

A Guide to having fun and staying safe at MTN Bushfire

Information from Waterford Kamhlaba school newsletter (19 May 2017)

MTN Bushfire Festival – May 26th – 28th

MTN Bushfire festival takes place on the weekend of 26 to 28 May 2017. This is Swaziland's internationally acclaimed three day music, theatre, poetry, dance and visual arts festival. For more information on this festival, please visit www.bush-fire.com

In order to manage the safety of our students over the Bushfire weekend, the school has considered the following:

IB students who are exeating the residences for the entire weekend, must have permission from their parents to attend parties and events (this is given by the parents / guardians on the signed Contract of Enrolment form - see clause 82.2 of the General Information Brochure - when the students joined Waterford Kamhlaba). Many of these students will be camping or staying at back packers or youth hostels over the weekend.

Students in **forms 1 to 5** who are boarders and who are planning to attend Bushfire will not be allowed to camp or stay at back packers and youth hostels. They will only be allowed to sign out to homes of friends or link parents, provided that they have parental permission for this specific event and that this permission is received by their Head of Residence. For those students who are not signing out for the weekend, but have parental permission to attend Bushfire on Saturday May 27th, **Waterford will provide transport which will depart from school at 10:15am and depart again from MTN Bushfire at 8:15pm.**

Students will be briefed by staff on safety measures that are advisable at MTN Bushfire. They will also be provided with the cellphone numbers of a number of staff members, and students are encouraged to contact any of these staff members, if they or any other student from Waterford needs assistance.

Parents are asked to consider the following before giving permission for their child to attend MTN Bushfire:

- Clause 55 from the General Information Brochure states "An Exeat is formal College permission for the temporary absence of a student from campus, **without staff supervision**" and
- Clause 56 "The rules governing exeats are taken very seriously by the College due to the safety concerns of the student."

Some Tips on how to take care of yourself

- Make sure you are well fed / hydrated (water preferably!) and wear sun cream and a hat!
- Bring a jacket. Swaziland cools down very quickly in the evening.
- Water. Drink it. Lots of it.
- Bring a small set of wet wipes and tissues – shared portable toilets!
- Take some ID, cash and your phone, but leave other valuables at home.
- Download a torch app on your phone to help you find your way around when it's dark.
- Stay with your group of friends.
- Never leave your drinks unattended or pick up someone else's drink.
- Do not bring too much or wear too much bling.
- You don't have to drink alcohol to have fun.
- Info directly from the MTN Bushfire organisers – "The law states that alcohol is strictly for people over the age of 18 and individuals who fail to provide ID when asked, will be refused sale at MTN Bushfire"
- Don't do anything you will regret later.
- Be aware that the national press will be at the event. Do not let people take pictures of you without your permission.
- Give your parents or Head of Residence the names and numbers of at least two of your friends in your group.
- There is a medical tent at Bushfire. You will receive a map at the event.

Transport

- Ensure that you have arranged a ride home.
- Remember that for boarders from form 1 to 5, who have parental permission to attend Bushfire, there will be transport on Saturday only from Waterford at 10:15am & back from Bushfire at 8:15pm. Do not be late for the bus!

Festival Tips

1. **You won't see every band. Don't try to.** Go into the festival knowing that you will not be able to see every single performance. Try to prioritize a handful of bands each day. But most importantly, don't be that person who pushes everyone to get to the front of the stage. If you really like the band, sacrifice a show to reserve a spot close to the stage.
2. **Know that you might lose your friends.** Finding your friends is always an issue at festivals. Much like knowing that you most likely won't see every artist you want to, be prepared to not be able to meet up with every friend that is also in attendance at the festival.
 - ✓ Wear/carry around something that will stand out. If you are looking for a friend, it is a lot easier to find that person if he/she is wearing a loud neon hat, orange wig or something like that!
3. Make sure you meet near a landmark. Texting a friend "I'm in the front!" Or "I'm towards the right!" doesn't help — be very specific. Say "I am standing at speaker A2" or "At the front right corner of the soundbooth." The more specific, the better.
4. **Watch your phone battery.** Phone battery is precious commodity at music festivals. Here are a few suggestions to help your battery last longer.
 - ✓ Make sure all unnecessary applications aren't running. Facebook can wait until after the weekend.
 - ✓ Turn off features that you won't be using, such as wifi, bluetooth and data. You won't be able to whatsapp, but your battery will survive.
 - ✓ Get a portable battery charger for your phone.
5. **Be respectful to your fellow festival-goers.** They paid the same amount of money as you, so ensure that everyone gets to enjoy themselves. Keep your volume down during a set (particularly quiet sets) - you are probably talking a lot louder than you realize!
6. **Make friends and have fun!** Festivals are some of the happiest places one can be, and the mood / attitude of the people attending totally reflects that. If you're waiting in line for something or for a band to come on stage, talk to someone!

Important Contact Numbers of Waterford staff

If you or a fellow Waterford student has found themselves in a bad or dangerous situation and need assistance over the weekend, please call one of the following members of staff, who will be able to assist you.

Mr King – 7602 1565	Mr Wekesa – 7647 9810
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Have fun and stay safe!