

## WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP INFORMATION – November 2022

### A. Information for parents:

#### 1. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights:

Holiday Inn College Park

10000 Baltimore Ave. College Park, MD 20740

(301)345-6700

2. Arrive at Smith on **Thursday, November 3 at 8:30 A.M.** We will promptly depart at **9:00 A.M.** We will be on bus throughout the day.
3. Return to Smith on **Monday, November 7 at approximately 7 P.M.** (Students will call 20-30 minutes before our arrival at Smith. Please be ready to come earlier or later.)

### B. Charter bus procedures:

1. Enter building to get luggage tags from your bus chaperone teacher. Luggage tags will be sorted alphabetically by bus. Put tags on your luggage to the designated area until it is time to place it in the storage compartment of your assigned bus. You will not have access to this luggage until you check into the hotel Thursday night. You may sit anywhere on the bus except the first two seats on each side. The seat you select will be yours for the entire ride to DC. Place your carry-on luggage in the overhead compartment near your seat.
2. Dress to be warm enough on the bus, even without a coat. Layer your clothing to be comfortable.
3. Plan to stop several times at rest stops for food, beverages, and a real bathroom (you pay for snacks). We will stop and have a boxed lunch along the way.
4. Keep the lavatory on the bus clean. Only use if absolutely necessary. We will stop at rest areas for regular public bathrooms.
5. Cell phones, tablets, etc. are allowed. Use headphones. Your items are your responsibility.
6. No flash photography is allowed on the bus.

### C. Clothes to take:

1. Feel free to dress comfortably (but appropriately) for the ride for the bus. We will not be touring on Thursday, but we will be eating a meal out.
2. Comfortable shoes/boots for a great deal of walking and to keep your feet warm.
3. Nice, neat clothes for touring. Jeans are okay. No shorts.
4. Khakis or other nice pants and shoes are needed if presenting for the Wreath Ceremony at Arlington. No athletic shoes are allowed for our presenters on this day. All others may wear athletic shoes.
5. Again, outerwear for all types of weather, cold and/or wet; bring umbrella, hat and gloves. Dress in layers. Evenings will be cold and we will be outside until 8:00 or 9:00 P.M.
6. Wear your nametag lanyard at all times. An emergency phone number is on the back of the tag.

### D. Carry-on Luggage:

1. Something to do. (Cards, a book, game etc.)
2. A portable charger for your phone will be extremely helpful. We cannot guarantee there will be outlets on the bus to charge your phone. If we have them, there are a few available per row so you will have to share.
3. Snacks should be brought in Ziplock bags. This will help with freshness and make it easy to share. No beverages except water. **(NO pop or juice). NO NUT PRODUCTS** due to food allergies.
4. Possible toiletries needed? Hand sanitizer, contact lens solutions, a toothbrush, toothpaste
5. Pillow/neck pillow and small blanket (optional but recommended).
6. DVDs and Videos to watch. Select them carefully. Movies may be rated G or PG.
  - **(No PG 13)**

### E. Hotel Behavior:

1. Be considerate of the other guests.
2. Do not run or yell or slam doors in the halls/parking lot.
3. Place a shoe in the door to prevent it from closing completely if you plan on going in and out of your room while on our floor. This will keep the noise of closing doors at a minimum.
4. Use stairs *only* when told to by chaperones.
5. \*See chaperones, not hotel personnel, if rooms need extra towels, bed, etc.
6. Be well covered and shoes on your feet in the halls.
7. Please keep shower curtain bottom in the tub to keep the water off the bathroom floor.
8. Bring or have singles for the vending machines. We advise packing enough snacks, so you enjoy them on the bus and hotel.
9. You may NOT order DoorDash or room service. Be sure to eat the meals provided.
10. Be prepared to stay in your room from exactly 10:30 P.M. until 6:00 A.M. each night in the hotel. We will have security watching the halls & rooms overnight. During the night, see the security guard for emergencies only.
10. \*Always ask who is at the door before you open it.
11. Leave rooms in neat condition for a quick checkout by the chaperones. Used towels should be placed in the bathtub, garbage should be in the trash can, and personal items should be in luggage. Don't forget to grab your power cords/chargers.
12. All roommates must stay together and have the hotel room checked by a chaperone before departure each day.

#### F. Other thoughts:

1. Listen when the teachers, bus drivers, or guides are giving information – this means do not talk.
2. Report back to the bus or meeting location on time – wear a watch or set a timer on your phone.
- 3.\* Always stay in groups while touring and at the hotel.
4. Be quiet and respectful when it is required at certain sites.
5. Observe “no picture taking” signs where they are posted.
6. There might be times we require or locations require you to put away your cell phone. You will do this whenever you are asked.
7. Take an alarm clock or set the alarm on your phone if you plan to get up extra early. We will have a wake-up call planned and will also knock on all doors before breakfast.
8. **Cell phones may not be used while touring for phone calls or texting. They may be used as a camera.** Leave it in your carry-on luggage especially at sites where we go through security. We will let you know when it is best to take them or leave them on the bus.
9. Take as much food as you like at the restaurants; but take only what you plan to eat. When it is a buffet style, please let everyone pass through once before going for seconds.
10. Have a water bottle on the bus to help keep hydrated from all of the walking in the elements.
11. Bundle up when outside but be sure to take off some layers once we tour inside to avoid overheating.
12. Ignore solicitors - those selling carnations, dancing, or just begging for money.
13. See one of the chaperones if you have any trouble.
14. While touring, please keep to the right. This will leave space for others who are touring. Always be aware of other tourists and be kind.
15. Shorts may be worn only in the hotel.
16. Hats may be worn except at certain sites and may not be worn for the group picture.
17. Consider a present for your parents, especially if they paid for any part of the trip.

#### Your Behavior:

Good behavior is important and expected. In the past, Smith students have been the best behaved and remembered for their good behavior. It is hoped that the tradition will continue. If your behavior presents a problem, you will be sent home at your parents' expense. Refer to the signed behavior contract.

**Medication:**

If you are taking any medication, prescription or over-the counter, give it to your bus chaperone upon check-in. Please attach a note from your parent/guardian if medication was not listed on your emergency form. **It is helpful if all medication is sorted by day in a snack bag with your name on it, time to be taken, and name of the medicine. Place all snack bags in a sandwich bag to keep all together.** Students should bring their inhalers, which they will carry. Also, don't forget about EpiPens.