

Blake Island Participant Information

Where and when we board:

We will board at 8:30am on the day of departure at Elliot Bay Marina, 2601 West Marina Place, Seattle, WA, 98199 where we are assigned 'N' dock for boarding. VOLUNTEERS SHOULD BE THERE AT 8:00 TO PREPARE FOR OUR PARTICIPANTS ARRIVAL.

If your car will be parked in guest parking overnight, you will need to go to the marina office to get a pass to put in your window when you arrive that morning, so that it will not be towed.

The marina is doing us a favor to let us load the boats and park cars there over night, so please be considerate of their needs. Also be aware that there can be car prowls. Don't leave valuables out in the open in your parked car.

Once you've obtained your pass and unloaded, please park in guest parking as far away from the docks as possible.

Please arrange your own transportation to and from the event. Your transportation home from Elliot Bay Marina on Sunday should be available to you around 12 o'clock noon and after. You can call your ride after you load on the boat at Blake Island or before that if it's determined that your departure time has been delayed. It should take 1.5 to 2 hours to get from Blake Island to the Elliot Bay Marina. Ask your skipper if it will take longer. This should give us ample time to load the boats on Blake, make the trip to Elliot Bay and unload the boats.

Participants responsibilities for Blake Island:

1. When you arrive at the Elliot Bay Marina, please locate our dock master and dock coordinator for Blake Island or one of our volunteers. They will sign you in, check and label your gear, fit you for a life jacket and tell you which boat you have been assigned to. Please do not go onto the dock until a volunteer has been instructed to escort you to the boats. We have to give our volunteers and skippers time to stow the gear and prepare the boats for boarding. Please keep your daypack with your food, medicines and water for the sail over, with you. We don't want your lunch to be stowed away where you won't have access to it until you get to the island.

2. When we arrive on Blake Island, the volunteers will help you get your gear to the campsites. If you need help with anything (i.e. setting up tent, escorting you to the restroom, going with you on a walk, fixing your hamburger, or anything) while you are on the island, PLEASE ASK A VOLUNTEER. We have instructed them to allow you to tell them how they can help. Please make sure all your food is put in the wildlife containers as soon as it is brought to the campsite. The raccoons and crows just love to get into it. These containers keep them out. Also, make sure your tent and camp is set up before going for a walk, or before dinner.

3. We will provide dinner Saturday evening only. Volunteers can show you where and escort you there if you like.

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4. We usually have a fire and marshmallow roast later that evening with hot drinks (hot chocolate, tea, and coffee). This is dependent on the current fire restrictions in state parks.

5. If Footloose members and volunteers want to go for a walk outside of the large camp and Tillicum Village area, please let us know where you are going and when you expect to return. It is easy to get lost in the network of trails around Blake Island. If we don't know you are gone, no one will know to look for you. Please let us know when you return too .

6. On Sunday morning volunteers will make tea, hot chocolate, and coffee. Participants must make sure your tent is down and your gear is packed up and ready to be loaded on the boat, BEFORE breakfast. If you need help with your tent or gear, please ask a volunteer.

7. Our skippers are in charge of their own boats and the people on them at sea, follow their directions. Please thank them because we could not do this trip without their generous donation of their boats; their knowledge and skills; their time, and money. Also, thank our volunteers, they also make this trip possible and fun

Things to Bring to Blake Island

We will be sleeping at a campground because there is no space on the boats, if it rains we will all need shelter, so please bring a tent and sleeping bag for yourself.

Other than Saturday night's dinner: You must bring your own food that does not need refrigeration: two lunches and one breakfast (i.e. peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, muffins, breakfast bars, apples, oranges, a box of crackers and cheese, cookies, pretzels, other snacks.)

Pack these items in plastic bags, then in a strong bag with a strap. We will have to put our food in containers (provided by the rangers) at night (to keep out raccoons), and any unattended food may disappear during the day (crows!!)

Also bring your own drinks-bring what you want to drink (cannot be refrigerated) in cans or plastic bottles (**not glass!**): i.e. Gatorade, soft drinks, V-8. Powder drinks are easier to carry. Remember the best drink is water! Bring a plastic water bottle full of water.

PLEASE DON'T OFFER FOOD TO CHILDREN WITHOUT THEIR PARENT'S PERMISSION. THEY MAY HAVE ALLERGIES!

LABEL YOUR GEAR AND YOUR FOOD! Otherwise it may not end up on your boat or in your tent when you need it. If it goes back on the wrong boat, you may have to wait for the other boat to return on Sunday afternoon. The weather can be warm or chilly, so be prepared for both.

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Recommended Packing List:

tent
sleeping bag and air or foam mattress
ground pad or tarp
long sleeve cotton shirt for sun protection
warm jacket
warm shirt or sweater (any synthetic, polypropylene, capilene, synchilla or wool is warmer than cotton)
shorts
long pants
comfortable shoes
rain gear/poncho
rain-hat
sunhat (i.e. baseball cap)
sunscreen
sunglasses
toothbrush and comb
small flashlight (headlamp if you use a cane or have difficulties with balance)
full water bottle
mosquito repellent
all medications you need
Trash bag (all Trash must be taken with you off Island. Parks do not provide trash service)

Check the weather forecast on Friday night. If rain is predicted, you might want to bring extra warm clothes and rain gear. Bring 2-4 extra heavy-duty large plastic bags for emergency rain gear, and to keep your gear dry.

On the Boat

On the boat you will need your warm jacket and warm hat, rain protection, your lunch, water bottle or lunch drink, sunscreen, sunglasses and sun hat, and any medications where you can reach them, ideally in a small daypack.

Your dry clothes and lunch should be in plastic bags inside the pack.

Accessibility of the boat toilet on the trip over may be marginal or non-existent, so use the bathrooms at the marina before we leave.

Should bladder control over several hours be a problem, let me know and I'll try to put you on a boat with less gear blocking your access. Bathroom visits when sailing always require stairs!

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On Blake Island

The restrooms we use at Blake Island are wheelchair accessible (not the showers), but the path to them is on mildly uneven grass and dirt. The shortest footpath goes through fifteen feet of woods and roots and is narrow, uneven, and easy to lose in the dark. To get there over better grass and dirt paths is about 150 feet. Bring headlamps if you can, so your hands are free.

Absolutely no food can be kept in your tents, NOT ANY, unless you like sleeping with the raccoons!!! I know we keep repeating this, but it really is an issue in the tents, the campsites and even on the boats. Service dogs must be on leashes as well because of the raccoons and deer.

Roll up sleeping bags in a plastic bag, then in a tight case or pillowcase for storage.

Put your dry clothes in a plastic bag. Put food in multiple bags, plastic rather than paper (paper gets wet and will fall apart). Ideally pack all your gear in a duffel bag if you have one, and carry what you need on the boat in a small daypack.

LABEL YOUR GEAR! Many people will handle your gear on its way to the campsite.

The campsites will have fire pits and picnic tables. You may want to bring your own matches in a Ziploc bag, Firestarter, marshmallows or popcorn, paperback or small musical instrument.

The Tillicum Village store may be open, so you may want to bring checkbooks, plastic money or a small amount of cash.

For safety reasons alcohol consumption is not allowed in state parks like Blake Island or during Footloose events. Smoking and illegal drugs are not permitted on Footloose boats.

Please do not wear flip flops on the boats. It is a safety issue.

Please don't wear shoes with Black soles that may markup our skippers' boats.

I appreciate your cooperation with these issues. If you have any questions, please call me.

Bob @ 206-236-2498