

DeSana Middle School

8th Grade Savannah Adventure

May 8-10, 2019



8th Grade students at DeSana Middle School have the opportunity to attend a memorable field trip being arranged for our students later this school year. We will have three days of exciting learning and fun.

During our Savannah Adventure, students may participate in the following suggested activities. Some of these activities may change due to availability:

- Tour the grounds of the infamous Andersonville Civil War Prison site.
- Take a trolley tour exploring the history of Savannah and the beautiful homes and squares.
- Visit Old Fort Jackson – Students will learn firsthand about the life and times of Civil War soldiers.
- Visit Wormsloe – Students will learn from professional guides what life was like in Colonial Georgia.
- Explore First African Baptist Church and learn its historical importance as part of the Underground Railroad
- Take a boat ride along the intercostal waterway and look for dolphins.
- Have an opportunity for supervised souvenir shopping on the historical River Street in Savannah.
- Play mini golf.

Cost and Payments

The cost of this trip, including transportation, hotel room (4 per room), all meals (except for a sack lunch for the first day) security guards at night, guides, tips, entry fees, trip escorts and t-shirt is **\$340.00**. This amount can be paid in full or in three installments:

By 09/14/2018: Deposit of \$140

By 11/2/2018: \$100

By 2/1/2019: \$100

Registration

To register your student for this experience, please complete the 2 attached forms and send in with your deposit or full payment to Joey Robinson on or before **9/14/2018**.

All checks should be made payable to DeSana Middle School. Please include your child's name and a phone number on all checks or money sent to the school. We are unable to accept credit cards at this time.

IMPORTANT MEETING – Please mark on your calendar now!

Last Minute Details Meeting: All parents and students need to make arrangements to attend this meeting

Last Names A-L: Monday April 29, 2019 7:30pm DMS Cafeteria

Last Names M-Z: Tuesday April 30, 2019 7:30pm DMS Cafeteria

STAYING CONNECTED AND IN THE KNOW...

Text messaging – send the message @savannahdm to 81010

Email – send an email to jbaggett@forsyth.k12.ga.us and request to subscribe to Savannah Emails

DeSana Middle School

8th Grade Savannah Adventure

Application Form



To register your student for our trip, send your completed application and behavior agreement along with the full payment of \$340 or deposit of \$140 to Jamie Baggett, trip coordinator, by 9/14/2018

Student Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Phone #1 _____ Phone #2 _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

(Please print neatly)

1. **Is your student a vegetarian or does he/she have food allergies and need special meals? If so, please explain: (*Special arrangements will be made to accommodate special dietary needs. If this section is not completed and there are special needs, parent will be expected to accommodate student's needs.*) Please be specific with meats, like no beef or pork but chicken is okay.**

2. **Does your child have special medical needs (medication, allergies, etc?) Please use the space below to explain in detail or attach additional information.**

PLEASE READ AND SIGN IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE

I give permission for my child to participate on the DeSana Middle School's Savannah Adventure on May 8-10, 2019. I understand that once I commit to this activity no refunds can be made until after all trip expenses have been met, if funds are refunded to us by travel company, and that a cancellation fee of \$50.00 will be applied. I also understand that my child may not be allowed to participate if his/her behavior is such that it could endanger himself/herself or others. In addition, a student's participation in this learning opportunity may end if his/her behavior distracts significantly from the learning environment of others. I also understand that DeSana Middle School and Jim Mulvihill Tours act as agents in this activity and shall not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, delay, or any other irregularities that occur as the fault of service providers (museums, hotels, restaurants, etc.) on this trip.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

This is a wonderful opportunity for 8th grade students at DeSana and we hope your student can join us. If you have any questions, please email Joey Robinson, trip coordinator, at jbaggett@forsyth.k12.ga.us or 770-667-2591 extension 492240.

Please Turn Over and Complete the BACK SIDE

DeSana Middle School

8th Grade Savannah Adventure

Behavior Agreement



Dear 8th Grade Student and Parent:

Students traveling on the DeSana 8th Grade Savannah Adventure are expected to display a high caliber of well-mannered behavior at all times. Because our 8th grade students are representing DeSana Middle School as a whole, and because we are asking DeSana faculty and staff to be responsible for students off campus and out of town for three (3) days and two (2) nights, our behavioral expectations are set at a high standard. Thus, any 8th grade student who:

- Commits any two (2) discipline infractions that result in In-School Suspensions/Saturday School between August 4, 2018 and May 7, 2018, will not be allowed to attend the 8th Grade Savannah Adventure on May 8-10, 2019 (on the 2nd ISS assignment/Saturday School the student becomes ineligible for the trip).
- Commits any discipline infraction that results in Out-of-School Suspension between August 4, 2017 and May 7, 2018, will not be allowed to attend the 8th Grade Savannah Adventure on May 8-10, 2019.
- Commits any act that is deemed egregious by the administration will not be allowed to attend the 8th Grade Savannah Adventure on May 8-10, 2019.

These infractions are cumulative for the year. For example, a student could receive an In-School Suspension/Saturday School in October and one in April. Once he/she receives the second one in April, he/she is no longer allowed to attend the Savannah trip.

If a student has made payments toward the trip and then loses the privilege of traveling on this trip because of inappropriate behavior, no refunds can be made by DeSana Middle School or *Jim Mulvihill Tours* until all trip expenses have been met, if any money is refunded to us from tour company, and a cancellation fee is applied.

Any student who loses his/her privilege to attend the trip may appeal the decision through a student-directed appeal process in March 2019. A committee of teachers and an administrator will consider all appeals and determine if eligibility should be reinstated.

All students are expected to adhere to the Forsyth County Schools Code of Conduct and all policies and procedures as stated in the DeSana Middle School Student/Parent Handbook. Any discipline issue that occurs on the trip will be handled by the administrator(s) chaperoning the trip. Parents could be called and requested to come pick up their child if the issue is considered to create a situation where the administrator feels the child should not continue on the trip.

Please sign and return this form along with your application and first payment. Forms must be submitted and completed in full for a child to attend the Savannah Adventure by **September 14, 2018**.

I understand the above information and I am willing to follow the behavior guidelines set by the DeSana Middle School faculty and administration.

Student Name: _____
(Please Print)

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Frequently Asked Questions



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – Great Information is located here...

Please find listed below some frequently asked questions regarding the DMS Eighth Grade Savannah Adventure Field Trip. If you have any further questions and/ or concerns, please contact Mr. Robinson at jbaggett@forsyth.k12.ga.us.

1. **What about the students not going on the trip?**

The students not going on the trip will be required to attend school as this will be considered a regular school day. Students staying behind will follow a different schedule and participate in exciting learning opportunities.

2. **Are parents allowed on the trip?**

No, due to matters regarding security and medical concerns, parents are not allowed on the trip. All staff chaperoning this trip have been fingerprinted and background checks have been performed. Furthermore, all staff has been made aware of medical situations and frequently used medical devices by our school nurse. The eighth grade teachers, other designated faculty members, and one administrator will be chaperoning the Eighth Grade Savannah Adventure Field Trip. The student teacher ratio is 1:16.

3. **How are the bus assignments and room assignments done?**

In February 2018 students will REQUEST who they want to room with. EVERY student attending the trip will fill out a roommate request form with their top 3 choices of who they want to room with. Then we will take those requests and put students into groups of 4. Those four students will share a room at the hotel. Each chaperone will be assigned 4 groups of students, thus making the 1:16 ratio. Girls will be assigned to female chaperones and boys will be assigned to either a male or female chaperone. Students will ride on an assigned bus with their chaperone and the other 15 students assigned to their chaperone. Each bus will hold 3 chaperones and their assigned students. Students will travel with their chaperone and their assigned bus to all events.

4. **How will I know my child will be safe at the hotel?**

Once we arrive at the hotel, students must report directly to their rooms. They have a few minutes to gather vending or ice. Chaperones will come around to each room, visually make sure that all students are in the room, provide students with a number for how to reach someone in an emergency, and then tell the students to lock the door upon the chaperone's departure. Chaperones will place a piece of tape on the outside of the door between the door and frame to indicate that students are in the room. If the door is opened, the tape will rip and security will notify DMS staff members. All rooms can only be accessed from inside corridors, and there are no balconies. Girls and boys will stay in in the same hotel with chaperones on every floor that students are staying on. Floors will be gender specific. Beginning at 11pm, hired security will patrol the halls and notify DMS staff immediately of any problems. They stay on duty until 6am, which is when students are allowed to begin leaving their rooms to get breakfast. Students should never open their door for anyone except a DMS staff member, and we remind them of this when we get off the bus to go in the hotel as well as when we check them into their rooms.

5. **What if my child is a vegetarian or has special dietary needs because of medical or religious reasons?**

On the application there is a place to indicate this information. Students who have special dietary needs will be accommodated with alternate meals when necessary. Breakfast will be at the hotel and is a deluxe continental with hot and cold items. When food is catered to us, vegetarian meals will be provided. If your student has an extremely limited diet, please call Mr. Robinson so we can make arrangements.

6. **Can my child take medications with them on the trip?**

Yes, one week prior to the departure all medications (Prescription and Over-the-Counter) and medical devices must be delivered by the parent to our school nurse with medication forms. These forms will be available as we get closer to the trip. All medications must be in original containers and placed in a ziplock bag with your medical forms. Chaperones will carry ALL medications for students. Students may carry their own inhalers and epi pens.

7. How do I sign my child up for the trip and make the payments?

All students who want to attend must complete the application page front and back that is included in this packet. The application includes the *Application Form* and *Behavior Agreement Form*. It must include all the necessary signatures and information. Please read through these forms carefully. Send this one-page application filled out front and back along with payment to Ms. Baggett by 9/14/2018. You can send the full payment of \$340 in September or follow the payment schedule listed on the first page of this packet. If you choose the payment plan, a deposit of \$140 must be sent with the application to hold your child's spot. When sending in payments you may send cash, check or money order. All money orders and checks must be made out to DeSana Middle School, and include your child's first and last name and a phone number. Money may be dropped off in the front office in an envelope marked "Ms. Baggett Savannah Trip" or your child may bring it to Ms. Baggett in room 2240 on the 8th grade hallway. We are unable to accept credit cards at this time.

8. How much spending money should my child bring on this trip?

The price of the trip is all-inclusive; therefore, only a limited amount of money is recommended to purchase snacks and/or souvenirs. We suggest \$30-50.00.

9. Can my child bring a cellular phone?

Students will be allowed to bring cell phones on the trip. Please discuss cell phone etiquette with your child so he/she will understand the importance of courtesy in regards to turning their phones off during the tours that we will be attending. If students use their phones at inappropriate times or for inappropriate uses, they will lose their privilege to have their phone and/or a possible consequence.

10. Can my child bring video games and/or an MP3 player?

Hand-held games are fine to bring; however, any game which requires hooking up to the hotel's TV is strictly prohibited. Students may bring a CD player or MP3 player with them. Headphones are required. Please understand that items brought on the trip by your child are solely your child's responsibility.

11. Will my child be allowed to bring snacks and drinks on the bus?

Students may bring snacks on the bus. All drinks must be screw-top plastic bottles. Bottled water is highly recommended. Snacks should be healthy choices. Please no glass bottles or cans, no gum, or chocolate candy on the bus.

12. What about dress code?

The dress code rules that apply in school will also apply on this trip, with the exception of hats. We encourage all students to bring hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change before we leave the hotel each morning.

13. What are the hotel rooms like?

Each room will have sleeping arrangements for 4 students. Since we are basically taking over the hotels, we have to use all rooms. Some rooms will have 2 Queen beds and a sofa bed, other rooms may have only a King size bed and full size pull out bed. Rooms will have one private bathroom, television, telephone, alarm clock and a small refrigerator and microwave. Students will not be able to access movie channels or pay-per-view in their rooms. Any damages that occur in hotel rooms will be the responsibility of students in that room. Hotel names and location will be provided to parents at a later date.

14. What rules and expectations will there be on the trip?

Students will be expected to follow the Forsyth County Code of Conduct, all policies and procedures outlined in our DMS Student/Parent Handbook, and all rules and directions given by DMS staff members. There will be consequences for students who make inappropriate choices. Consequences can range from loss of privileges at events and tours, change of bus or room, or the parent has to come pick up their child.

15. What about refunds?

NO refunds will be given until all trip expenses have been met, if we receive a refund for your child from the tour company, and a cancellation fee of \$50.00 is applied. The closer to the trip you cancel, the harder it is for me to get you any amount of a refund.

16. Will there be any additional information given prior to the trip?

A parent/student meeting is scheduled approximately one week before the trip so that parents and students are aware of the guidelines for this trip. A recommended packing list and specific itinerary will also be provided at this meeting. All students and parents must attend this meeting. It is scheduled for Monday, April 29, 2018 at 7:30pm for last names A-L and Tuesday, April 30, 2018 at 7:30pm for last names M-Z. Both meetings will take place in the DMS cafeteria.