

# We're headed to Washington, D.C.!

Van Buren Middle School  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip Parent Meeting  
September 26, 2017



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**Our TWELFTH Washington, DC Trip at VBMS... Over 1,000 Van Buren students, staff and parents have made this special trip!!!**

- We continually fine-tune parts of the trip
- This has been a terrific opportunity for our students, school, and community

## **Why Washington, D.C.?**

- Educational value
  - Ties into eighth grade U.S. History very naturally
  - Contribute to students' sense of U.S. citizenship, pride in their country
- Economical
  - Most venues in WDC are FREE (in a sense... they are supported by our tax dollars)

## **Why Discovery Tours?**

- Focused on student travel
- Family-owned, based near Cleveland
- Support of Ohio schools and education
- Level of service and resources provided are unmatched

## **Hotel Accommodations**

- Chaperone groups of 4 students will be created with 1-2 chaperones per group. Students will sleep in quad rooms.
- Chaperones will pay the double rate (or single if they elect to have single occupancy)
- If choosing double occupancy, chaperones should start to secure their roommates.
- Chaperones and students do not sleep in the same rooms.

### Participation

- This trip is for our students. We want ALL to participate!
- This trip is a **privilege**, not a “right”. Therefore, there are expectations of student behavior during the school year in order to participate.
  - If a student is suspended during the school year, they lose the privilege to travel with us.
  - Refunds are subject to Discovery Tours’ policies - not expected 1-2 months prior to traveling.
- Students who do not participate are expected to report to school on these three days.
- Student participation is based on registration and payment of the deposit by the registration/deposit deadline. ***Please be prompt with these items as adding participants after that date becomes problematic.***

### Parent Chaperones

- We need 20+ parent chaperones. Good chaperones are vital in keeping the trip moving in a positive direction. Please remember that this is a school class trip and not a personal vacation.
- To ensure student safety, all parent chaperones will complete a background check. See the enclosed handout for details.
- Chaperone participation is based on registration and payment of the deposit by the registration/deposit deadline. ***Please be prompt with these items as adding participants after that date becomes problematic.***

***All registration is made directly to Discovery Tours through their web portal (see Account Setup handout). Payment can be made online or mailed.***

### Communication

- Notes and information will be sent home with students regarding the trip and e-mailed using the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent distribution list.
- We will use Facebook & Twitter (@vanburenms) for reminders of payment deadlines

### What do we do now?

- Using previously earned SCRIP funds? Email Mr. Clark if you would like to use those for a payment at least one week prior to the due date.
- Student and chaperone participation is based on registration and payment of the deposit by the registration/deposit deadline. ***Please be prompt with these items as adding participants after that date becomes problematic.***