

2015 Washington Trip Guidelines

Airline Information

Students must be at the airport at 4:45 am, Friday, May 15, 2015.

Friday, May 15th –**Depart B’ham @ 6:25 a.m., Arrive Baltimore (BWI) @ 9:25 a.m. (EST)**

Tuesday, May 19th –**Depart Baltimore (BWI) @ 8:45 p.m., Arrive B’ham @ 9:50 p.m. (CST)**

Flight manners: Students will remain seated during the entire flight. No one will be allowed to exchange boarding passes.

Hotel Information

Friday & Saturday night:

Washington Dulles –Embassy Suites – Herndon, VA
13341 Woodland Park
Herndon, VA 20171
Phone: (844) 878-8050

Sunday & Monday night:

Embassy Suites – Williamsburg, VA
3006 Mooretown Road
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
Phone: (757) 229-6800 Fax: (757) 220-3486

General rules

All school rules apply on the trip. See the OMMS handbook.

Items not allowed:

- Radios, walkie talkies, laser pens, computer games, DVD players, personal game systems (i.e. DS, PSP, etc.) and other nuisance items (ANY INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS OR PURCHASES WILL BE CONFISCATED/DISCARDED.)

Items allowed with restrictions:

- Cell phones, iPads, iPods, tablets, etc. These devices may be used for communication purposes when designated by the chaperones or for camera or alarm use. They will be turned off and charged at night.

Other rules:

- No girls in boys’ rooms and no boys in girls’ rooms.
- No talking to strangers.
- Students may not use the phone in the rooms for any reason. If you need anything from hotel management, tell a chaperone. You may NOT call from room to room. You will have a chance to call home while we are touring during the day. These calls can be made by calling card, collect, or cell phone. Parents, please review with your child how to place these calls.
- You may not open the room windows for any reason!
- Because chaperones must serve in the place of a parent, please direct your child to follow the directions of ANY chaperone. Explain that even though something may be allowed by a parent, it may not be allowed by a chaperone. Chaperones will likely be stricter due to the number of students involved.

- We cannot miss appointments to look for lost items (i.e., cell phones, cameras, back-packs, purchases, etc). Any item lost will remain lost.

Discipline

Usually there are no major discipline problems on this trip. However, should a student repeatedly require discipline, a detention may be issued to be served upon return to school. Should a student commit a major violation of appropriate behavior, he/she will be escorted to the airport terminal and flown directly home at the parents’ expense. Should a student break the law, the student will be turned over to local police, and a parent or guardian must come to Washington, D.C. to retrieve the student.

Make-up Work

Each student is responsible for communicating with his/her teachers and making up any work that is missed. The teachers have been notified that the students are responsible for this. It is recommended that the teachers be contacted ahead of time, so that the work can be spread out and not crammed in at the last minute.

Luggage

Each person may bring one suitcase and one carry-on bag. Be sure your child can carry both up stairs!! Students will be carrying their own bags on this trip. Let him/her carry the luggage into the airport. It will be good practice! We urge students to pack one change of clothes in the carry-on in case luggage is lost. Keep in mind that souvenirs will be coming home in those same bags, so leave some extra room. Be sure to keep the weight of each piece of luggage below 50 lbs. Sometimes there is an exorbitant fee for each pound over 50. Visit www.tsa.gov for more complete information.

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Dress

You may wear nice jeans, pants, shorts, shirts, comfortable walking shoes. Please leave expensive jewelry at home. Bring one light jacket. Do not bring different coats for different outfits. Pack one outfit per day. We cannot and will not go back to the hotel to get clothes should you dress without concern for the weather. Keep up with the weather reports a few days before we leave. Remember, what you wear leaving Birmingham will be on your body all day until we check into the hotel that night. **Students are still expected to maintain a Dress Code; however, it will be slightly more relaxed than the school norm (i.e. no inappropriately length shorts, shirts, but shirts can be untucked if appropriate).** Please pack rain gear!! We tour in all kinds of weather.

Goodies & Snacks

You may bring goodies from home such as snacks. Remember, we will be in a tourist area, and these items will be more expensive once we arrive. There will be some long periods between meals. Having crackers or some type of snack will keep you from getting irritable from hunger. Drinks can be purchased on location. If you are using disposable cameras, it is a very good idea to put your name or initials on each one you use. We have many opportunities for large group photos and having your name on your camera will assure you get the correct one back.

Meals

Students will attend ALL meals whether they choose to eat or not. No one will be allowed to remain in a room alone. Please review mealtime manners.

Spending Money

Probably \$20 a day will be enough for incidentals (look at itinerary for details). All breakfasts and four additional meals are provided. **There will be 5 meals that each student will have to pay for on his or her own.** Many of our tour destinations have gift shops, so consider possible money for souvenirs. Traveler's checks will not be replaced due to strict scheduling limitations. If you would like the chaperones to hold your child's money and dispense it daily, place the amount you want them to spend per day in 5 separate envelopes (Friday - Tuesday) with his/her name on each envelope. Place these envelopes in one large envelope (or zip-lock baggie) with the name on the outside. Refer to the tentative itinerary to help plan how much to budget for each day.

Cell Phones & Calling Home

We strongly suggest that students bring cell phones on this trip; however, their use will be restricted. Chaperone cell phones will remain on the entire trip. There will be times when student cell phones must be turned off. Students must follow the chaperone's directions for cell phone usage or the phone will be confiscated and turned off for the remainder of the trip. Students will be allowed to call home and use their phones periodically every day. Another alternative is to buy a prepaid calling card or a prepaid phone to call home. Make sure they know how to use these before they leave. They will have no phones or not allowed access in their hotel rooms. Please refrain from calling your kids during this trip. Instead, it is best to contact one of the chaperones, and he/she can forward your message during the next break. Of course, if it is an emergency, feel free to call, but please also call Ms. Ferguson to let her know what's going on. There will be times throughout the day and at night when the students will have an opportunity to make phone calls home.

Parents

Parents, please keep your cell phone on and with you until we return. If there is an emergency and we can't reach you, we will call the contact you have listed. Ms. Ferguson's cell phone number is 678-521-3333. Barbara Alfinito's cell phone number (our travel agent) is 205-533-1884. There are two important times when you can't be late – when we leave and when we return. Also, if you can assist with compiling a scrapbook of the photos to remain on display in the media center, please contact Ms. Ferguson.

Checklist

- Cell Phone
- Clothing
- Timepiece (other than a cell phone)
- Backpack
- Extra clothes in carry-on bag
- Snacks for delays between meals
- Toiletries/ DEODERANT
- Camera
- Spending money
- Medication (must be distributed by a chaperone)
- Rain gear

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