



Welcome to the USS Kidd’s Overnight Camping Program

The USS KIDD (DD-661) is the centerpiece exhibit of the Veterans Memorial in the heart of downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The KIDD herself is an excellent example of the famed *Fletcher*-class destroyers of World War II. She is the only existing destroyer restored to her original World War II era configuration. The KIDD is a designated National Historic Landmark and is ranked as one of the most accurate restorations in a fleet of historic vessels that spans five continents.

Camping overnight aboard the USS KIDD is both fun and educational! You’ll gain firsthand experience of close quarters living and learn about the courage displayed by our service members as they faced German U-boats and Japanese *kamikaze* aircraft.

Inside this packet, you will find important information on how to both set up and make your overnight stay a fun and safe experience for all participants. The contents of this packet are as follows:

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Pricing and Registration



How to book: Who: Campers must be **at least six (6) years old** to even set foot aboard ship at night — **no exceptions**. Each group must contain at least twenty (20) campers. **There must be one (1) adult present per eight (8) children.**

When: Overnights are conducted seven days a week. Overnight bookings cannot be made on the following dates: July 3, July 4, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve. Group coordinators must call or email at least 30 days in advance to request a reservation.

How: Reservations may be made by calling (225) 342-1942, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., or by emailing info@usskidd.com. Inquiries for information and/or date availability do not constitute an official booking.

Payment: A deposit (\$100 for standard and for exclusive reservations) is **due 10 business days** from the date that you make your reservation. **This deposit is non-refundable.**

Payment of the remaining balance is **due 30 business days prior to your reservation date**. Individuals taking the tour only during an overnight camp must still pay the full price of \$35.00. Acceptable forms of payment include cash, check, money order or credit card.

If mailing payments, please forward them to: USS KIDD Veterans Museum, ATTN: Reservations, 305 South River Road, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802-6220. Checks should be made out to: **USS KIDD Veterans Museum.**

Dinner: Many groups have dinner delivered or choose to bring dinner; this will result in additional fees (see page 3 for more information). If you choose to eat at the USS KIDD, please let us know so our tour guides can accommodate your group. You will have to supply your own drinks. Group members must clean and pick up after themselves.

Cancellations: **All deposits are non-refundable**, though they may be transferred to a new date if the USS KIDD is given notice thirty (30) days prior to the night of your stay and if the new date requested is available. *If groups cannot make it to their reservation, the USS KIDD Reservations Department needs to be alerted at least 10 business days in advance.* Exceptions to this 10-day notice include ice on the decks and the imminent danger due to the arrival of a hurricane. In these circumstances, your group coordinator will be contacted by USS KIDD Reservation Staff. **Rainfall is not grounds for cancellation of an Overnight.**

There are no refunds for groups that arrive with fewer people than were initially booked.

Activities

Arrival: Upon arrival, your group may unload all of their gear at the front door of the museum. You will be asked to establish an accurate head count of your group.

Safety Briefing: Once all scheduled groups have arrived, your guide(s) will go over the Safety Rules with you. You will then walk to the ship and be given the opportunity to settle in and drop off your bags. A fire drill will be conducted to make you are aware of what to do and where to go in case of an emergency.

Tour: From there, your guide(s) will take you on an extensive tour where you will learn all about life aboard a World War II ship and learn about the role that destroyers played in battle. You'll also learn about Rear Admiral Isaac Kidd and why the KIDD's crew became known as "the Pirates of the Pacific." Groups may also use this time to explore the ship on their own and take supervised turns on the 20mm and 40mm guns.



Free and Educational Activities: We offer an activity, free of charge, to overnight campers. You may choose to do a "test your knowledge" type of scavenger hunt. This is optional and should be requested of your guide immediately upon arrival.

Leisure Time: After Reveille the next morning, groups are welcome to tour the exhibits in the museum at their own leisure. You can also visit our Gift Shop to look for unique souvenirs.

The ship and museum reopen to the general public at 9:30 a.m. Overnight activities officially end by 9:00 a.m.

Packing Tips

1. Pack light. Keep in mind that the more you bring, the more you will have to carry. Bring only what can be stored beneath or beside your bunk without creating an obstruction for others to walk safely because there isn't much storage space aboard the KIDD.
2. Don't put any food, drinks, candy, chewing gum, or anything edible (except medicine) in your personal gear.
3. Please note that ladders aboard a World War II destroyer are 70 degrees in angle, and you will have to move your gear up and down several ladders during your stay.

Suggested Supplies

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Medications | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Release Forms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag | <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable Sleepwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Toiletries | <input type="checkbox"/> Boardgames/cards (during free time) |

Bunking Arrangements

There are five (5) berthing compartments aboard the USS KIDD with a varied number of bunks in each space. **Each berthing compartment must have a chaperone. (1 chaperone per 8 children)**

Groups do not have to be all male or all female. However, we understand that some organizations require separate bunking for males and females. Please let our Registration Coordinator know in advance, so our tour guides can properly prepare for your arrangements.

The sleeping compartments are air conditioned or heated. (Note: be aware of the weather. Do not rely on our air conditioning if it breaks it's not grounds for cancellation)

Showering facilities are no longer available.

Food and Beverages

Food and Beverages are not allowed on ship. If you wish to eat at The USS KIDD, there will be additional fees.

Hanger deck fee: will give you access to an eating area. (\$50 no table setup)

If you do not wish to pay the extra fees, we suggest all groups eat a full meal prior to arriving at The USS KIDD for their overnight stay.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES of any kind are allowed aboard ship. There are no exceptions to this rule and violators will be promptly dismissed from the premises.

1. No food or sugary drinks are allowed aboard the ship. **YOU MAY BRING WATER.** We recommend that you do.
2. Keep water in one or two large ice chests for the group, not in individual luggage.
3. No glass containers of any kind are allowed.

Parking

Parking is available on River Road in front of the USS KIDD. (Note: we put cones out to reserve your parking.)

If there are not enough spots in front of our building you may find parking in front of Raising Cane's River Center, Parking Garages, or parking lots. ***Be aware that these spots might require payment and that you are taking a risk if you do not check.***

Please unload all children and any heavy items (overnight bags, etc.) at the museum's front door prior to parking your vehicle. ***The USS KIDD assumes no liability for losses of or damage to vehicles.***

Tentative Overnight Camping Itinerary

All times are approximate and subject to change

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 3:30 pm (Mon.-Sun) | Ship & museum close to general public |
| 5:30-6:00 p.m. | Overnight groups arrive at the museum. Remember: showing up on time translates to more time aboard ship. Groups are expected to have eaten before arrival |
| 6:00 pm | Orientation & Safety Briefing. Campers participate in evening colors |
| 6:00pm-6:30pm | Stow ice chest (water only) on Quarterdeck, move gear to the KIDD, get settled into bunks, and conduct a fire drill. |
| 6:30pm-7:30pm | Guided Tour of the USS KIDD. Flag lowering and folding ceremony depending on the time of the year. |
| 7:30pm-10:00pm | <p>Free Period: groups will decide if they would like to explore the ship, play board games, or have a scavenger hunt.</p> <p><i>At all times, we require the use of the Buddy System. All Campers must be accompanied by an adult.</i></p> <p>If you have an activity that you would like to conduct (i.e. religious devotional or service, or activities for earning merit badges, etc.), these can be done at this time, <i>so long as they have been cleared through the Reservations Department ahead of time for compliance with safety regulations.</i></p> |
| 10:00 pm | Lights Out. |
| 12:00am-6:30am | Sleep Period. No hands should be above deck except for bathroom purposes (adult or children). |
| 7:00am | Reveille. (Time to wake up). Campers participate in morning colors |
| 7:00am-7:30am | All hands pack their gear and get read to depart the ship. <i>Groups must bring their garbage with them and clean berthing spaces.</i> |
| 7:30am | All hands depart the ship with their gear and return to the museum on shore. Gift shop opens at 8:00am for purchase of souvenirs |
| 7:30am-8:30am | Campers may use this time to tour the museum and visit the Gift Shop. Overnight camp activities conclude at 8:30am |
| 8:00 am-9:30am | USS KIDD ship closes at 8:00am. By 9:00am Luggage/gear will be out of building. |
| 9:30 am (Mon-Sun) | USS KIDD Veterans Museum reopens to the public |

Overnight Camp Safety Rules

Because this ship was built in 1942 before modern-day safety practices were in effect, campers need to be attentive while on the ship. The following rules have been developed to take everyone's safety into consideration. Note: The safety rules are still in effect in the daytime and in the museum building.

Group Coordinators: Please distribute these rules to your parents.

Parents: Please go over the following rules with your children.

1. Do not wear open-toed shoes or high heels.
2. In order to prevent falls/injuries, running is not permitted in the museum or aboard ship.
3. Vandalism or theft of items from the ship will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
4. Parents are responsible for the actions of their children, whether supervised or not.
5. Restricted areas are marked, and those restrictions must be observed. We strongly recommend the use of the "Buddy System."
6. Do not push buttons, turn knobs or throw switches that you see throughout the ship, as this may result in important systems, like air conditioning or heating, being shut down.
7. Vertical ladders (straight up and down) are marked and off-limits. Do not climb them.
8. Angled ladders (or stairs) are okay to climb. Make sure shoelaces are tied, and use both hands when going down the stairs. Only one person on the stairs at a time.
9. When handling the 20mm guns aboard ship, pay attention to where you are swinging the mount. People in your vicinity can be seriously injured if a gun barrel hits them in the head. Do not unlatch anything on the 20mm gun or stick your hands in the gun's mechanism.
10. When handling the 40mm guns, do not jump off the guns. Sit down and slide off of the gun mount. Do not cross over the curved half-piping where the gun tracks are.
11. No child should be on a gun without an adult supervision.
12. No one is permitted to climb into the whaleboats.
13. Climbing on the superstructures of the ship (supporting walls, crossbeams, pipes, stanchions, watertight doors, vertical ladders, etc.) is prohibited.
14. Watch your step and duck your head!
15. Do not lean on railings or netting along the side of the ship or on the upper decks.
16. Beware of slippery or wet decks. Always keep one hand free to use for support on railings.
17. After "Lights Out," no one should be out on the Main Deck except to visit the bathroom. All children should be accompanied by an adult. Note: Our alarm system is active at this time for your protection, and wandering the ship at night will set it off.
18. Personal electronic equipment should be left at home as the ship's electrical systems were not designed for modern electronic devices (e.g., cellphones, hair dryers, etc.). Do not lean over the railing with your cellphone; you could drop it in the river.
19. Smoking is not permitted on the ship.
20. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the premises. Having alcohol aboard the ship is grounds for immediate dismissal.

I have read and understand the above safety rules. I will adhere to these rules to the best of my ability.

Parent/Coordinator: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The following Medical Release Form must be completed by a parent or guardian before entrance onto the USS KIDD. This form helps ensure that every camper receives the care and attention they need. USS KIDD Staff Members are not qualified to provide medical care. They are trained in minor first aid techniques only. This form is required for every camper under the age of eighteen (18), whether the parent/guardian is in attendance or not. Please bring this form with you on the night of your stay, and keep this form on your person for the duration of your stay.

PERMISSION SLIP

My son/daughter _____ has my permission to participate in the Group Tour and/or Overnight Camp aboard the USS KIDD in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In the event of a medical emergency, _____ has my permission to seek medical care for my son/daughter.

(____) _____ - _____
Number

_____ Emergency Contact
Signature of Parent or Guardian

Name of Insurance Provider

____ / ____ / ____
Date signed

I have read the entire information packet that has been presented to me. I take full responsibility for any damages done to The USS KIDD Veterans Museum by me or my camper during their overnight, whether that be the ship, building, or grounds.

Name

Date

RECOMMENDED & ENCOURAGED:

BRING BOTTLED WATER FOR HYDRATION

******* NOTE: THE ONLY!*******

FOOD AND OR SURGARY DRINKS NOT ALLOWED, UNLESS IT IS FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL CONSITIONS, NO ACCEPTIONS

Want to Provide Feedback After Your Stay?

We value our patrons, and we work to ensure that every overnight camper receives the best and most memorable experience they can have. If you would like to provide any feedback concerning your stay aboard the USS KIDD, we encourage you to follow-up with us via email at info@usskidd.com or to fill out the form below and mail to 305 South River Road, ATTN: Reservations, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. We welcome this feedback and use it as a chance to continue developing and expanding our Overnight Camping Program while ensuring the safety and comfort of all our patrons. Thank you for choosing to stay the night with us, and we hope you return soon.

Overnight Camp Feedback Form

Name: _____ Date of Stay: _____

Group Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Comments concerning overnight stay:

Do you plan on visiting the USS KIDD again in the future? YES NO

If no, why not?

Please forward to USS KIDD Veterans Museum Reservations Department at 305 South River Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.