

TO: Hidden Valley History Travelers and parents of.  
RE: Total Trip Costs / Payment Plan / other info  
From: Headquarters

10-16-2012

Some of you have been asking me how much the trip will cost, when to pay, and who is going. Since plane tickets are the biggest expense, and we can't get a refund on them, it is the first thing I buy. It is also my way of knowing you are committed to the trip. I cannot give you a firm price on the cost of a plane ticket, because they are always changing due to economic pressures. So, I ask for a non-refundable \$400 – paid by Christmas Break. But, I would much rather buy them as soon as possible, so the sooner you pay the better. Tickets will be more than that, but the school has me use their credit card, so we will repay the balance later. Current plane ticket prices are around \$550 out of Medford. That does not count baggage fees. That could go up or down. We are a little better off because we are a smaller group and can do more comparison shopping. Elmira has 97 going!

I want you to understand, my commitment to you having a great trip for the least amount of money means - not only do I give up my Spring Break - but I pay the same as all of you.

Here is the budget I am working with, starting with "ground expenses":

(1.) 8 nights **hotel** at \$50 per night per person. Total = **\$400.**

(2.) **Charter Bus** – We travel by bus from Baltimore, starting on Saturday, March 23, and go via Philadelphia, NY City, Gettysburg, Harper's Ferry and into DC Tuesday, March 26. The bus comes back and gets us for another tour on Thursday, March 28, then takes us back to Baltimore.

Cost per person is **\$175**

(3.) **Train / Subway tickets** – Baltimore Light Rail pass = \$5.00, Washington DC morning pass for 2 days = \$10.00, DC all day pass for 2 days = \$30.

Total = **\$45.00**

(4.) **Entry Tickets** – Baltimore World Trade Center = \$3.00, Rockefeller Center = \$18.00, Gettysburg movie = \$6.00, Gettysburg Visitor Center & Cyclorama = \$7.00, Independence Hall & Ford's theater tickets = \$3.00.

Total = **\$37.00**

(5.) **Dinners** – Thurs., 21st = Travel Day – you buy, Baltimore Chili's: Fri, 22nd = \$20.00, Philly Hard Rock Café: Sat., 23rd = \$20.00, Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> – you buy in NY City at South St. Seaport food court, Gettysburg Dobbin House buffet: Mon., 25<sup>th</sup> = \$16.00, Charlestown Pizza Hut: Tues, 26<sup>th</sup> = \$7.00, Wash DC Chinatown: Wed., 27<sup>th</sup> = \$20.00, you buy your last dinner on the 28<sup>th</sup> in the food court in Union Station in DC., Fri., 29<sup>th</sup> : Travel Day- you buy.

Total = **\$83.00**

**Total cost for ground expenses = \$740.**

(6.) Airplane Tickets – like I mentioned above, this is a hard one to nail down until I buy them. I am going to guess high and say \$550. That makes the total trip \$1,295. I have got some donations and done some fund-raising, and it is my goal to get this price down to \$1,200, but now I am going to keep it \$1,295.

**That makes the total trip paid by March \$1,295.**

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- (7.) Other Costs you pay along the way – (a.) **Two travel days**: Plan to bring an empty water bottle and fill it up AFTER you go thru security. I would also plan on bringing snack food in your carry-on. You can always buy food on these two days, but airport food is expensive. (b.) **Breakfasts**- Breakfast is included at all of our hotels except DC. You can buy it at the hotel, or I take you to Wal-Mart before we get into DC. Your hotel room has a small refrigerator, so you can buy your breakfast snack food and take it to your room. Just remember we do NOT pig out our room with garbage! Also remember you CANNOT take snack food with you in your backpack into DC for our tours! (c.) **Lunches** – ALL lunches are in food courts and you pay. I would budget \$10 per day for 7 days of lunches. (d.) **Dinners**- Remember, you have 2 dinners to buy on your own. I would budget \$10-15 for each. Souvenirs, t-shirts, batteries, etc. are at your own discretion and what you can and should spend is between you and your parents. We will talk more about this at the parent meeting in February.
- (8.) Future Payments – You need to keep making payments every month. My goal is to have all accounts paid up before March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you want to pay it all now, that's great. If you want to do some fundraising, see me now and I will get you into the concessions stand for Volleyball and basketball. You can bag groceries at Rays. Other fundraising opportunities are also available.
- (9.) This is not a budget item, but you have all asked me who else is going? Well here is the list: Alex Hyde, Heather Gettys, Savannah Peckham, , Taylor Burgess, Taylor Trotter, Carson Ries, Tanner Simpson, Zach Carter, Cody Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Hyde, Mr. Burgess, maybe Sarah Dollarhide, and Mr. Farmer.
- (10.) Finally, **I need by tomorrow (Monday at the latest): Your full legal name, date of birth, and social security number.** Why? The Whitehouse is already asking us to turn in the information for back-ground checks. (I hope none of you are members of al Qaeda) I will need this info anyway to buy the plane tickets. Don't send it in an e-mail – please clearly write it down and give it to me in person so I can keep it confidential and secure. The WH is very picky and the earlier we get our name on the list the better.

**PLEASE SHARE ALL OF THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR PARENTS!**

I hope you are starting to get a little excited about the trip and the opportunity it represents. See you at the High Watermark of Pickett's Charge!