

Middle School Trips - FAQ

- 1) **Why do we have middle school class trips?** The purpose of class trips is to provide opportunities for students to learn more about their country and its history, to experience traveling with other people, to bond with classmates and teachers, to exercise independence and decision-making skills, and to have these experiences in a safe environment, guided by educators who love God and young people.
- 2) **Is my child required to go on the middle school trips?** While it is our goal that every student go on the trips, we are aware that this may not be possible for every family for a variety of reasons.
- 3) **What does the cost of the trip include?** The cost of the trip covers all transportation, hotel rooms, all meals, security guards at hotels, and all entrance fees. Snacks and souvenirs are not included.
- 4) **Are parents allowed to go on the trips as chaperones?** Yes, we would love (and we need) for parents to travel with us. All parent chaperones will have to pay chaperone prices for the trip. Chaperone payments are due at the same time as student payments. Parents who are interested in being a chaperone will need to mark your interest on the trip commitment form.
- 5) **What if a parent wants to go on the trip, but not ride the bus?** The only adults on the trip are people who can work as chaperones, and chaperones must be on the buses and must be with our group the entire time. No alternative travel arrangements may be made.
- 6) **Will parents have seats to themselves on the bus?** We cannot guarantee that parents will have seats to themselves. If possible, parents will be given seats to themselves, but they should assume that they will be sharing seats with other parents.
- 7) **What if a child has more than one parent who wants to go on the trip?** Because we have limited seating, only one parent per child may sign up to be considered as a chaperone.
- 8) **Does indicating a desire to be a parent chaperone on the commitment form guarantee a spot?** While it is our desire that everyone who wants to serve be able to serve, we will not be able to make guarantees until all students have signed up and we have a count of available spots.
- 9) **Does the trip require much physical activity?** YES! We walk A LOT. There are days where we might walk ten or more miles.

- 10) **Are trip payments refundable?** The refund deadline is August 27. Refunds will not be available after that day due to securing our buses, hotels, and experiences.
- 11) **What if I decide later in the year that I want my child to go on the trip, but I have already indicated that he will not be going?** We must have a firm number for the trip by the date of the first payment on August 13. After this date, we will not be able to add anyone to the trip.
- 12) **What if I have not paid my final payment in full by September 10?** We MUST have all payments made by September 10. This is a firm deadline. Those who are not paid by this date may not be allowed to go on the trip unless prior arrangements have been made. ** If the final payment is not made, parents will forfeit any previous payments made.*
- 13) **How can payments for the trip be made?** All payments for this trip for students and for chaperones will be added to the student's FACTS account on the due dates. You must contact Dawn Gilreath by August 13 to set up alternate arrangements.
- 14) **When are trip commitment forms due?** Every student in grade 8 MUST complete a commitment form by August 13. This form indicates whether or not a student will be going on the trip. It also allows parents to indicate their interest in attending as a chaperone and to indicate a method of payment.
- 15) **What safety precautions will be taken for my child on this trip?**

General:

We expect to have at least a 1:4 adult:student ratio. Students must be with an adult at all times. Each student will have the cell phone number of his chaperone and least one other adult on the trip.

In the hotel:

Once students are in their rooms for the night, they must not leave the room. They should not open their hotel doors for any reason. Chaperone rooms are interspersed, and chaperones will do room checks each morning and evening. A security guard will be in the hall at night.

On the bus:

Students must stay seated. We will make periodic stops to use the restroom and to stretch our legs. Adult chaperones are interspersed among the students. Boys will sit with boys on the bus, and girls will sit with girls.

- 16) **Does my child need health insurance to go on this trip?** Yes. Every student who goes on this trip is required to have evidence of health

insurance. If your child does not have insurance, you will need to obtain some temporary insurance for the trip.

- 17) **My child takes medicine daily. Will someone monitor his/her meds?** Yes. Each student's chaperone will keep up with all medicines needed and will monitor the student taking medicine each day. Students are not allowed to keep medicines with them (other than inhalers, Epi-Pens, etc.).
- 18) **Are students allowed to stay with parent chaperones at the hotel?** Yes. We would prefer that students stay in rooms with other students, but if a parent would like to go as a parent chaperone and have his/her child stay in a room with him/her, it will be allowed. The student will have to pay an additional amount to cover the price of a double room.
- 19) **Is my child required to wear a school uniform or school shirts on the class trips?** No. Students will be allowed to wear regular clothes that are in good repair and are appropriate.
- 20) **Are there behavior requirements for the trip?** Yes. When a student has demonstrated a failure to meet the standards of good behavior, the school reserves the right to revoke the student's privilege of going on the trip. Because students on these trips are representing Harding Academy and because students on these trips are granted a degree of independence, the school expects students who go on the trips to have established a record of responsible behavior at school. A student who does not meet the criteria for the trip will not be allowed to go on the trip. A refund can be considered through August 28. After August 28, no refund will be given. If a student commits an infraction after that time, parents need to know that any money paid up to that point is nonrefundable.
- 21) **What happens if my child misbehaves on the trip?** The trip leaders and chaperones will handle minor infractions during the trip. If a student behaves unsatisfactorily on the trip, he/she may be sent back to Memphis before the trip concludes. Parents will be responsible for any expenses incurred for those arrangements. The student will face disciplinary action after the trip.