



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**. Underage children *will be sent home*. 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 Eve, Thanksgiving Day,

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. *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** (\$150 for standard and \$300.00 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 \$25.00. Acceptable forms of payment include cash, check, money order or credit card.

If mailing payments, please forward 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.**

Birthday Parties: While the ship itself is not an ideal location to host a party, we can ensure a memorable birthday for your loved one. We recommend having pizza, cake, ice cream and opening presents in the Flying Tiger Room that seats approximately 30 people and is located on the first floor of the museum. For more birthday party information, please contact us at: (225) 342-1942 or info@usskidd.com.

Pizza: Many groups have pizza delivered and eat it in our Flying Tiger Room prior to heading to the ship. If you are going to be ordering pizza, please let us know so our tour guides can accommodate your group. Domino's Pizza, (225) 383-3030, is the closest delivery service available. *You will have to supply your own plates, napkins and 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 cancellations received after the 10-business day deadline.

NOTE: *We cannot guarantee available bunk space for any last-minute additions. Additional campers cannot be paid for upon arrival on the night of your reservation.*

After the final payment has been made, no campers may be added without first consulting the Reservations Department. We are not responsible for campers who pay the coordinators for their overnight stay without first having the coordinator consult the Reservations Department to determine if there is additional space and staff available. There are no refunds for groups that arrive with fewer people than were initially booked.

There may be other groups aboard ship on the night of your stay unless you book an Exclusive Reservation, which requires a **minimum of 100 participants**.

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."



After the tour, your group is welcome to eat snacks in a designated area. 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 two activities, free of charge, to overnight campers. You can choose either or both of the following: an exclusive tour of the USS KIDD's Engine Room, or a "test your knowledge" type scavenger hunt. Both of these are optional and **should be requested at the time of booking**.

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 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Overnight activities officially end by 8:30 a.m. However, your group is welcome to return to the ship during normal hours of operation, at which time they will receive free admission to the museum for the entire day.

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 foods, 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"/> Sleeping Bag | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable Sleepwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower Shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Medications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Toiletries | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Release Forms |

Bunking Arrangements

There are five (5) berthing compartments aboard the USS KIDD with a varied number of bunks in each space. Your space will be assigned to you upon arrival and will depend upon the size of each group. *We try to ensure each group has a separate sleeping compartment.*

Groups do not have to be all male or all female. However, we understand that some organizations require separate bunking for males and females. *Any requests for separate accommodations must be made when making your reservation, or your request cannot be guaranteed.*

The sleeping compartments are air conditioned or heated for the comfort of our guests.

Shower facilities are available, but you must provide your own soap, towels and washcloths. It is best to shower prior to bedtime, as time is limited for such activities during the morning.

Food and Beverages

We suggest all groups eat a full meal prior to arriving at the USS KIDD for their overnight stay. Snacks are permitted, but food is only allowed in certain designated areas.

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. *Snacks and drinks are allowed aboard the ship but only under the following conditions:*

1. No food or drinks are allowed below decks in the sleeping areas.
2. Keep all food and drink items in one or two large ice chests for the group, **not** in individual luggage.
3. All food and drinks will be consumed only in the designated areas aboard ship.
4. No glass containers of any kind are allowed.

Parking

Parking is available on River Road in front of the USS KIDD where it is marked "Visitor Parking," at the Raising Cane's River Center, or at the Belle of Baton Rouge Casino parking garage. Please unload all children and any heavy items (ice chests, 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 parked in front of the museum. The following form does not ensure parking at the USS KIDD, Belle of Baton Rouge, or Raising Cane's River Center, nor does this form ensure overnight security. We encourage all overnight visitors to post the following sign in the windshield of their cars.

USS KIDD OVERNIGHT PARKING

**This vehicle is participating in the
Overnight Camping Program at the USS
KIDD Veterans Museum.**

DATE: _____

Provided by the Staff at the USS KIDD Veterans Museum.

Tentative Overnight Camping Itinerary

**All times are approximate and subject to change.*

3:30 p.m. (Mon – Fri)	
4:00 p.m. (Sat and Sun)	Ship & museum close to general public.
6:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Overnight groups arrive at museum. <i>Remember: showing up on time translates to more time aboard ship.</i>
7:00 p.m.	Orientation & safety briefing.
7:45 - 8:15 p.m.	Move gear to the KIDD, stow food items on Main Deck, get settled into bunks, and conduct a fire drill.
8:15 - 9:30 p.m.	Guided tour of the USS KIDD.
9:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	<p>Free period -- Groups may eat snacks at this time and explore the ship on their own. At all times, however, we require the use of the Buddy System. All children must be accompanied by adults.</p> <p>Optional activities (Scavenger Hunt & Engine Room Tour) conducted at this time.</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, so long as they have been cleared through the Reservations Department ahead of time for compliance with safety regulations.</p>
12:00 midnight	Lights Out. <i>(This time may be moved up if requested)</i>
12:00 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.	Sleep period. No hands should be above deck except for bathroom purposes (adults or children).
6:30 a.m.	Reveille. (Time to wake up)
6:30 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.	All hands pack their gear and get ready to depart the ship. Groups must bring their garbage with them.
7:00 a.m.	All hands depart ship with their gear and return to museum on shore. Gift shop opens at this time for purchase of souvenirs.
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Campers may use this time to tour the museum and visit Gift Shop. Overnight camp activities conclude at 8:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	USS KIDD closes until 9:30 a.m. for cleaning and wash down of decks.

<p>9:30 a.m. (Mon – Fri)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. (Sat and Sun)</p>	<p>USS KIDD Veterans Museum reopens to the public. Overnight admission covers any additional self-guided touring through the close of business at 3:30 p.m. (Mon – Fri) and 4:00 p.m. (Sat and Sun).</p>
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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 even in the daytime and even 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, high heels, or Crocs.
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 supervising him/her.
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 permitted on the open (uncovered) areas of the Main Deck only.
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.

MEDICAL RELEASE FORM / 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.

(_____) _____ - _____
Emergency Contact Number

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Name of Insurance Provider

_____/_____/_____
Date Signed



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.



PLEASE Sign this page and return to the reservations coordinator at the USS KIDD.

I have read the entire information packet that has been presented to me. I have distributed it among parents and guardians of all campers under the age of 18, and explained that they must go over all rules and regulations with their camper. I take full responsibility for any damage to the ship done by campers during their overnight.

Name

Date