

Bridge Instructor Standards of Excellence

The following guidelines are designed to familiarize you with the policies and procedures of COMPASS SPEAKERS AND ENTERTAINMENT INC. and the luxury cruise lines we represent. In addition, we hope the information presented will help answer some of the many questions you may have prior to sailing.

COMMUNICATION THROUGH COMPASS ONLY

The cruise line has asked that all questions pertaining to your cruise be directed to **COMPASS**. At no time should you or your travel companion contact the cruise line directly unless advised to do so by **COMPASS**.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

To assist the Cruise Director in promoting your lessons, the following information should be prepared and emailed directly to **COMPASS** as soon as possible.

Lesson Titles: Please list your lesson titles as you would like them to appear in the ship's daily program. A brief 2-3 line description should follow the title. You should be prepared to teach two lessons per sea day (unless advised otherwise) and one or two additional in case of late port arrivals or early departures. Please be prepared to host scheduled bridge play on sea days as well.

If you have sailed with us previously, you need not re-send the following information unless changes or updates are necessary.

Passenger Registration Form: This form must be completed by all persons sailing. If you have not already submitted this form to **COMPASS**, or if you need to update guest, passport or contact information, a copy is available on our website.

Biography: Approximately 100-150 words written in the third person sent via email.

Photograph: A color high-resolution photo in JPEG format (at least 300 dpi) to be emailed to **COMPASS** 90 days prior to sailing.

Supplies: Generally bridge cards, boards and bidding boxes are provided. Any additional supplies will need to be brought onboard. You should plan for there to be 25-30 participants in attendance.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS/TRANSFERS

COMPASS has access to special international **one-way air/sea marine** fares at contracted, reduced rates. One of the many benefits of these fares is their flexibility. In most cases, they are changeable/refundable subject to a nominal fee. However, please keep in mind that certain airlines often restrict mileage credit or the use of mileage for upgrades on contracted fares. If you would like us to assist you with your air arrangements, please supply us with the names of those traveling, date of birth, dates of travel, and gateway city. Please note that airfare purchased through **COMPASS** must be paid separately by check and no deviations are permitted once tickets have been issued.



Please be aware that transportation from the airport to the vessel is your personal responsibility unless advised otherwise. Post-cruise transfer arrangements may be available for purchase on board prior to disembarkation.

INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES

Please be reminded of the following increased security measures that have been put into effect in airports and ports around the world for your safety.

At Airports: Curbside check-in of baggage may not be permitted and more thorough security checks of passengers and baggage will result in longer boarding processes and possible delays. Air passengers are required to check in a minimum of two hours prior to departure time for domestic flights, and a minimum of three hours prior for international flights. Please contact your individual airline regarding baggage restrictions as they can vary significantly by carrier.

At Ports: All passengers and baggage will be subject to search by U.S. Customs or Foreign Authorities both at embarkation and disembarkation, and possibly additional screening by immigration officials. ***Please be aware that access to many ports is being restricted and that friends and relatives dropping off and picking up passengers may experience delays.***

Identification: It is extremely important that you carry a passport that is **valid for at least six months** beyond the duration of your trip. For cruises departing and returning to a U.S. port, a passport is required. Driver's licenses and voter's registration cards are NOT sufficient documentation for cruises departing and returning to a U.S. port. Expired passports are no longer accepted as proof of citizenship. For non-U.S. citizens, a passport is required.

TRAVEL INSURANCE/IMMUNIZATIONS/VISAS

Depending upon your particular itinerary, inoculations and visas may be required and are your personal responsibility. This information can be obtained directly through a reliable visa service such as **Visa Central**. You can reach them in Washington, D.C. at **1-877-535-0688** or at www.VisaCentral.com. With regard to inoculations, we recommend you contact your personal physician, the **Department of Public Health** or the **Centers for Disease Control** (www.cdc.gov) to obtain current information and expert medical recommendations for the intended itinerary. The cruise lines **require** you to obtain worldwide health and travel insurance with sufficient medical evacuation coverage prior to your departure. If you need assistance obtaining the proper plan, Compass Speakers recommends contacting **TRAVELEX INSURANCE**. We have selected Travelex specifically due to their stellar reputation, and unlike most insurance providers, they provide primary coverage. We have provided a link to their services on our website, but should you contact them by telephone or directly through the Travelex website, please use **Location Number 09-0438** so that an email confirmation of your coverage is sent automatically to our office. www.travelexinsurance.com

WHAT DO I NEED TO PACK?

It is always advisable to hold your passport, tickets, credit cards, valuables and any medications in your carry-on baggage. In addition to the above, please keep in mind that each cruise line has specific guidelines with regard to attire, which range from casual to formal. All vessels will have scheduled formal evenings when gentleman will be expected to wear tuxedos or dark suits, and ladies will want to be prepared with evening gowns or cocktail dresses.

ATTITUDE/IMPRESSION

Please remember that once on board, whenever you are in public you are “on stage.” How you conduct yourself in front of the guests will directly impact attendance at your lessons and ultimately affect your ratings. Be approachable! Let the guests discover that you are willing to share your knowledge and insight through informal conversations, as well as during scheduled lessons. Remember that you are there to enhance their cruise experience. Be satisfied with your assigned accommodations. Please do not try to change your stateroom/suite or offer to pay for an upgrade under any circumstances. Please accept your assigned seating in the dining room; your preference may not always be possible. Proper dress protocol should be observed in accordance with the Daily Program’s recommendation. With regard to your lessons, clothing appropriate to your position is expected. Remember that guests always come first. Please keep this in mind with regard to seating in public areas, entertainment events, tour disembarkation, dining arrangements and immigration procedures. Above all, please remember that this luxury cruise line has chosen to work with **COMPASS** because they want speakers, instructors, Gentlemen Hosts® and clergy who are not only consummate professionals, but who are also pleasant and easy to work with.

CRUISE DIRECTOR & STAFF

The Cruise Director is responsible for all Lecturers/Instructors/Hosts and Religious Service Leaders. Depending on the cruise line, your main contact will be the Cruise Director or a member of his/her staff. Upon getting settled in to your stateroom, please kindly leave a note at the front desk for your main contact to make them aware of your arrival. Please confirm with them that information pertaining to equipment requirements for your lessons has been received and will be available. Remember that the Cruise Director and his/her staff are responsible for numerous activities on board; therefore, please try to be as flexible and accommodating as possible.

LESSON & BRIDGE PLAY SCHEDULE

Be knowledgeable of your schedule so you are able to answer inquiries from guests, and please refrain from asking to be rescheduled from assigned locations and times. Please check the Daily Program (delivered to your stateroom each evening) to make sure there have been no changes to your originally scheduled time and location, and remember to be aware of **time zone changes**. Please be fully prepared and at the assigned location 20 minutes prior to the commencement of your lessons/bridge play. Please ensure that the duration of each presentation does not exceed the time allotted, if there are other activities scheduled directly after your own.

AMENITIES

Full dry-cleaning and laundry services are offered and will be billed to your onboard account. Self-service washers and dryers are also available on some of the vessels we represent.

All staterooms and suites feature 110/220 volt outlets.

All vessels have medical facilities equipped to provide care for illness and accidents. Official currency on board all vessels is the U.S. Dollar. Please note that charges for services and products purchased on board the ship must be reconciled prior to disembarkation. Please check the website of the cruise line you will be sailing on to note acceptable methods of payment (credit cards and cash accepted on most).



GRATUITIES

Gratuities are the responsibility of the Instructor and/or their guest unless otherwise advised.

REMUNERATION

You should not expect offers of remuneration or compensation, resulting from problems encountered by the vessel, to be extended to you or your companion.

COMMENT FORMS

At the end of each cruise a quality assurance questionnaire is distributed to all guests onboard or via email. Please **do not** complete this survey. Please submit any comments/suggestions in your COMPASS post-cruise report. Depending upon your position, your name and expertise may be included in the quality assurance questionnaire. At no time should you ever mention these "ratings" to guests in advance of their distribution, nor should you ever solicit ratings from guests. If you have been successful in socializing with guests and offering the best possible program to increase their enjoyment and enrichment on board, your ratings will reflect that.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT

Guests, crewmembers and other lecturers/instructors will often inquire about the financial aspect of your booking arrangements. Please **do not**, under any circumstance, discuss or exchange this information. Simply state that your engagement was coordinated through **COMPASS SPEAKERS**. It has been our experience that disclosure of this information inevitably leads to uninformed comparisons and creates an uncomfortable situation for all involved.

CRUISE REPORT

Upon your return home we would appreciate you sending us a brief report on your trip including but not limited to: the name of the Cruise Director, the number of lessons given, Duplicate Bridge play attendance, your perceptions of your performance, any difficulties encountered, if weather (i.e. rough seas) was a factor, information you think might be helpful to future instructors, etc. This report can be emailed at your earliest convenience.

FUTURE BOOKINGS

The cruise line will contact us directly with regard to the ratings and comments received pertaining to your performance. We will use this information, in conjunction with your cruise report, to determine future bookings.

IMPORTANT: One of our many responsibilities as an agent is to alleviate the ever increasing number of inquiries the cruise line receives regarding instructor positions. Therefore, all inquiries pertaining to subsequent bookings should be directed to **COMPASS ONLY**. Please be advised that any direct contact with the cruise line will jeopardize future bookings.

In closing, we thank you in advance for your adherence to these Compass Standards of Excellence, and hope you will feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. All of us at COMPASS SPEAKERS AND ENTERTAINMENT INC. wish you and your guest a pleasant and safe journey. We hope you enjoy yourselves and make the most of this fabulous travel opportunity!