



Holy Ghost Catholic School Guidelines for Eighth Grade Trip to DC

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY TO MAKE SURE THIS TRIP IS RIGHT FOR YOUR CHILD. PLEASE KEEP THIS HANDY AS THIS WILL BE THE ONLY COPY GIVEN. (It is also posted on our website.)

General Information

- All fees must be current in order to go on the trip (lunch, extracurricular, etc.).
- Deposit **due Friday, April 24, 2020 (\$500.00)**; final amount due on Friday, November 6, 2020. (Exact amount to be given later.)
- Copy of insurance card will be needed along with a medical permission form (signed at a parent meeting in November).
- Inappropriate conduct prior to the DC trip may prevent your child from going. The administration will monitor behavior grades, detentions, and suspensions leading up to the trip. Please know **THERE ARE NO REFUNDS** if your child loses their privilege to go to DC. You know your child better than anyone. If you do not think they can handle the freedom, think about your choice.

There are three rules the student must follow: ***Respect yourself, respect others, and respect property.*** This trip is a privilege, not a right. This is an educational trip mixed in with lots of fun. You must be on your best behavior or you will have the following consequences:

- 1st offense will result in a conference.
- 2nd offense will result in a phone call to parent from the chaperone.
- 3rd offense or severe problem will result in the student being sent home at your expense and face disciplinary action by the school administration.

Remember this is an educational trip. There will be plenty of time to socialize, but when the tour guides are giving their information, this is the time to take in as much knowledge as possible. Please make sure this is completely understood.

Behavioral Expectations

- Be polite and courteous to everyone and obey all instructions from tour guides, chaperones, and TSA.
- Possess a positive attitude and be willing to compromise.
- Sit in your assigned seat on the plane (unless we fly Southwest), and do not press the flight attendant button.
- Keep the buses clean of trash.
- When you're given a time to be somewhere, be there promptly.
- You **MUST** sleep in your assigned room.
- Be quiet at all times in the hotel hallways (we are not the only guests).
- Never leave your room without permission from a chaperone.
- If anything is needed, call a chaperones' room.

- Enter the rooms of people of the same sex only when given permission by the chaperones.
Never enter the rooms of people of the opposite sex for any reason!!
- Always travel in groups of at least three, especially to public restrooms.

Electronic Device Guidelines

- You may not bring electronic devices. No e- books, I-pods, I-pads, smart watches, etc.
- You may not bring anything that an x-ray machine will detect as dangerous (toys, etc.)
- You may bring your cell phone but not for continuous use. Cell phones will be given to students when we are at certain food courts.
- You will be able to call in the morning and at night when we arrive at the hotel.
- Phones will be collected at a given time each night after arriving at the hotel. All phones will be charged in the chaperones' rooms each night and given to you in the morning. You must bring your chargers with your name on it.
- Since you will not have your phone at all times, you should not rely on your phone as your camera or your clock.
- Chaperones will take a group picture in front of each place we visit, and they will take pictures for students that will be sent to an app that you will download.
- You may bring a camera, but it is not necessary.
- If a student is caught using their cell phone inappropriately, the phone will be confiscated, the parent will be contacted, and the school handbook will be followed regarding consequences.

Luggage, Clothing and Airline Guidelines

- Please do not bring medicine that is provided by the school. These OTC medicines are on the medical form that you will sign at the November parent meeting.
- All prescription medications must be turned in to the chaperone assigned to take care of medicine when we check the luggage.
- No comment if anyone wants to open your luggage at the airport. **Airports are very serious about security.**
- Students may bring one medium suitcase, and one carry-on bag. We think a book sack is perfect as a carry- on.
- If your luggage is over 50 pounds there is an additional charge of at least \$90.00.
- A **few** snacks may be put in the carry-on. Some years, students brought so many snacks, they became ill.
- You may chew gum on the plane. **Gum is NOT allowed in any place we visit in DC or on the bus.**
- The weather may be cold. Make sure you have long underwear, hat, gloves, sweaters, warm socks, and a heavy overcoat. You can always remove the layers if the weather is warm.
- We will be walking a great deal. Make sure your shoes are comfortable. Leather tennis shoes or hiking boots are probably the best. **NO SHOES WITH HEELS.**
- Jeans are appropriate to wear everywhere. There may be no holes or tears in your jeans, or anything written on the backside. (Girls' shirts must be appropriate.)
- Clothes may be worn more than once.
- Please do not pack too much. You will be carrying your own luggage.
- People who are sharing a room can decide who will bring the hair dryer, the curling iron, etc.
- You should wear an inexpensive watch since you will not have your cell phone most of the time.

*****Please check your child's suitcase before they leave. Make sure they have not packed any alcohol, tobacco, or anything else inappropriate. Anything inappropriate will result in staying home with no refund.*****

Guidelines for checked luggage

- Any article that will not be needed until we arrive at the hotel should be packed in your suitcase.
- Put personal items in clear plastic bags in case screeners have to handle them.
- Do not lock luggage.
- Do not pack footwear on top of other things.
- Do not put film in your luggage; the screening machine might damage it.
- Do not pack drinks in your suitcase.

Guidelines for carry-on luggage

- In the carry-on bag, place your spending money, camera, film, gum, candy, snacks, personal hygiene items, and a small umbrella. (NOTHING can be in foil or it will be stopped by TSA)
- Liquid items may not be any larger than 3 ounces. It is better for all liquids to be in your suitcase.
- Liquid items must be in a clear storage bag.
- Put film or camera in carry-on bag. (Film cannot be in a foil wrapper)
- Book sack is the preferred bag. It MUST fit under your seat.
- Extra set of clothes and personal hygiene items are recommended.

We will ask that you bring your luggage to the junior high building on the Sunday before we leave, (after we go to Mass, time to be announced).

We like to go to Mass as a group. If you will not be attending Mass have your luggage at the junior high building at the designated time, (announced later). Luggage will be checked at school for anything inappropriate.

Parent's signature: _____

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____