

**8th Grade Trip
Parent Information Meeting
September 13, 2018 6:30PM**

Basic Information:

Every family should have received a registration packet that was distributed to students on September 5. All registrations are due online to CTA by September 24th. If you did not receive a trip packet, please ask your student to bring it home. Mr. Tuttle has extras if necessary.

Financial Information:

The cost of the trip this year is \$769.00 based on the need for four buses. If only three buses are needed after registration is complete, the cost would go down to \$704.00 from the parents.

The PTA will contribute money to each student's trip to help pay for t-shirts, snacks, drinks, and additional trip supplies. The cost of the trip includes all meals, transportation, hotels, admissions. Any spending money would be for souvenirs or something extra students wish to purchase.

Due to the possibility of reducing the price if our registration numbers could fit on three buses, everyone must take the payment plan: \$192.00 at registration, \$192.00 due December 1st, \$192.00 due February 5, and the final balance of \$193.00 on April 5. When you register online, you will receive an email reminder of when your next payment is due. You must sign in and make each payment by credit card; the amount is not automatically charged to your card. You must click on the link and make the payment with your credit card. ICW trip insurance \$49.00 optional but must be purchased by September 24.

Chaperones:

There will be one chaperone for every eight students. Additionally, a trip doctor will travel with the group to handle all medications and medical situations. Mr. Tuttle and Mrs. Winters do not have groups and are also available to assist with any situation. Chaperones are a combination FAMS teachers and parent volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the form in your registration packet and return it to Mrs. Winters by October 1. Groups of boys will always be chaperoned by male chaperones and groups of girls by women chaperones due to hotel room checks. Chaperones are selected by lottery once we know how many male and female chaperones are needed, and you will be notified either way in early January. It is important that our chaperones are committed to supervising our students.

Tour Company – Curriculum Travel of America (CTA):

All CTA tour directors are retired teachers. The buses maintain high safety standards, which Mrs. Winters checks regularly throughout the year. The hotel is pre-screened to assure there are no balconies or windows that open within the room. Security guards will be stationed in each hallway throughout both nights. Evacuation plans are located in each room and are reviewed by the chaperones. CTA also subscribes to an emergency alert system that immediately notifies the trip directors of any incidents that are occurring in the area we are travelling. Bracelets with CTA's 24 hour hotline number will be worn by every student throughout the trip.

January Trip Packet:

An important trip packet will be sent home with students that will include emergency medical authorization form, which must be notarized. Also included is a form that must be signed by your doctor for both prescription and non-prescription medication. Please notify Mr. Tuttle or Mrs. Winters of any student medical issues by February 1 so that students with needs can be assigned to a group on the bus with the trip doctor. The roommate request form will also be filled out at this time. Please let Mr. Tuttle know if you have concerns about roommates by February 1. Once the roommates are designated, there can be no changes made. The January packet will also include the T-shirt order form, bagel order form, emergency contact form, the packing list, and rules for the trip. All forms from the January packet are due back to Mrs. Winters by February 1.

Upcoming Meetings:

There will be a meeting on May 13 for all chaperones to review all procedures and expectations. There will also be a **mandatory** parent/student meeting on June 3 to review all the rules and expectations for the trip.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Tuttle (atuttle23@gmail.com) or Mrs. Winters (201-651-0228).