

Q: How are student groups determined?

A: After the holiday, a class meeting will be held to review details of the trip. At that time, students will be able to turn in their group of 4 (yes, it has to be 4). Each member has to agree to be in the group.

Q: What if there are more than 4 friends who want to be a group together?

A: Look to create 2 groups of 4, or 8 friends altogether. While each room will have 4 students, groups of 8 will be assigned to a single chaperone and will be on the same bus. They will be together for the entire trip, except for the hours sleeping.

Q: What if you have only 3 or 2 for a group?

A: We have to fill student rooms. We will work with each group that is less than 4 to find students compatible for rooming. Final assignments will be made by the principal.

Q: What is the responsibility of a chaperone?

A: Chaperones are an invaluable asset to a successful trip. Chaperones are assigned one or two groups of students (4 or 8 students) and are responsible to plan the 2<sup>nd</sup> day activities with their group(s), ensure that students are supervised, safe, and on-time to each event. Chaperones ensure that their students are behaving appropriately, taking care of themselves (eating correctly), and being attentive and respectful. In other words, acting like a Highland student! There will be 20 or so teachers on the trip along with a principal and 2 representatives of the tour company to make sure everyone has what is needed for an educational, successful and fun trip.

Q: How are rooms assigned in the hotel?

A: For the most part, boys and girls are assigned to different floors. Chaperone rooms are assigned throughout each floor so that there is an adult room in close proximity to student rooms.

Q: Is there security at the hotel?

A: Yes. We contract with a security company. There are security personnel on each floor from 10:30 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.

Q: What happens on the second day of the trip?

A: Day 2 is what makes the trip so personal and memorable for our students. Together with their chaperone, student groups get to plan exactly the places they are going to visit. There are so many sites around the National Mall area. Here's a web site to get you started:

<http://dc.about.com/cs/sightseeing/a/OntheMall.htm>

Q: How can I plan for the second day (Thursday) that isn't so exhausting?

A: Plan ahead of time. Use a map to plan when and where to cut down on walking time. Use the subway to cover long distances.

Q: How do you obtain tickets for popular attractions in D.C.?

A: Conduct an Internet search for the site and check their policies. Many sites sell out months in advance. Also, contact your federal representative or senator for ticket help if your group is interested in touring the White House or Capitol Building

Q: How can I keep group disagreements down to a minimum?

A: Pay close attention to your group on the bus, while visiting sites, and in the hotel. Let them know you are there to make their trip spectacular. Your level of excitement and enthusiasm will create long-lasting, positive memories. Also, take an active interest in all group members!

Q: Why the Marine Museum on day 2 (Thursday)?

A: The Marine museum will take the full morning of day 2. It involves a bus ride to Quantico, Virginia. The interactive museum is a must for those who hold a love of military history, especially Marine history.

Q: Where can I shop for inexpensive souvenirs?

A: The area around Ford's theater has many shops that sell inexpensive items. You can visit the theater museum where Lincoln was assassinated and shop after.

Q: What do you recommend I see?

A: In addition to visiting D.C.'s many museums, try to see one "big" attraction like Congress, the Supreme Court, the White House, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, the Washington Monument or the National Archives to see the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Discussing ideas with your group will lead to a great experience for all.

Q: How much money should I send with my child?

A: \$50, they'll have plenty and probably bring home 'change'.

Q: Can we change group members?

A: Once groups are set, they are set. Pick your groups carefully and make sure they are friends that you see traveling together when the trip arrives.

Q: Can we get tickets online or are they provided by the tour company?

A: Tickets will be provided for those groups interested in the Washington Monument and Holocaust Museum. Other sites such as the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Newseum, FBI Museum, National Aquarium require tickets that can be purchased on-line. In some cases, tickets can be picked up on the day of the visit.

Q: How does my child get into a group?

A: Students will sign up in groups of 4. It is important to note that rooms are assigned to each group of 4 students (a quad room), and each room has 2 double or queen size beds. There are 2 chaperones per room (2 double or queen beds), and chaperones can select their roommate.

Q: Does there have to be 4 students in a group?

A: Yes.

Q: Who will their chaperone be?

A: Typically, parent chaperones are assigned to the group(s) with their child. Teacher chaperones are assigned to groups of students. All student groups have a specific chaperone who is directly responsible for them.

Q: Can my child bring food and drinks?

A: Light snacks for the bus and the room is permitted. Crackers, water, granola bars, etc. No dairy products are allowed on the tour bus. Three full meals are provided each day.

Q: What about medications for my child?

A: Prescription and non-prescription medications are dropped off to the office the week prior to the trip. The chaperone is then provided the medication along w/ directions on dispensing. Chaperones must carry all medications, prescription and over-the-counter. Emergency medical information sheets are required of each student attending the trip and are maintained by the chaperone.

Q: Are cell phones allowed on the trip?

A: Absolutely. However, they are expected to be 'off' during touring times so that student attention is directed to toward the guide &/or site that is being visited.

Q: What about other electronic devices?

A: Audio players (Ipod, MP3, etc.) can be brought on the trip. Game devices (PSP, PS3, DS systems) cannot.