialty items (soy milk, vegan foods, gluten-, lactose-, and sugar-free foods, etc.) are difficult to procure locally—if you rely on such items, please bring them with you to supplement what is served!

Where will I sleep?

Included within the CAA campus are three dormitory buildings, and you will be assigned to one of them. Rooms are basic and furnished with bunk beds. You will need to bring your sleeping bag or linens (standard twin-size bed) with you, as specified on the Gear List. There are no single rooms available. Our dormitories are inspected and meet the criteria for approval by the Illinois Department of Health and the Illinois State Youth Camp Act. Please note that TV and internet are not available. Dorms are equipped with window fans for the summer months, and space heaters for fall & early spring.

Are young students chaperoned?

YES! School groups must be accompanied by an adequate number of adults. Individual students under 18 years of age are provided CAA chaperones 24 hours a day. Your child's safety and welfare is our most critical concern.

What care will I receive if injured or ill?

Although rural, all buildings in Kampsville are within 5 minutes of an ambulance and trained health professionals. Local doctors, dentists, nurses, and emergency technicians have provided excellent care to our staff and students for many years. Parents/guardians are notified immediately of any health issues or concerns that may arise.

Can I receive mail? Yes! Address packages/letters to:

Participant's Name
c/o CAA Education Program
P.O. Box 366
Kampsville, IL 62053

**UPS or FedEx packages must include an additional address line specifying "Broadway & Marquette Streets" on the shipping label—these services do not provide delivery to P.O. Boxes.

Can my family call me at the CAA?

Calls can be made at any time to the Main Office **(618) 653-4316** or MacDougall Dorm (618) 653-4494 and messages left with either our receptionist or on the answering machine (receptionist & answering machine available only at Main Office). Your messages will be given promptly to the student. In case of emergency, please advise the receptionist. It has been our policy to a) follow-up with students to make certain the call was returned, and b) to encourage students to notify their parents of their safe arrival in Kampsville, and to touch base with them during the week!

Due to the geography of the area, CELL PHONE service is unreliable in Calhoun County; please bring a calling card or prepaid phone card! Direct long distance service is not available at the dorms.

Should I bring spending money?

Yes! The amount depends upon the length of the program. During the summer, we sometimes take youth program participants to a local municipal pool, out for ice cream, or to the convenience store. Students staying for a longer program when weekend meals are not provided should plan to spend about \$7-10 per meal. Weekend activities for continuing students involve a trip to the laundromat, movies, grocery store, and/or local archeological sites of interest. Estimate \$25/week for most summer or residential programs. Parents are welcome to send a personal check or Traveler's checks made payable to the student. CAA staff will cash the checks for the student. Extra funds, identification needed for travel, etc. may be stored securely at the Main Office until you depart. Kampsville does have a couple of ATM machines, but usage fees are high.

Still have questions? Please feel free to contact our office at 618.653.4316