



April 2013



Is it Spring yet? Last winter we had such an early Spring that this year we are really going stir crazy. I am not a cold weather lover. I don't know how I ever stayed in Wisconsin for so many years, but I have so we deal with the winter. This one has gone on far too long though. We actually had snow all day on April 19!

Since I'm not a fan of the cold weather, I generally stay inside most of the winter and as soon as possible, get out in the yard, on the patio, in the garden. This Spring has been so cold and wet that I have only gotten out a couple times. I'm really in need of some warm weather and an escape! Good thing we are heading out for the Oasis of the Seas sailing in just a few days!

Over the next month we will have a lot of reviews of the Oasis of the Seas and Royal Caribbean in general. Then late May, I'll be off to Disneyland for our twentieth anniversary celebration! I just love Disneyland in the Spring and am looking forward to having more time to spend in Carlsland. We'll be staying at the Disneyland Hotel for the first time so we can finally say we've stayed at all three of the Disneyland Resort Hotels.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of Travel On A Dream and look forward to assisting you with your next adventure, whatever it might be.

### **Can I Bring A Friend With Us Next Time?**

By Erin Kuzmiak

Last spring break we discussed allowing our son to bring a friend with him on our next Disney trip. After he decided who he wanted to ask, I talked to the Mom. In this case we are good friends as well. Their

family goes to Disney every few years as a multi-family trip and felt comfortable with her son traveling with us. We looked at sports schedules and decided that Spring Break 2013 was the only time that no one would have a conflict. Then he asked if he could bring another friend. I said yes. Was I nuts? I said yes to travel with three fourteen year old boys!

What should you consider when taking another kid with you on vacation?

The first thing that I considered was comfort level. How comfortable are you with the kids and the parents and vice versus. In my case, we have known them all for years and we are friends as parents as well. Before allowing my son to "ask" his friends we talked about the expense of a trip to Disney and my expectations that they work for some of the costs. I then spoke to each of the parents to see if they would be ok with the trip, any initial concerns and my expectation that the boys raise money.

Next I made sure to communicate the different ticket and meal options. Should we buy 4 or 5 day park hopper tickets? Should we add the water park and more option? We were staying at the Bay Lake Towers and would have a kitchen - would we really all go back to the room for meals? NO! So we decided we could eat breakfast in the room and the quick service plan for lunch and dinner. Since we were going at Spring Break and the parks were going to be crowded, we decided the 5 day ticket with the park hopper and water park option.

Depending on the kids ages it is best to talk about the parks and being independent. In our case the boys are 14 and going to be freshmen in high school. Each of us had a different comfort level on letting them go off by themselves. This would probably be a non-issue if all of the families were going down together.

We agreed that they would not be on the mass transportation by themselves but were free to go in the parks. Of course they each have a phone and anyone could get a hold of them as long as they heard the ring!

The most important thing that I would not travel with out is a consent letter. This is a nice document to have that is a benefit for the child traveling with you. It gives permission from the parents to let their child travel with you and to consent to medical treatment if the need should arise. Since we were flying to Orlando, our letter was very specific with flight information, hotel information and dates. They chose to have the letters notarized. I could not find anywhere that a letter like this has to be notarized since it was domestic travel, but I would recommend it. Why? Because by going through the step of having it signed in front of the Notary Public, that person is confirming by photo identification that the person signing the consent letter is who they present themselves to be. Was I ever asked for it? No.

This was a great experience for all of us. The boys enjoyed a little freedom and independence and we enjoyed going to see some shows we normally do not see like Beauty and the Beast! Would I do it again? Yes I would, the memories will last a life time for all of us.

**A New Destination...**  
By Debbie Higgins

Well, here's hoping that summer is finally coming! With that comes making plans to travel on a summer vacation with family and friends. Sometimes we look for an exotic place, or a foreign country to travel to. How about planning a vacation right here in our United States? I can think of a few great places to visit along the East Coast, and they all offer something for everyone.

Take a road trip to Maine. Drive along the coastline and take in the beaches and great seafood. Maine is also well known for their many antique stores. Drive along Route 1 and go on a treasure hunt to find your next Picasso! Don't forget to stop in York to get a Flo's

Hot Dog – rated in the Top 10 great hotdog places in America.

It could be that camping is how you like to vacation. If that's it, then stop in New Hampshire. New Hampshire has everything from beaches to camping. The White Mountains is a wonderful place to enjoy being with nature. Take a side trip to Rumney, NH to explore the Polar Caves. Try to get through the Lemon Squeeze.....I dare ya!

If you want to teach the kids some history, go to Massachusetts. Spending some time in Boston is a good history lesson while you're having fun. See what it was like for our forefathers at the Boston Tea Party, or walk the Freedom Trail all the way to Bunker Hill. After that, have some lunch at the Union Oyster House, which happens to be the oldest operating restaurant in the United States.

Give me a call or email [dj@travelonadream.com](mailto:dj@travelonadream.com) to help you plan your next family vacation.

Enjoy your summer!

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