

“Mystic Chord” History Trip – March 21 to 29, 2013

Lincoln used the words “mystic chord” to remind us that all of us have a memory connection to historical events of the past. I call it that “goose bump” feeling you get when you are standing in a place of great historical significance and contemplate what happened on the ground you are standing.

Tentative Itinerary:

Day One – Thursday, March 21: this is our fly day. We will be flying out of Medford and the current plan is to fly into Baltimore (BWI airport).

Day Two – Friday, March 22: Baltimore tour – Poe Grave, World Trade Center, Washington Monument, Walters Art Museum, Inner Harbor, Greenwood Cemetery

Day Three – Saturday, March 23: Ft. McHenry in Baltimore, on to Philadelphia – Christ Church, Franklin Institute, Art Museum (Rocky Balboa steps), Revolutionary War Tomb of Unknown Soldier, Hard Rock Café, night walking tour of City Hall, Statue Plaza.

Day Four – Sunday, March 24: Independence Hall, Liberty Bell Plaza, 1st and 2nd Bank of US, on to New York City via Staten Island, ride ferry across harbor and see Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, dock in Manhattan, tour Broadway St, Wall St., Federal Hall, Trinity Church, Ground Zero, Rockefeller Center, Times Square. Take long bus ride to Gettysburg (arriving after midnight)

Day Five – Monday, March 25: Gettysburg Day One – Gettysburg National Cemetery and Gettysburg Address, Reynolds Statue (first shot), Little Round top (2nd day of fighting), Dobbins House, Movie theater special showing: “Fields of Freedom”, night tour of Eternal Flame and ghost stories.

Day Six – Tuesday, March 26: Gettysburg Battlefield visitor center, Cyclorama, Robert E Lee Virginia Statue, Pickett’s Charge (yes, you will walk the battlefield in the Rebel footsteps and charge the Union wall.) on to Harper’s Ferry, Jefferson rock, John Brown’s Fort, on to Washington DC, night tour of WWII memorial, Vietnam Wall, Korean War memorial, Lincoln.

Day Seven – Wednesday, March 27: Our “Nice Clothes Day” (shirt/tie) Wash DC tours – White House (if we get selected?) Capitol Rotunda, Library of Congress, National Archives, dinner in Chinatown, night tour of Capitol and White House. (Maybe one Smithsonian?)

Day Eight – Thursday, March 28: Holocaust Museum, Arlington Cemetery, Ford’s theater, maybe another Smithsonian?, night bus tour of M.L. King Monument, Iwo Jima, FDR memorial, Jefferson Monument. Return to Baltimore.

Day Nine – Friday, March 29: Return home fly day. Again, have your bags packed and know what time the shuttle leaves the hotel to go to the airport.

That's it! We started doing this trip in 2001. This will be our 7th year of History traveling. It is a trip of a lifetime and I owe you the chance to see as much as we can. That is my goal, to give you all I can, so I am always adding more. We may even go a day earlier if school days are cut before Spring Break and go to some sites in Virginia.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who is going? Any student from Hidden Valley, Illinois Valley, or North Valley High Schools that want to go. Elmira High School from Eugene will also be part of our group.

Any restrictions on who can go? Yes. You must be physically capable to do the walking tour. Also, if there is any indication you will be a discipline problem, you will not go. This is not Spring Break in Cancun. It is not a shopping trip to the Big Apple. It is a history trip. You will have fun, but learning history is the goal.

What is the cost? \$1,200.

What does that include? Airplane tickets (around \$500), charter bus, hotel, breakfast, dinner, entry fees.

Is this being done by a commercial tour company? No. All preparation and management are done by myself and a teacher from Elmira High School named Brad Bellingham. A commercial company would cost more than double our price.

Who are the teaches? Mr. Bellingham and myself do most of the teaching. Guides, rangers, and docents at the sites also teach. In addition, other teachers are on the trip and will help with lessons.

How many chaperones? Approximately 1 per 6 to 9 students.

Can my mom or dad go as a chaperone? Yes, if there is room.

What else do I need to have to be able to go? You need Health Insurance, which can be purchased from school if you don't have your own. You must a good attitude. Also, you need a desire to walk in the foot-steps of history.

What else do I need to do to be able to go? Talk to me. Make a deposit of \$400 or more by December 21st so we can buy the airplane tickets.

See you on Little Round Top!

- Mr. Burgess, Hidden Valley
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