



# 8th Grade Trip to Washington D.C.

## CLOTHING

Dressing for the trip presents a unique challenge. You are allowed two pieces of luggage; one carry-on (backpack) and one larger piece to be stowed under the bus. Once your luggage is stowed under the motor coach, you will not have access to items packed inside until hotel check-in late Wednesday evening.

### CARRY-ON Suggestions (Bus):

Be sure to have everything you need to get ready on Wednesday morning in your carry-on on the bus. This includes personal-care items, change of clothes, phone chargers, camera & batteries, glasses/contacts, money, etc. **Pajama bottoms are okay for the bus ride to Philadelphia but will not be acceptable clothing for any day time travels.**

Be prepared for weather extremes, such as rain, snow, ice, or wind with cooler than expected temperatures. Streets may be snowy or slushy and the temperatures change daily. To help you in planning clothes for the trip, average temperature in Washington D.C. is between a high of 70<sup>o</sup> and a low of 50<sup>o</sup>. Watch the announcements on the school TV for weather updates as the trip nears.

You also want a **blanket and pillow** to help get sleep on the bus. **Snacks/beverages** are allowed as long as the beverage has a screw on lid and is not glass. All food must be kept neat as messes and spills will make the ride there and home not as comfortable. Plugs and wireless access are not guaranteed. Plan on not having either and conserve your electronic charges.

### SUITCASE Suggestions (Storage under the bus):

All clothing must be neat, clean, and modest – **school dress codes** will apply on the DC trip with the following modifications: shorts must reach no less than 6 inches from the knee, tank top straps must be three fingers in width, stomachs, chest areas and backs must not be exposed, and sleeveless shirts must not show any torso. T-shirts, either packed or purchased, may not display questionable or inappropriate content. Pajama bottoms are not ever acceptable during sightseeing. Students may wear hats and sunglasses but will be required to take them off at all dining areas, in federal buildings, other trip attractions as directed by chaperones.

Plan to dress comfortably during the days. It makes sense to bring informal outfits such as jeans, shorts, and comfortable walking shoes. **It will also be a good idea to layer clothing;** t-shirts covered by sweatshirts, etc. Easily stored/packed jackets or hoodies would be a handy outerwear item to have. If you are part of the wreath laying ceremony, please bring a dress/skirt or trousers with a nice shirt - no t-shirts, jeans or shorts for the ceremony.

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## CLOTHING/ ACCESSORIES

Rain Gear  
Hat/Gloves  
Watch  
Waterproof/Comfortable Footwear  
Warm Jacket & Light Jacket  
Pajamas  
Swim Suit  
Laundry Bag/Ziploc bags

## PERSONAL ITEMS

Soap  
Deodorant  
Shampoo  
Comb/Brush  
Blow-dryer/curling iron  
Toothbrush/Toothpaste  
Medication (if needed)

## PROHIBITED ITEMS:

Students will not be allowed any sort of **energy drinks** on the entire trip. Also, **glass containers** on the bus are not allowed. Be sure that all medications are turned into medics and that your student has not concealed drugs or alcohol. Check packed luggage for modest clothing that will fit into school dress code. School laptops are also prohibited for the DC trip.

## VALUABLES ON THE TRIP:

**Trip participants assume full responsibility for any valuables brought on the trip.** The hotel rooms of trip participants are not generally secure places for valuables. The motor coach will be generally locked when neither group nor the driver is on board. The best rule, however, is to leave at home any valuables that are not really needed on the trip.

## ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY:

**Technology use must be appropriate.** There will not be any cell phone or texting use during tours, inside buildings or while tour guides are speaking on the bus. Ear buds will not be allowed in ears on tours or while guides are speaking. Also, students need to be aware that giving away personal information to other students/adults not involved in our trip could be dangerous. Sharing or exchanging of information is prohibited and could result in the confiscation of your cell phone.

Appropriate technology use also includes posting of video or pictures of other students on Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat or other social medias. Students will be expected to comply with the Student/Parent Contract as signed. School acceptable-use policies will apply for the entire trip and violation of this policy could warrant a school consequence upon return.

## HOTEL INFORMATION:

We will be staying at **Sheraton Reston, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA**. The phone number is (703) 620-9000 . We are there on late on May 6, the evening of May 7 and check out the morning of May 8.

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## DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL INFORMATION:

The bus departs from Pathfinder School at 7:00 p.m. promptly on Tuesday, May 5. When you arrive at Pathfinder, find your bus leader and check in. Do not bring more than two bags total!

- **6:00** arrival if you have meds to check in
- **6:15 p.m.** arrival for all others

Students will immediately (1) locate their bus assignment, and (2) check in with the bus leader. We will arrive in Philadelphia, PA at approximately 7:15 am on Wednesday, May 6.

We will arrive back to Pathfinder School at approximately **5:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 9** Please be prompt in your child's pick-up.

## MEDICATION:

All medications will be kept with medic on the appropriate bus. Medications **MUST** be in original containers only. **School policy dictates that students not be allowed to have medications in their personal belongings.** Each student that requires medication should have any directions on their medical form. This includes over the counter medications such as Advil, Tylenol and others.

Students who need items such as **inhalers and Epipens** should keep one in their personal belongings as well as giving one set to the appropriate bus medic. This will insure that they have emergency access to their medicine as well as having a back up in case one set is misplaced.

If your student could require the use of **ibuprofen, acetaminophen, or Dramamine**, they will not need to check-in individual containers for the trip. We will supply doses of each to students with written instructions for those medications on their medical form. Be sure that the medical form specifies ibuprofen or acetaminophen, the amount to be given and the frequency of the medication.

Arrive at the school at 6:00pm and look for the medical collection area in the commons. Your student's medicine needs to be in original container, sealed in a Ziploc bag, with student's first and last name labeled on bag.