

People! We are traveling to CANADA!! ✈️ 🚗

Do you need a passport? Um, ya. It's a different country.

If you already have a passport, is it in date (i.e. NOT expired)?

To find the answers to all things U.S. Passparty, check out the website: www.travel.state.gov

[disclaimer: the following information is a layperson's summary, it is the responsibility of the traveler to obtain the proper documentation]

Obtaining a passport is not something that can wait 'til the last minute. Once you apply, it takes 4-6 weeks for the passport to arrive. An expedited passport can take as little as two weeks, but you have to pay extra \$\$.

A passport [book] will set you back about \$110. (Yeah, not cheap.) If you plan on driving or sailing to Edmonton (there's a river nearby, right?) you can get by with a passport [card] for \$30. **NOTE:** if you will be flying across the border (in an airplane, not a slingshot), you must have the passport [book].

To apply for a passport, you need documents. Something that proves your country of origin- like a birth certificate and something with a photo- like a driver's license. Then you need to submit a photo of yourself- preferably one that strips all the personality. No glamor shots or pictures of you and favorite pet. Oh and there's a new rule- no glasses (especially the ones with the fake nose and mustache). You know...boring!

Take all the paperwork to your local passport office. Usually the post office offers that service or maybe a local courthouse. You'll hand them your application and documents...and the money. Then you go home and wait...and wait...and wait. And one day, when you've given up all hope, it will show up in the mail along with any original documents you had to submit.

Renewing your passport is only slightly easier. You can mail in an application with your old passport or you can have the passport office process the renewal for you. Either way, they do want a new photo and money. (Of course).

Viola! Canada here we come!