



8th Grade Overnight Field Trip Washington DC

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of our 8th Graders,

We are pleased to announce the overnight field trip for our eighth grade students that will take place in the spring. This will be a four day, three-night experience to our nation's capital, Washington D.C. It will be an exciting adventure to culminate the students' years at GHMS, as well as, an educational opportunity in which they will participate in a variety of day and evening activities.

This field trip will relate to the Fort Mill School District curriculum and follow the South Carolina Standard Course of Study. Many of the destinations planned for this trip are directly related to the science and social studies curriculum. It will be a great experience to explore museums, monuments, settlements, and much more that are directly related to what students have learned in the classroom.

The dates for the trip will be Friday, April 13 through Monday April 16, 2018. The trip will be coordinated by Go Student Tours.

The fee for all students is \$725 per child. This fee includes transportation, lodging, 10 meals, and educational programs. (Please see the detailed inclusions page and an explanation of the payment plan options and the payment due dates attached to this packet.) All students must pay the \$50 non-refundable deposit no later than December 8, 2017 to reserve their spot on the trip. (The \$725 price is based on 40 students per bus. If we get 50 students per bus the price would drop to \$669. We will begin by limiting the trip to the first 100 students who turn in their intent form and \$50 deposit. After the first 100, we will create a Wait List. From there, if we get 20-50 additional students on the Wait List, we will order a third bus. The final price will be either \$725 or \$669 and will be based on the final number of **paid** participants. **All** students must complete the intent form by **November 30, 2017** and submit a \$50 deposit by December 8, 2017 to reserve their spot.) *prices will increase if we do not have 40 students per bus.

The following intent form will let us know if your child will be participating in this field trip and will provide us with which payment option your family is choosing. **It is important to return this form BY November 30th so we can secure tickets to major events.** A parent/chaperone meeting will be conducted as we get closer to our trip date.

We are looking forward to this experience with our students and know they will enjoy the memories of this class trip. Feel free to contact Angie Harms at harmsa@fortmillschools.org with any questions you may have.

This field trip is pending board approval.

Important Dates

- ✓ Thursday, November 30, 2017 Intent form due to student's homeroom teacher
 - ✓ Friday, December 8, 2017 Payment #1 Non-refundable Deposit (\$50 due)
 - ✓ Friday January 12, 2017 Payment #2 (\$225 due)
 - ✓ Friday, February 2, 2018 Payment #3 (\$225 due)
 - ✓ Friday, February 23, 2018 Payment #4 (\$225 estimated final payment due)
- Friday, April 13 – Monday, April 16, 2018 – 8th Grade Washington, DC Trip!

Payment Information

Online payment is the preferred method of payment for the field trip. Access the link at <https://www.studentquickpay.com/fort-mill/>. Parents may also access the site from the GHMS website using the "\$ Pay Fees" link at the very top of the page. Select the field trip payment option (Payment #1, Payment #2, Payment #3, Payment #4 or Payment in Full) and add it to your shopping cart. Major credit cards are accepted.

If you are unable to pay online, make check payable to GHMS. Include current home address and telephone number on the check.

If you would like to sponsor a student on this field trip, you may do so by paying online and providing an 8th grade teacher the information related to the student you wish to sponsor (or if you would like your donation to go towards the general scholarship fund). Checks are accepted for sponsorships as well.

Washington, DC Program Content

(Inclusions of the trip)

- 3 night accommodations
- Charter Bus provided based on a minimum of 40 people per bus
- 3 buffet style breakfasts at the hotel, 3 lunches, and 4 dinners
- Entrance into Yorktown Victory Center, Hauntings of Williamsburg Ghost Walk, Jamestown Settlement, Colonial Williamsburg
- Guided ghost tour of historic Alexandria
- Entrance into Mount Vernon, Holocaust Museum
- Visit all major monuments, memorials, and Smithsonian Museums
- Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol Tour
- Go Student Tours Escort the entire time we are in DC
- Private security guards for the group (1 per floor)

Gold Hill Middle School

Payment Plan for 2018 Washington, DC Trip

INTENT FORM

Please complete the following information and return by **November 30, 2017**.

_____ No, my child will not be participating in this trip.

_____ Yes, my child will be participating in this trip, and the payment plan that I agree to adhere to is:

_____ Option 1: Pay the full amount, \$725, by Friday, December 8, 2017.

_____ Option 2: Pay the \$50 deposit by Friday, December 8, 2017 to reserve my child's spot, and I agree to make the following payments for the remaining months.

Friday, January 12, 2018 \$225

Friday, February 2, 2018 \$225

Friday, February 23, 2018 \$225

_____ Option 3: Financial Assistance: Financial Assistance **may** be available for students eligible for free/reduced lunch. All other requests will be considered on a case by case basis. Students in need of financial assistance are required to pay the nonrefundable payment of \$50 by Friday, December 8, 2017.

*NOTE: All student fees must be current in order to participate (i.e. registration fees, lunch account, media center late fees).

All monies collected are NON-REFUNDABLE!

I agree to pay the full \$725 by February 23, 2018 in order for my child to participate in this trip. My student and I both understand that should my student not meet behavior expectations*, they may not be able to participate, and I will NOT receive a reimbursement for the amount of money I have already paid towards the trip.

*NOTE: Any student receiving an OSS or ISS after March 1, 2018 may not be permitted to attend the trip.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

At this time, chaperones will consist of GHMS faculty and staff and will be assigned a group of up to ten students for whom they will be responsible throughout the entire trip. Chaperones will ride the bus to Washington, D.C. and will stay in the hotel along with all other students.

This field trip is pending board approval.