



WASHINGTON, D.C.

TRIP HANDBOOK

2027

INTRODUCTION

Students from our area have been taking the Washington, D.C. trip since the early 1950's. While the program has grown and the equipment has improved, one thing has remained the same. The students have found it a fun and educational trip.

Our bus has several chaperones. For a safe and enjoyable trip, it is important that students follow the instructions of these chaperones. We have always been proud of the compliments we receive regarding our student's behavior. This is due in part to the student's cooperation with their chaperones.

The information in this booklet is an accumulation of tips and observations gained from years of experience. Listen to your chaperones and follow the tips in this booklet and this may be one of the best trips you have ever taken.

BUDDY PLAN

During the entire trip, each student is required to be with at least one “buddy”. They must **NEVER** go anywhere, even to the restroom, alone.

BUSES

You will be traveling on an air-conditioned restroom equipped passenger bus. Each bus has a fleet number. At times there will be several buses together. Memorize the number to avoid confusion at the stops.

The restroom on the bus is for emergency use. We will take a break every few hours. This is a good time to use the restroom because the one on the bus has a way of reminding us it is back there if used too frequently.

CAMERAS

It is important to be familiar with the operation of your camera. Install fresh batteries before the trip. It is a good idea to bring the charger with for all digital cameras. A neck or wrist strap is handy and helps avoid dropping the cameras.

Remember, flash photography through the windows of the bus produces only a picture of glare on glass. After dark there is no flash photography allowed on the bus because it interferes with the driver’s ability to see.

Pictures of sites we visit are sometimes more interesting with you or your friends in the foreground. Chaperones can help in these situations. Lastly, remember that postcards are available at most sites. This is a way to guarantee your picture will turn out!

CHAPERONES

The chaperones will be parents of students on the trip and a school staff member. Students need to remember that the chaperones are in charge. You need to follow their instructions.

When we are at the hotel, each student will have the phone number of their chaperone’s room. If you have a problem, simply call your chaperone.

CLOTHING

The clothing that you wear to school is generally appropriate in Washington. If the head chaperone feels that the clothing you have on for the day is inappropriate, you will be asked to change.

Generally, the weather is somewhat warmer in Washington than in Wisconsin. While shorts and light tops are a good idea, keep in mind that we have encountered cool, rainy weather in the past. We urge you to have long pants, a light jacket or sweater and a raincoat available.

The most important item regarding clothing is shoes. This is not a good time to break in new shoes.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

You will be staying at the hotel for two nights. Generally students are assigned four to a room and chaperones sleep in double rooms.

You are responsible for keeping your room in order. Chaperones will be checking your rooms before we leave the hotel each morning. Damaged and missing items will be billed to the parents of each of the people occupying the room.

Everyone will be in his or her assigned room within 15 minutes after we return to the hotel. We expect the lights to be out and the room quiet no later than 10:30 PM. Remember, we are only a handful of guests in the hotel. We need to be courteous to all hotel personnel and other guests.

The phones in your rooms are only for calling chaperones if you have a problem. They are not to be used to call your friends in another room.

In the event of an emergency, we will immediately call parents and if you need to get in touch with your child call Mrs. Reigel at 608-386-6745 or leave a message at the hotel and we will call you. Students are not allowed out of their rooms without an adult.

While we expect the students to cooperate with all the chaperones during the entire trip, the hotel is the place we ask the students to exhibit the most maturity.

LABELING

It is a good idea to label things like phones, cameras, luggage and electronics. Some people simply use stick-on address labels that many families have for envelopes.

LUGGAGE

We recommend a medium-sized suitcase and a small “carry-on” bag. Although you need to pack for both hot and cold weather, you will want to travel light. Remember, you will have to carry your own luggage. Your main bag will be loaded under the bus before we leave and you will not see it again until Thursday evening. It is a good idea to have your camera, a clean shirt, and anything you will need while traveling, or during the first day, in your carry-on bag. Most people use things like a book bag or back pack for the carry-on. Remember you won’t have access to the bag under the bus until we reach the hotel. This is after we have toured part of Washington.

MEALS

A few of our meals are pre-ordered. At other times you will be given a voucher or an allotted amount of money for that meal. As often as possible, we eat at places that offer a wide selection and should satisfy any taste.

MEDICATIONS

If you take medication of any kind, you must notify Mrs. Reigel. Your medical release form should have instructions regarding medications you need. Medications should be given to Mrs. Reigel or your attending parent.

MOTION SICKNESS

If you are susceptible to motion sickness, your parents may want to consider sending one of the over the counter medications for you. Generally Mrs. Reigel has motion sickness tablets available, but will only dispense them with permission from your parents.

PHONES

Mrs. Reigel will have a cell phone on at all times. (608)386-6745 If you need to contact your student you can call at any time. Students may bring their own phones but will be expected to use them appropriately. Keep in mind that there is always the possibility of it getting lost. Most chaperones have a phone with them also. The phones in the rooms are only to call the chaperones if you need them. They are not for calling friends in other rooms.

RADIOS

Mrs. Reigel will control the use of the radio on the bus. Please bring headphones for your music source and remember to label with your name. Electronics (other than cameras and phones) must be left on the bus while touring.

SEPARATION FROM GROUP

In over 40 years of organizing this trip, we have never had anyone get lost. This record is a result of students doing a great job of following instructions. If you do become separated from the group, you won't be alone (refer back to "Buddy System"). You and your friends will find National Park Rangers, policemen, and security personnel at nearly every site. They will assist you. When we determine that people are missing from the group, the first place we will check is with the people in charge of security at that particular site.

You will also be given a card, which you will wear on a lanyard around your neck at all times during the trip, with Mrs. Reigel's phone number. Tell her the location you are at and then REMAIN THERE until we locate you. In an emergency, the chaperones will use the hotel as a message center.

SNACKS

You may bring snacks in your carry-on but please be selective. There will be **NO GUM** allowed on the ENTIRE TRIP! There will be nothing to drink on the bus except water.

We have no objections to snacks being packed in the bag under the bus. You will have access to these items when we reach the hotel. On the bus it is difficult to deal with spilled pop, gum on the floor or seats and kids who are ill from eating too much junk food. Gum is forbidden at numerous monument sites throughout the city as well.

SOUVENIRS

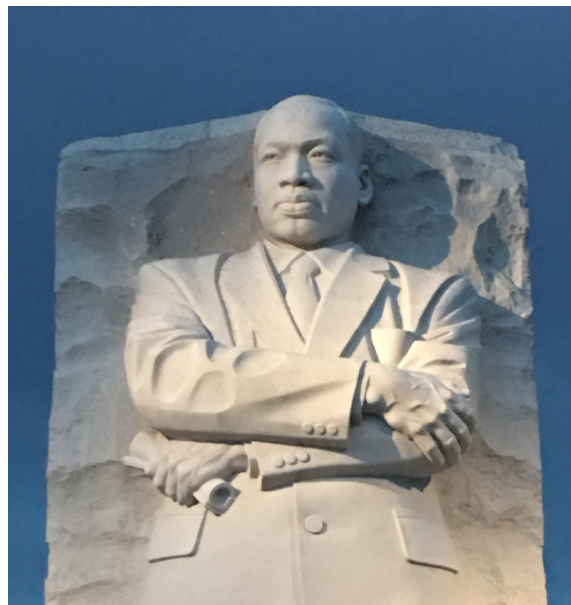
Souvenirs are available from both sidewalk vendors and established stores. Be a cautious shopper. Compare prices, look for second quality merchandise, and count your change before you leave the counter.

NOTE

Laser pointers are not allowed in school and are therefore not allowed on this trip. If one is found on a student it will be confiscated and it will not be returned.

SPENDING MONEY

Every year the question is asked: “How much money should my youngster take?” Please take into consideration that all transportation, lodging, special admissions, and most meals are paid for by your advance payment. It has been our experience that most students try to spend whatever amount they have. We will have very little problem with debit cards, but personal checks are not accepted. It is a good idea to put money in envelopes to portion it and keep some in the luggage under the bus.



CHECKLIST

THE ITEMS ON THIS CHECKLIST ARE RECOMMENDED ITEMS. HOWEVER, SPECIFIC ITEMS MAY BE ADDED OR DELETED DEPENDING ON INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS.

- _____ TOOTHBRUSH
- _____ TOOTH PASTE
- _____ DEODORANT
- _____ BRUSH OR COMB
- _____ PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS
- _____ UNDERCLOTHES (3 OR 4 SETS)
- _____ CASUAL CLOTHES (3 OR 4 SETS)
- _____ MEDICATION AS REQUIRED**
- _____ SWEATER OR SWEATSHIRT
- _____ RAINCOAT
- _____ PAJAMAS
- _____ JACKET (REQUIRED)
- _____ TIMEPIECE (REQUIRED)
- _____ SPENDING MONEY
- _____ CAMERA

****ALL MEDICATIONS MUST BE “CHECKED IN” WITH MRS. REIGEL****



FACTS ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS WE MAY SEE

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The cemetery is located on land that was once the home of Robert E. Lee before the Civil War. Northern generals angered at Lee's allegiance to the South, ordered 3,500 soldiers killed early in the war buried in his rose garden. The Custis/Lee mansion still stands on a hill overlooking John F. Kennedy's grave. Arlington is still an active cemetery with several funerals a day. While at Arlington, we will visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier along with other sites important to our nation's history.

FORD'S THEATRE

April 14, 1865, President Lincoln was assassinated while attending a performance here. The building is still used as a theater. The Presidential box has been preserved and the basement contains a museum.

GETTYSBURG

July 1, 2, 3, 1863, marked one of the most tragic battles ever fought. This battle had a special significance to our area. In the first days of the Civil War, a group of men from the LaCrosse area volunteered to serve. They formed a unit known as the 2nd Wisconsin Regiment. This group was merged into what would become known as the "Iron Brigade". On July 1, 1863, the Union Army was spread over a large area around Gettysburg. The Iron Brigade was one of the first units to have contact with the Confederate Army. They tried to hold back the Confederate Army until the Union could form lines. This was done at great cost. By the end of the first day of fighting, the Iron Brigade ceased to exist.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL

The memorial to Abraham Lincoln is located near the Potomac River. The 36 columns represent the number of states in the Union when he died. (See if you can find Wisconsin).

MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL

Sometimes referred to as the Iwo Jima statue, this is the Marine Corps Memorial to all of its personnel lost in battle.

MOUNT VERNON

George Washington's brother Lawrence established the estate in 1743. George assumed control of the estate after the death of his brother. Our first president is buried in a vault on the grounds.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

This beautiful building houses the Gutenberg Bible.

SMITHSONIAN

Generally, we only visit 3 of the buildings that make up the Smithsonian. The American History Museum is truly the nation's attic. The flag that Francis Scott Key saw when he wrote the Star Spangled Banner is there. You can see the inaugural gowns of our first ladies, a display on money and many other interesting items. In the Natural History Museum, you can see the Hope Diamond, Hall of Dinosaurs, Insect Zoo, and the world's largest Bengal tiger and African elephant. The National Air and Space Museum has on display, "Kitty Hawk", the "Spirit of St. Louis", the first plane to break the sound barrier, Mercury, Gemini, Apollo capsules, and Sky Lab.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT

This majestic white marble column reaching 555 feet in height is the tallest freestanding masonry structure in the world. The observation deck is at the 500 feet level. It takes the elevator 70 seconds to reach the top.

WHITE HOUSE

The corner stone was laid in 1792 and the building completed in 1800. The White House contains 107 rooms, but only 11 of them are open to the public.

U.S. CAPITOL

George Washington laid the corner stone in 1793. The building is constructed of marble and sandstone, except for the dome, which is cast iron. The statue "Freedom" on the top of the dome is 285 feet above the ground. The building was completed in 1863.

