

## TMS Washington, DC Trip Frequently Asked Questions

**How does the roommate situation work?** There are 4 students to a room with 2 full size beds. The price for the trip is based on 4 students per room. We ask that students find three other roommates who all agree on rooming together and we will put them in a room. If a student cannot find 3 other students, they must find 1 student who is in the same situation. When all forms have been turned in, we will meet with students who do not have a full room and help them find a match that will work to fill a room of 4.

**How much spending money should I bring?** All tickets and food are included in the price. The only money needed is money for lunch on the way down and for dinner on the way back. We stop at a rest area, which features pizza, burgers and salads. If they would like to purchase any souvenirs, sweatshirts usually run about \$25.00 - \$30.00. Roughly \$50.00 should cover what they may need.

**Are students allowed to go off on their own during the trip?** **NO** – the students will remain with their chaperones during the entire trip. The students will be delivered to their rooms at night and picked up from their rooms in the morning.

**Are students allowed to carry their cell phones?** Students may bring cell phones. Cell phones are not allowed out while we are touring unless they are using them to take pictures.

**How are the students monitored once they are in their rooms?** Tolland Middle School students and chaperones will be on the same floors. Boys are on one floor, and girls are on another. Chaperones will be spaced in between our student's room should the need arise that they need an adult. Security will be on each end of the floor from the time we return until the time we leave in the morning. Students are not allowed out of their rooms for any reason. If they open the door, security will ask them to close it. If there is too much noise coming from a room, the administrator will be notified to come and check on the students.

**How many chaperones per group and can parents chaperone?** The ratio is 1 – 10 students. TMS staff chaperone our trip. In the event that we do not have enough staff to attend, a parent can fill out the parent chaperone sheet attached to the fall paperwork. The principal will draw from the pool of interested parents and notify the parent/parents that they have been chosen to attend in a timely manner to make arrangements with their work/personal schedules.

**When do students need to know who they want to room with?** Paperwork will go home when we start back in the fall. An emergency form, roommate request form, and parent chaperone sheet will be included in the packet. They will have a couple of weeks to return all paperwork.

**When will the students know who their chaperone is?** After putting together all the roommates, the advisors will work on putting the bus list together and matching up our chaperones. The list will be available on Monday before we leave. In the past, we have had to use four buses. We typically have two girl buses and two boy buses, depending on the number of students.

**What about the students who do not attend the field trip?** Students who do not attend the field trip to DC will have their own set of activities here at TMS. The activities, which can include field trips, speakers, etc., have been designed around the social studies curriculum.

**How does the fundraising work?** Each student is offered two opportunities to participate in fundraising. In the spring, it will be Butter Braids, and over the summer, it will be pies and cookie dough. All proceeds go to the individual student and will be deducted from his/her final invoice.

**How does the travel insurance work?** Any student who purchases the insurance will be able to get a refund for the trip less the \$100.00 deposit. The Travel Protection Plan outlines the benefits and should be read thoroughly.

**Does a school nurse go?** We have staff members who attend the trip and have been certified in first aid. We also have an administrator on our trip in case of any emergencies that may arise.

**How do students get picked to be a wreath bearer?** If our school is chosen to lay a wreath at Arlington Cemetery, interested students will be asked to submit a typed essay that outlines why that student thinks he/she is an appropriate choice

to be a wreath bearer. Essays will be read by a panel of teachers who are asked to pick their top four choices.

**How do the payments work? Can you send them into the school?** A payment schedule is attached and posted on our Washington, DC link on the website. All payments must be made on or before the **due date** in order to pay our tour company on a timely basis. Payments can be sent into school with the student, and you can pay more if you wish at any time. All checks need to be made payable to TMS SAA. **No cash please.**

**Do you visit all sites on the itinerary?** We do plan to do everything on the itinerary. In the event that a venue is not available during the time of our trip, the tour company will set up another attraction for us to visit.

**How is student's behavior prior to and during the trip handled?** Administration may prohibit students from going on field trips and attending extracurricular activities based on behavior, discipline, or safety concerns. Students placed on Restriction are prohibited from attending field trips and attending extracurricular activities and will lose any and all money paid. All TMS rules and regulations are in effect while students are on field trips and attending extracurricular activities.

**Do students do school work on the trip? Are they responsible for work when they return?** Students attending the trip are immersed in our country's history, so they are constantly learning. However, there are not specific work activities to complete while we are there. Students who do not attend the Washington, DC trip are doing their own set of activities while we are away. Consequently, there is no work to be responsible for upon return unless it was previously assigned by a teacher.

**In the event of bad weather, do you still go on the trip?** The trip is on rain or shine. Students must watch the weather and plan on dressing for the conditions in Washington, DC, at the time of our trip. They should always have an extra pair of shoes in the event of rain.

**What if my student is on medication?** All chaperones will hold a student's medication and make arrangements with that student to give him/her what is needed. Students can carry their inhalers. All buses have a medical bag on

them and will have aspirin, Motrin, Tums, Band-Aids, etc. Any student who has diabetic issues will be with a chaperone who will have a fridge in their room for their medication. All information is confidential and will be handled discreetly between the chaperone and the child.

**What if my student has a food allergy?** Special food arrangements will be made to accommodate any student who has special dietary concerns. You must notify the advisors as soon as possible. During the trip, there are a wide variety of healthy food options available.