

Information for traveling by boat to Canada

This information is intended to be a guide for U.S. citizens traveling to Canada by private boat. You will need a passport (recommended document), passport card (not good for international air travel), or Nexus card for travel back and forth to Canada. If your vessel measures 30 feet or more (actual length), you also need a USER FEE Decal that is issued by Customs and Border Protection.

You must immediately report to Canadian Customs when you arrive there and you will receive a reporting number that you must keep posted in your boat window during your stay.

Also, when you return to the United States, you must report to U.S. Customs and additionally, you have the obligation to report your arrival to Customs and Border Protection by either using a videophone (OARS Station), or in person at a designated Port of Entry (Toledo, Sandusky, or Cleveland). You can avoid doing either of these two requirements by possessing a current I-68 form or a current NEXUS card (For NEXUS toll-free information (U.S. and Canada) call **1-866-NEXUS 26 (1-866-639-8726)**). You will also receive a reporting number that you should keep regarding your trip. Last year (2009) people who went to Canada, reported in to Canadian Customs, and then returned to the U.S. and did not report in or were unsuccessful in using a Video Phone received letters from U.S. Customs and Border Protection that they were being warned. This year the penalties may be more severe. ***Follow the rules!***

Be aware that normal processing times for passports are 6-8 weeks. You can pay extra for Expedited Service if you need the passport sooner.

The following link will take you to the State Department's website. They are the agency that issues passports and passport cards. On this site they will advise on the procedures and processing times for these documents:

http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

The following link will take you to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website. They have the information that you need on reporting requirements, obtaining I-68 Forms or Nexus cards, and the USER FEE decal:

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure_boats/boats/

A new program has been instituted at some locations of the Cuyahoga County Public Library where you can apply for Passports. This is a link to their website for further information:

<http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/PASSPORTS.ASPX#FAQ>

As a final note, be aware that there is an increase in the enforcement of these requirements by multiple law enforcement agencies and you should not travel unless you have the proper documents and follow the proper reporting requirements.