

2008

Heights Christian Junior High School

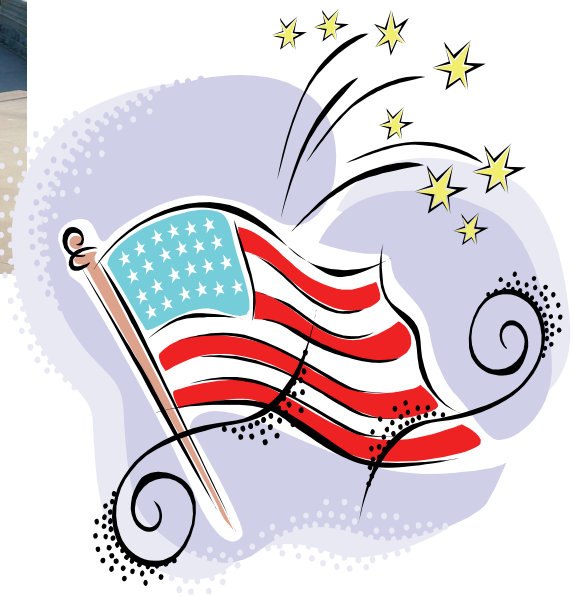
8th Grade

Washington DC Trip

Parent Handbook



*“A time to look back,
a time to marvel in the
present and a time
to look ahead”*



WHO GOES?

This is a trip for the Heights Christian Junior High 8th grade class, a large group of their parents and a number of HCJH staff members.



WHY DO WE GO?

Without a doubt, the HCJH 8th Grade Trip to the east coast and Washington D.C. will be a highlight for every 8th grader and parent who attends! It is our hope that every student will come away from this experience as a changed person... more mature, closer to God, closer to their classmates and a more patriotic American!

Our purpose for offering a twelve day trip of this magnitude is very exciting! It is our goal to:

1. Build unity in our 8th grade class as they bond together far away from home.
2. Give our students the opportunity to experience something that many Americans never get to... a chance to see where our country took root!
3. To draw our students closer to God as they spend time in devotions and as they see their country's rich spiritual heritage! We will have large group and bus devotional times throughout the trip.

WHEN DO WE GO?

The trip will vary from year to year, but it will normally be scheduled from the middle to the end of March.

WHERE DO WE GO?

Things will kick off from the airport on the west coast and after a five or six hour plane trip, we will land on the other side of the country. We will begin in Jamestown and observe the coastland where our country started. We will then travel through historic Williamsburg and Yorktown. After a quick trip through Richmond to visit St. John's Church (where Patrick Henry gave his famous speech), we will head for Monticello and Mt. Vernon to see the homes of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. A short bus ride will put us right in the middle of Washington DC! We will spend five great days touring our nation's capital and visiting places such as Arlington Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, Ford's Theatre, the White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the Pentagon (just to name a few)! From D.C. we will make a trip to Gettysburg and tour the battlefields where the Civil War was decided. One of our unique experiences will be a morning drive through the Amish country of Pennsylvania. After seeing some of the most beautiful scenery on the trip, we head for Philadelphia to see the historic sites such as Independence Hall (where the Declaration of Independence was signed) and the Liberty Bell. Our final destination is famous New York and the sights of Manhattan Island. We will have the opportunity to tour New York City and then take a driving tour of Central Park (where we will stay on the bus)! One of the highlights of the trip will be when we watch a Broadway Play after eating dinner in Times Square! Our last day on the trip will see our group on Liberty Island walking around the foot of the Statue of Liberty! After a ferry ride to Ellis Island (where thousands and thousands of immigrants entered our country looking for freedom) we will head for the airport and a long flight home. Even though we will have had the time of our lives, it is always nice to step foot back in good old sunny southern California!

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS...

Any student who attends the 8th grade trip must be in good standing at school. "Being in good standing" involves academic performance as well as behavior. *A student who cannot behave at school is hard to trust on the other side of the country!*

Any parent who attends the 8th grade trip must:

1. Have all of the proper chaperone paperwork filled out and on file in the school office.
2. Be a Christian (who knows Jesus as his or her personal savior), and be in good financial standing with HCJH. This means that all tuition accounts are current as well as payments for the 8th grade trip. **Chaperone Note:** First priority is given to parents and then we will begin to look at other relatives or relationships (such as grandparents).

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Registration payment of \$500.00 was due on September 19th.
2. Monthly payments of \$348.00 are due on October 17, November 14, December 19, January 16 and February 20, 2008
3. ***If the school tuition account is in arrears, all monies sent to the school office will be applied to tuition. First priority must be to keep the student in school and then the 8th grade trip will be considered.***
4. If you withdraw after November 30th, 2007, your refund will not be 100% and will be based upon the school's contracts and obligations.
5. Any monies earned in the jog-a-thon (s) will be applied to the trip. If there is an overage, the money will be applied to the tuition account.

BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS FOR THE HCJH 8TH GRADE TRIP...

We have a very important mission on this trip... it goes beyond viewing our history and having a good time. Our mission is to represent our school and more importantly to represent Jesus Christ. People tend to panic when they see a huge group of junior high students approaching, but we will show them something that they might not expect... a large group of students, parents and staff who can be respectful and kind to those they come in contact with. It is our desire that all who see us have lasting good impressions of our school and our Lord.

In order to achieve the impression mentioned above, we have established the following standards and expectations for our 8th grade trip. Please go over these standards with your student and help impress upon him/her how important they are.

Student and Chaperone ID Badges must be worn AT ALL TIMES!

Airport and Airplane:

1. Please arrive two hours before the designated flight time. This is important to getting our large group checked in and on the plane on time.
2. Upon arrival to LAX, please locate the HCJH group and your chaperone. Once with your chaperone, stay with him/her all the way into the airplane. If one person in your group needs to use the restroom, all of you go together (and stay together).
3. The only time gum is allowed on the trip is in the airports and on the airplane (to keep ear ways as clear as possible). Candy and gum should not be brought on the trip except for the plane ride.
4. If we change planes during the flight across the country it is very important that each group stays together at all times. **AT NO TIME DURING THE 12 DAYS SHOULD ANY STUDENT BE ALONE.**
5. Once we get into the airplane, the following standards must be followed:
 - a. You must sit in the assigned ticketed seat. No switching seats.
 - b. You stay in your seat unless you are granted permission by the designated leaders in your plane. The only reason you will get up is to use the restroom (not to visit with your friends).
 - c. Students will not call the flight attendants with the call button.
 - d. Quiet conversation is all that is allowed. Do not call out to other students in other sections of the plane. Remember, we are flying with "regular people".
 - e. When we reach our destinations we will allow the other passengers to de-plane first. Please remain in your seats until all others have left and then search for lost cameras, etc.
6. If a student is going to "meet up with" an extended family member or friend on the east coast, we must be informed in writing before we leave California.

Meals:

1. A proper selection of food is essential on a trip of this magnitude. Something nutritious should be eaten for breakfast (even if you don't normally eat breakfast). We will be constantly moving and everyone needs the energy and stamina.
2. We want to make sure that we don't waste food. "If you take it, you should eat it!"
3. Students will not be allowed to misbehave in the restaurants we visit. Food fighting, mixing up seasonings, food or drinks is forbidden. You should also not rearrange tables and chairs.

Touring:

1. With such a large group on the move, it is important that everyone pays attention and stays up with the leader.
2. There will be some cities in which we will need to walk single file (or in two lines). This happens on narrow sidewalks where we don't want to inconvenience others who are walking past us.
3. We expect our students to be respectful at all times to our guides or other adults in authority (including all chaperones). Talking back (whether verbally or with physical gestures) is not allowed. We will not hesitate to call home if this action takes place.

Clothing:

1. The staff at HCJH would like to ask the help of each parent when it comes to trip clothing. Please see that your student only takes clothing that meets the dress standards that are printed. **If an item of clothing is “questionable”, please call the school office for clarification (or bring it in).**
2. It is imperative that each student bring a jacket for the colder areas of our trip! Temperatures may range from sunny and 70 degrees to snowing and 20 degrees! “Baggy” and/or “shabby” clothing should not be brought. With limited amounts of clothing being brought, we don’t want to make a student leave an item in the suitcase (but we will if necessary).
3. **The airlines have a suitcase weight limit of 50 pounds!** This means that you don’t want to pack un-needed items. **If your suitcase is overweight you will have to pay a fine!**

Hotels:

1. It is very important that our students take good care of their bodies. Cleanliness must be upheld in each room when it comes to bathing and deodorizing.
2. Our students will be under the counsel of our chaperones when it comes to things like clothing, meals, spending money, and following the standards of the trip.
3. Students are required to stay with their chaperones in the hotels. No students will go out on their own once we have arrived.
4. Calls home **MUST BE COLLECT** or with the use of a **PHONE CARD** or with a **CELL PHONE**.
5. Students may **ONLY** use a cell phone for the evening calls, but they must remain off and in the bus during the day.
6. Students are to remain in their assigned rooms unless walking in a group with their chaperone.
7. There is to be no running, wrestling, pillow fighting or other “horseplay” in the hotel. We want to establish a good reputation with the hotels. If a student damages anything in the hotel, the parent of that student will be billed to pay for it.
8. A specific “lights out” time will be announced by the bus leader each night. It is very important that the lights out time be observed! When students (or chaperones) don’t get enough sleep it leads to sickness later in the trip. It is also important to be quiet in the rooms because of the “regular people” who are in the hotel with us.

Etiquette:

1. We desire for our boys to show proper etiquette in every opportunity that comes. This can be shown by kind acts such as opening doors and helping with luggage.
2. Girls should act as ladies in every situation.
3. Students who willfully disobey the standards and rules of the trip will be dealt with and, if need be, sent home early (at the parents’ expense).



HCJH 8TH GRADE TRIP—*Sample Itinerary*

Tuesday

- Early morning departure from LAX
- Early evening arrival at Norfolk
- Dinner eaten on the way to Williamsburg hotel

Wednesday

- Awaken early and head for Jamestown
- Morning tour of Jamestown visitor center and recreation of Jamestown settlement
- Afternoon tour of Colonial Williamsburg



Thursday

- Morning tour of Yorktown (battlefields, museums and Surrender Field)
- Afternoon head for Richmond to see reenactment of Patrick Henry's famous speech
- Evening arrival to hotel in Charlottesville

Friday

- Morning tour of Monticello (home of Thomas Jefferson)
- Afternoon tour of Mt. Vernon (home of George Washington)
- Evening arrival to hotel in Washington DC

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

- Tour the amazing sights of our nation's capitol such as Arlington Cemetery, the National Archives, the great National Memorials and Monuments (Iwo Jima, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Vietnam War, Korean War and Thomas Jefferson to name a few).
- Visit other important sites such as the Holocaust Museum, Smithsonian Museums, Ford's Theatre, the White House, the Capitol Building, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the FBI Building and the Kennedy Center.
- On Sunday we will go to church together and visit the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Wednesday

- Finish the tour of Washington DC and head for Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
- Afternoon tour of the Gettysburg battlefields

Thursday

- Morning tour of the Pennsylvania Amish
- Afternoon tour of Philadelphia (Independence Hall, Liberty Bell)

Friday

- Leave for New York
- Morning driving tour of Manhattan Island (Empire State Building, Wall Street, Central Park, etc)
- Late afternoon dinner in Times Square
- Evening play on Broadway

Saturday

- Load luggage for final time
- Ferry to Ellis Island and Liberty Island (Statue of Liberty)
- Late afternoon depart for Newark, NJ Airport
- Late evening arrival at LAX

NOTE: This is a very general schedule. A very specific itinerary will be coming at a later date (with airline flights, hotel information and other specifics).

8TH GRADE TRIP DRESS CODE

GENERAL DRESS AND PACKING STATEMENTS:

1. It is our desire that our students dress comfortably but look neat and clean on the trip. Clothing should fit properly. This means not too tight and not too baggy.
2. “Layering” is the key to the trip. Long underwear or “thermals” are highly recommended for inclement weather. We will be outside in freezing weather and then walk inside to 80 degrees.
3. Shoes should be comfortable walking shoes. It is not recommended to bring brand new shoes because they can cause blisters and discomfort. Purchase the shoes a month or so before the trip and spend a lot of time in them to break them in.
4. Several pullover sweaters, turtlenecks, and a few pairs of pants are recommended for everyone (boys, girls, and chaperones) Pack enough for several interchangeable outfits for the duration of the trip.
5. Several pairs of socks are needed. Gloves, scarves, and hats are also recommended for the cool weather.

General Clothing statement:

***IF IT'S NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL, IT'S NOT ALLOWED IN DC!
SCHOOL DRESS CODE WILL BE ENFORCED!***

We do not have time to wash clothes on the trip, so pack light and pack ENOUGH!

ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED ON TRIP:

I-pods, DVD players, any type of electronic games, MP3 players, *these items will be confiscated.*

No large earrings, heavy necklaces, wallet chains or steel belt buckles. Please do not bring irreplaceable or expensive jewelry!

Chewing gum (only allowed on the plane)

Soft duffle bags for luggage (hard to handle and pack in bus)

Steel-toed shoes, or shoes that contain metal. (some shoes have metal in the heels)

ITEMS NEEDED FOR TRIP:

1. Two pairs of walking shoes. It is recommended that they be water proof for inclement weather
2. One cold-weather heavy coat or jacket—this is a MUST!
3. Rain poncho/travel umbrella for bad weather
4. Warm head covering, such as stocking hat and gloves/scarves
5. One pair of thermal underwear (recommended for the really cold days)
6. Pajamas or clothing specifically for sleeping
7. Large plastic zip lock bags for dirty laundry

Cameras: **Digital:** Chargers, memory card, and/or batteries are needed for this type of camera.

Standard: This is usually a 35mm and extra requires film and batteries

Disposable: Several cameras (exposures 24) are needed to cover the whole trip

Film: Eight to ten rolls of 24 exposures is recommended. This is more than enough for the required pictures. It is recommended that each student practice loading and unloading film before the trip. It is also recommended that each student bring an extra battery.

CHECKLIST FOR PERSONAL ITEMS:

Personal Items (travel-sized items are highly recommended):

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| -Toothbrush | -Toothpaste | -Shampoo |
| -Deodorant | -Small pkg of Kleenex | -Addresses |
| -Pens & Pencils | -Brush/comb | -Small Bible |
| -Wrist watch | -Stamps | -Workbook |
| -Personal items (girls) | -Enough clothes for 5-6 outfits | |

No hair dryers are needed—all hotels have in-room hair dryers!

Spending money: Approximately \$100.00 is recommended (***but not required***). Any student can literally go the entire trip without spending a dime out of their pocket (but they usually want a few souvenirs)



Delta and Continental Baggage Allowances on Flights

Advisory: New security measures have been implemented which necessitate an earlier arrival.

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCES:

ONLY ONE SUITCASE AND ONE CARRY-ON should be brought per person. Our buses can only carry so much and you must remember that what you bring is what you carry! Your carry-on luggage must fit *under* the airplane seat.

1. **LUGGAGE MUST HAVE AN ID TAG! Two “school” ID tags will be provided**

2. **Carry-On luggage is BACKPACK OR DAYPACK ONLY!** (HCJH rule)

- A) No additional small suitcases of any kind!
- B) Items in your carry-on should only be things necessary for the flight (such as trip workbooks, light jacket, reading book, writing pen, personal items and camera.)

CARRY-ON LUGGAGE INFORMATION:

Items not allowed in carry-on's: hairsprays, perfumes, liquids (including hand lotion, shampoos, gels, toothpaste, deodorants ect...) scissors, small electronics of any kind, sharp objects or metal objects. These items must be packed in your CHECKED luggage! (Airline rule!)

These additional items are okay to carry on and don't count towards your allowance:

- Food items for immediate consumption
- A coat or jacket
- An umbrella
- One item of reading material

Cell phones are permissible but **MUST** be turned off prior to the flight!
(This is an FAA regulation)

Checked Baggage

You can check **1 bag** per passenger free of charge.

Each bag must:

- Weigh no more than 50 lbs.
- Not exceed 62 inches when you total length plus width plus depth
- Do not lock luggage!
- The excess weight fee is **\$80.00!** You will be responsible for this charge at the airport if your luggage is overweight!

IMPORTANT MEETING/DUE DATES:

FINAL DC TRIP INFORMATION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

Tuesday, February 26th 7:00 pm
IN THE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM *Parents only please**

****Your student will hear the same information in their history class**

Other Important Dates:

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Thursday, January 31, 2008

Thursday, January 31, 2008

All Medical forms due to office

Chaperone Only Meeting at HCJH 6:30 p.m.

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***We hope this handbook is helpful and informative to the parents and students of HCJH.
This trip will be one of lasting memories!***

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school office for more information or you may reach Mr. Esslinger or Mrs. Snyder by email at:

R.Esslinger@HCJH.US

J.Snyder@HJCH.US