

# Washington, DC Trip for 8<sup>th</sup> grade



Dear Parent,

Each year, the *Eighth Grade Class* at Woodruff Middle School takes a field trip to Washington, D.C. We plan the trip to our national capital to help our students develop a better understanding of the foundations of American democracy, the origins and functions of government, and the relationship of the United States to other nations and to world affairs.

The 2019 trip dates are **November 9-12, 2019**. The timeframe of the trip makes it necessary to begin the reservation process now. Rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders who wish to participate in this trip should **make a reservation by the last day of school, June 3, 2019**. **A \$150 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a seat.**

The following bullets provide general information about the trip. Please consider the points carefully to determine if this opportunity is appropriate for your student.

- The primary focus of the trip is educational. Students are expected to willingly participate in all aspects of the trip, including the guided tours, small-group lectures, and self-paced activities at many venues.
- The trip requires significant physical activity. It is not uncommon to walk 4-5 miles every day as the tour group visits the many venues scheduled on this trip.
- The safety of our students is our number one concern on this trip. Students choose another student prior to the trip to be a seat partner on the motor coach. Students must be willing to remain with their seat partner at all times, including riding on the motor coach, touring, eating meals at restaurants, and walking between venues.
- Students must be willing to comply with the regulations of the venues we visit, follow directions given by security personnel at the venues, and follow directions from the trip tour guides and chaperones.
- Students room 4 to a hotel room. Students select their suite mates before the trip.
- **Trip dates are November 9-12, 2019.**
- The **cost** of the trip is approximately \$519 per person. In an effort to encourage participation, District Four will be subsidizing \$69 per student. The actual student cost to students will be \$450. This cost includes transportation by motor coach, two nights lodging, all meals, the services of a trip manager and Washington tour guides, and tickets/admission for all activities and venues. The only additional money a student may need would be for souvenirs and/or additional snacks.
  - A **\$150 deposit** is due on or before **June 3, 2019, to reserve a seat.**

- A second **\$150** payment is due **August 2, 2019**.
- The final **\$150** is due **September 18, 2019**.
- **Payments are non-refundable.**
- **Motor coach seats are available on a first come, first serve basis.** Once a bus fills, there is a required number of paying students before the next bus can be booked.
- Payments may be made to the homeroom teacher or sent to the main office. All payments will be receipted; please hold your receipt.
- **Students are not permitted to bring cell phones on this trip.** All chaperone cell numbers are shared with parents prior to the trip. Parents may call chaperones at any time to reach their students.

**Itinerary(tentative) – may change based on availability and DC events**

- The trip departs early Saturday morning. Touring begins Saturday evening upon arrival in Washington and continues all day Sunday and Monday. We travel Monday evening and arrive home early Tuesday morning. Students are not expected to attend school Tuesday.
- Guided Tour of Mt. Vernon
- 9/11 Memorial Twilight Tour
- General Admission to Madame Tussauds
- Tour of Arlington National Cemetery
- Iwo Jima Monument
- Museums of the Smithsonian of your choice
- Holocaust Museum
- Guided Tour of National Cathedral
- Step-On Guided Tour of Monuments to include Korean, Lincoln, Vietnam, MLK, and Jefferson
- White House
- Visit to National Archive Building
- US Capitol Tour
- Ford's Theatre

**Student Participation Criteria:**

- Effective **the first day of 8<sup>th</sup> grade**, a student who receives a disciplinary referral that results in consequences that include Out of School Suspension (OSS) or an In-School Suspension (ISS) will be ineligible to attend this trip.
- **Please note when a deposit is made for the trip, a space is reserved for your student. PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE if the student becomes ineligible to participate for reasons listed above.**

Please contact the school at 476-3150 if you have other questions concerning this trip. We look forward to traveling to our nation's capital again next year with our Eighth Grade Class!