

TO: SEVENTH GRADE PARENTS
FROM: ROBERT J. ZIEGLER, PRINCIPAL
DATE: November 10, 2009

The seventh grade spring trip is scheduled for April 27-May 1, 2010. The cost of the trip will be \$1200. This price will include airfare, ground transportation, hotel accommodations, 4 dinners, 4 breakfasts, admissions to all attractions, and all gratuities, and hotel security. Students can sell yearbook ads to help raise money for their trip, and a fundraising meeting will be scheduled for all interested parents if requested.

Students who do not attend the trip will not have school during this time. We strongly encourage all students to participate in this educational and enjoyable opportunity. Scholarship Funds are available to assist those who may need it.

For interested parents Travel Guard at 1-800-826-1300 is a popular insurance company for tours. It works well if someone becomes ill just before departure. Travel Guard also has an allowance for domestic terrorism if it takes place in the city of destination within 30 days of the trip. There is no insurance coverage for a participant who pulls out due to fear of making the trip. This insurance is optional and parent initiated. We recommended you read all documents carefully before using this option.

Checks and cash are the preferred method of payment for the trip. However, we need your credit card information on file in case payments are not received in a timely manner. If you pay by credit card there will be a \$50 surcharge to cover SMLS bank card processing fees.

If your child is going to go on the spring trip, please return the permission slip with the first payment of \$300 due December 20, 2009. All payments will be non-refundable. The remaining \$300 payments will be due on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, Friday, February 19, 2010, and Friday, March 19, 2010.

Please contact Mr. Ziegler (robert.ziegler@smlcs.org) if you have questions about scholarships, finances and/or payments.

(Over →)

To help you prepare for the fieldtrip we have posted some key information on the school website.

1. Archives containing pictures and captions from previous trips can be viewed on the SMLS website at <http://www.smlcs.org/academics/trips.htm>
2. A sample itinerary from a previous trip has been posted and will give you an idea of the day by day, hour by hour experience.
3. A sample packing list with behavior guidelines.

The homeroom instructors will be spending time thoroughly briefing the students on the actual itinerary and will be giving instructions that cover our expectations for each scheduled activity. That packet will be sent home after it has been used as a teaching tool.

Mr. Schlotterbeck spends time in Social Studies classes instructing before and after the trip regarding American History.

Roommates are assigned after the students are given the opportunity to list several people they feel would be good roommates for them. We are almost always able to have at least one person from the preference list in the assigned room.

The chaperones each take a section of rooms to supervise and a security guard is posted on the floor in the hallway from dusk to dawn. The guard makes notes regarding room noise, doors opening etc... and reports those to the chaperones in the morning.

The Daily Walking groups mix the rooms and match the students up with chaperones. Throughout the day the chaperones monitor their walking groups and provide the supervision at all activities.

All chaperones carry cell phones and are available to assist each other as needed. The school office 239-939-1218 will have these numbers on file and can make contact for you should the need arise. Most students have cell phones and keep them in their back packs turned off during the day and then update the families nightly.

As you can see from the itinerary, most meals are covered in the trip. Send spending money for one meal a day and snacks. Most students buy one souvenir per day. Send a digital camera with memory cards so there will be no film expense.

Mrs. Schlotterbeck is the key trip leader, Mrs. Swetz, Ms Lindsey, and Mrs. Ecelbarger are the chaperones.

**PERMISSION SLIP
SEVENTH GRADE FIELD TRIP
WASHINGTON D.C./MOUNT VERNON**

My child _____ will be attending the seventh-grade trip to Washington D.C. Attached is a \$300.00 non-refundable deposit due December 20, 2009.

My child _____ will not be attending the seventh-grade trip.

Checks and cash are the preferred method of payment for the trip. However, we need your credit card information on file in case payments are not received in a timely manner. If you pay by credit card there will be a \$50 surcharge to cover SMLS bank card processing fees.

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Parent Signature