

Welcome. Border Information

U.S. and Canadian citizen children under age 19, traveling with a school group may present:

- A passport
- Original or copy of his or her birth certificate
- A Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- A Naturalization Certificate
- A Canadian Citizenship Card

Most importantly, the group should be prepared to present a letter, on organizational letterhead, with the following information:

- The name of the group and supervising adult.
- A list of the children on the trip, and the primary address, phone number, date of birth, place of birth, and name of at least one parent or legal guardian for each child.
- A written and signed statement of the supervising adult certifying that he or she has obtained parental or legal guardian consent for each participating child.

A general child consent letter: link here

Before leaving on your trip, the group leader should call the specific border crossing you will be using to give them a heads up and confirm that you have the proper documentation.

Inspection Experience:

In addition to having the correct documentation ready to present at the border, here are important tips that will shorten the time you will be talking with customs and border protection officers.

General Rules for Dealing with Border Officials

- Tell the truth.
- Be courteous. Political commentary or sarcastic comments about police powers could significantly extend your conversation with port officials.
- Only answer questions you are asked, and avoid trying to be witty.

What The Driver Should Do at a Border Crossing

- Always remove sunglasses so agents can read your eyes.
- Do not enter using a NEXUS, FAST, or READY LANE unless ALL passengers in the vehicle have that type of card in their possession.
- Make sure you have your seat belts buckled.
- You should also be prepared that the officer may want to come on-board to look around your vehicle.
- Leave suspicious items at home and only bring things that are consistent with the purpose of your travel. Empty your trunk of anything you do not need for the trip.

What Your Passengers Should Do at a Border Crossing

- Always turn off all cellphones and radios in the car.
- Roll down your front and back windows so that the border officer can see and speak to people seated in the back of the vehicle.
- Passengers should hand their passports and other ID to the driver before reaching the booth to avoid having to frantically search once you've already pulled up. All passengers must have proper documentation.

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What NOT to bring:



Who to contact if you have issues at the border:

Know Your Rights:

- Link to document: https://www.aclu.org/files/kyr/MKG17-KYR-PoliceImmigrationFBI-OnePager-English-v01.pdf
- If Customs and Border Protection's actions go beyond what's listed in the "Know Your Rights" document, email crisis@michiganimmigrant.org.
- Anyone who has his/her cell phone or laptop searched or is asked political and/or religious questions should contact Rana Elmir, Deputy Director of ACLU Michigan: relmir@aclumich.org or 313.578.6816.

Recommendations from the Detroit Team - Travel tips and advice -

- Plan for buffer time at the border and leave early
- We will make arrangements to accommodate your early arrival as necessary
- Don't bring anything on the 'what not to bring list'
- Be nice to the border officers and only answer the questions asked
- Toronto Board Members contact Hospitality chair (email/phone number in the Organizer's Guide)
- Anyone else can email: info@mistdetroit.com