



The Sphinx

An American Citizen Services Quarterly Newsletter

U.S. Embassy Cairo

Volume 1 Edition 2

March 2015

American Citizen Services (ACS)

8 Kamal El Din Salah Street
Garden City, Cairo

(20-2) 2797-3300 (24 hour number
for emergencies* only)

*ACS emergencies include: arrests,
hospitalizations, welfare and where-
abouts requests, child custody cases,
repatriations, lost and stolen pass-
ports, and deaths.

For all other services, including
passport renewals, consular reports
of birth abroad, and notarial re-
quests, please send an email to:
ConsularCairoACS@State.gov

U.S. Embassy Cairo is not a Federal
benefits post. For all Federal bene-
fits questions please contact U.S.
Consulate Jerusalem directly at:
FBU.Jerusalem@SSA.gov



Egyptian Emergency Services Numbers

122 Police and Fire Department

123 Ambulance

140 National Phone Directory

16000 Child Emergency Line

Welcome Remarks from U.S. Ambassador R. Stephen Beecroft



It is a great pleasure for me to introduce myself to you as the U.S. Ambassador in Egypt. I was born in Utah, raised in California, have spent a good deal of my career in the Middle East, and could not be happier to be in Egypt. I arrived in mid-December and have already had the opportunity to travel in this beautiful, fascinating country. I have been proud to learn of the work the United States has done over many decades partnering with Egypt to preserve its extraordinary cultural heritage. I have also been very impressed by the work that you private American citizens living in Egypt do through your business, academic, and personal activities to forge the interpersonal links between the American and Egyptian peoples that are the true foundation of sound bilateral relations.

The United States' relationship with Egypt is extremely important and multi-faceted. I am pleased to see that thanks to the good work of my predecessors and to your daily good work as ambassadors for our country's values, the relationship between the United States and Egypt is a strong one. I look forward to making it even stronger and I look forward to meeting you and working with you to build an ever more meaningful, durable partnership between the United States and Egypt.



ACS Services

Hours of operation are 9:00 to 15:00; Sunday-Wednesday.

We Want to Hear From You!

In an effort to improve our services, the ACS section would like for you to please take a few minutes to fill out and submit the customer survey found [here](#). We appreciate your feedback, and will always continue to seek ways to serve you better.



Helping Hands

Are you a U.S. citizen living in or near Luxor, Hurghada, New Cairo, or 6th of October in Giza? Would you like to help serve other U.S. citizens in your community?

The U.S. Embassy in Cairo is looking for new volunteers to serve as Consular Wardens! Wardens assist consular sections in disaster preparedness by alerting U.S. citizens to emergency situations and passing on information. They are a valuable asset for sharing key information to and from the local U.S. citizen community in Egypt.

If you are interested in participating in this volunteer program, and live in one of the areas mentioned above, please email CairoConsularACS@state.gov with information about yourself, what languages you speak/read (Arabic, in addition to English, is preferred, but not required), and why you are interested in serving as a warden.

An Introduction to the Office of Children's Issues and the Egyptian Good Intentions Subcommittee

The Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs, Directorate for Overseas Citizens Services, Office of Children's Issues (CI) provides assistance in cases of international parental child abduction. For U.S. citizen parents whose children have been wrongfully removed to or retained in Egypt, CI can provide information and resources about country-specific options for pursuing the return of an abducted child. For U.S. citizen parents whose children have been wrongfully removed to or retained in the United States, CI can provide general information and resources about international parental child abduction, including reaching a voluntary resolution and mediation, obtaining legal counsel, and pursuing civil and criminal remedies in the United States. CI can be contacted by phone at: +1 202-501-4444 (if calling from abroad) or 1-888-407-4747 (if calling from the U.S. or Canada). You may also reach the Office of Children's Issues by email at: AskCI@state.gov.

If you or your child hold Egyptian citizenship, you may also consider contacting the Egyptian Good Intentions Subcommittee (GISC). The GISC provides mediation services directly to parents involved in international parental child abduction cases. Mediation is voluntary and both parents must agree to participate. The Egyptian GISC can be reached by phone at: (202) 2 795 6059.

Advice for Living in Egypt

It's Tax Time – Don't be Late!

Good News! If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an automatic 2 month extension to file your return and pay any amount due without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15.

More Good News! Taxpayers with an AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) within a specified threshold can electronically file their tax return for free using [freefile](#).

If you are looking for more information about filing your taxes overseas, please visit this Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [website](#). Or, if you have a specific tax questions for the IRS, send an e-mail [here](#).

FYI - You must express the amounts you report on your U.S. tax return in U.S. dollars. If you receive all or part of your income or pay some or all of your expenses in foreign currency, you must translate the foreign currency into U.S. dollars. Daily exchange rates can be found at [Foreign Currency and Currency Exchange Rates](#). Yearly average currency exchange rates for most countries can be found at [Yearly Average Currency Exchange Rates](#).



In the second of a continuing series, ACS will give you tips for living in Egypt.

Purchasing and Registering a Used Vehicle in Egypt

Steps:

- 1) Obtain a bill of sale from the seller from an Egyptian notary office. The fees for this service are usually paid by the buyer, and the fees vary according to the make and number of cylinders of the vehicle.
- 2) Check that the seller has a valid registration for the vehicle, and obtain the registration from him/her.
- 3) The seller should provide you with a non-violation report to demonstrate that all tickets have been paid.
- 4) Go to your local traffic department, with all of the documents mentioned above, the vehicle and the existing plates in order to register the vehicle.



Travel

Changes Announced to Egyptian Tourist Visa Procedures beginning May 15

According to recent statements by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, after May 15 individual tourists will no longer be able to acquire a visa upon arrival in Egypt. The Foreign Ministry stated that this change will not affect travelers arriving with organized tour groups or foreigners living in Egypt.

Egyptian government sources indicated that individual tourists will now need to apply for their visa at their local Egyptian embassy or consulate in order to acquire the necessary visa before travelling to Egypt.

Please monitor the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism website [here](#) for updates and further details regarding this change in policy. Additional information can be found [here](#) on the web page of the Embassy of Egypt in the United States.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Sign up with the Department of State when you travel, both here in Egypt and elsewhere outside the U.S.

Signing up for STEP allows you to receive important information from the U.S. Embassy, allows ACS to contact you and/or your relatives in the event of an emergency, and allows you to receive timely warden and security messages via email.

Be a smart traveler, enroll in STEP!



Visa Page Inserts Ending January 1, 2016

In a change affecting U.S. Embassies worldwide, U.S. Embassy Cairo will no longer accept applications for visa page inserts (extra passport pages) as of January 1, 2016. The State Department has decided to end the practice of issuing visa page inserts after a thorough consideration of the security and customer service aspects of this policy. While the Department understands the inconvenience this change may cause frequent travelers, the visa page inserts are being phased out because they pose a security vulnerability. Please plan accordingly and visit the Embassy website if you would like to schedule an appointment to add visa pages before this change comes into effect.

<http://egypt.usembassy.gov/consular/appntmnt.html>

Kids' Corner



SPRING IS HERE!...and it's a great time to learn about some fun American spring traditions!

Cherry Blossoms

One of the most famous festivals marking the arrival of spring in the United States is Washington D.C.'s National Cherry Blossom festival. This celebration of spring and the special friendship between Japan and the United States attracts an estimated 1 million visitors annually. This annual festival includes parades, art exhibitions, and film showings. The first festival celebrating Japan's gift of cherry trees was held by a group of American schoolchildren who re-enacted the initial planting in 1927.



The first cherry blossom trees arrived in Washington D.C. in 1912, when Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo presented two trees to President William Howard Taft. Today, Washington D.C. has more than 3,700 cherry blossom trees. The 100th anniversary of this festival in 2012 was commemorated on the U.S. postage stamp featured above, which portrays the beauty of Washington D.C.'s cherry blossoms in bloom.

Baseball

Nothing signifies the onset of spring in America more than the start of baseball season. Between "Opening Day" on Sunday, April 5th and the end of the regular season in September, 30 baseball teams will play 162 games each. Attending baseball games is a favorite summer pastime for many families, and each ballpark has its own fun traditions. For example, the Chicago Cubs sing the classic "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," in the middle of the seventh inning, and each game at Nationals Stadium in Washington, D.C. features the Presidents' Race, in which four people dressed as the U.S. presidents George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt, race each other. The San Francisco Giants are the reigning World Series champions; however, the New York Yankees hold the record for most World Series wins, with 27 championships. The first World Series was won by the Boston Red Sox in 1903. While baseball was invented in America in 1845, it is popular in many countries throughout the world, including Japan, Cuba, and Venezuela.



Community Resources

Would your community organization like to be listed in *The Sphinx*? If so, send us an email with the name and contact information for your organization, along with a brief description of your activities, and your information could appear in this spot in the next issue!

ACS will be closed on the following dates for local and Federal holidays:

April 13, 2015

April 25, 2015

May 1, 2015

May 24, 2015

July 5, 2015

July 17-18, 2015

July 23, 2015



TOEFL/SAT/GRE/GMAT Testing In Egypt

Many colleges and universities in the United States require standardized test scores as part of any student's application for admission. If you or your child would like to take one of these tests, please visit the following links below for information on where and how to take the tests here in Egypt.

[SAT](#)

[TOEFL](#)

[GRE](#)

[GMAT](#)

Want to be in the next issue of *The Sphinx*? Email us:

Consular-CairoACS@State.Gov

Don't Miss It—D-CAF

Downtown Contemporary Arts Festival (D-CAF) is Egypt's only international multi-disciplinary contemporary arts festival that takes place over three weeks in March-April each year, at multiple sites in Downtown Cairo. There are a lot of fun, interesting cultural events going on through April 9. For tickets, please visit the D-CAF website [here](#).

