

Washington, D.C. Trip Rules

GENERAL RULES

We represent BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL and the community as we travel. **Students are to be respectful, considerate, and accepting of members of the trip, tour guides, chaperons, bus drivers, and of everyone else with whom we come in contact.**

Students are to **use appropriate language and demonstrate good behavior.** Also, each student must behave quietly and respectfully while touring monuments, memorials, and other government buildings.

Each student is to stay with his/her designated group and **never travel any place alone.** Students must not leave any building or facility except in an approved, chaperoned group.

An appropriate dress code will apply to all students while traveling. Appropriate clothing must be worn while on the trip and touring our nation's memorials and monuments. **No short shorts, short skirts, or dresses of any kind will be permitted or allowed by any student while on the DC trip. Appropriate and acceptable bottoms include shorts that come just above the knee (a.k.a Bermuda style/walking shorts), capri pants, or long pants. As well, leggings or knit tights are not be worn as pants; they must be worn as an undergarment with something long enough to cover your bottom. No mid-drift tops are permitted at any time.**

Each student is to participate **fully in all activities of the trip.** Each student must wear the lanyard with the emergency number at all times. If a student becomes lost, he/she should call the emergency number and wait to be located by a chaperone. Store this number in your phone.

Students assume full responsibility for all valuables taken on the trip. **They are permitted to carry cell phones during the trip, but remember... this is a once in a lifetime trip with your class; look up and interact with those around you!** There **may be** stops on the trip where cell phones must be left on the bus for security purposes.

The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs is absolutely prohibited. Luggage, rooms, and other student possessions may be checked at any time during the trip. If a student is in possession of, or caught using cigarettes, alcohol or other types of illegal substances, he/she will be sent home immediately at their parents' expense, met by parents at the airport/bus station, and not receive any refund for the trip.

Beach Middle School handbook provisions are also in effect for this trip; regular school rules must be also followed. See handbook.

BUS RULES

Students are to **remain seated while the bus is in motion.** Students will have assigned seats near their chaperon; attendance will be taken each time we return to the bus. **During nights on the bus, lights will be out. There is no sleeping on the floor of the bus!**

Students are expected to bring only **one suitcase and one carry-on bag** and a **blanket and small pillow** for the bus. Luggage should be tagged with your name; tags will be available at the parent meeting in April. Luggage may be inspected at any time.

iPods, cell phones, and other small electronic devices may be played on the bus as long as they are not a distraction to others. No personal or school iPads are permitted on the trip. No laptop computers are permitted. All electronic devices are to be completely put away while touring. When a tour guide, chaperon, or bus driver is speaking to the group, ALL electronic devices must be off and all students must be listening.

HOTEL RULES

Students will stay in their own rooms from curfew until breakfast time. At no time may boys visit girls' rooms and visa versa. No student is to enter the room of hotel guests not from our group. No one from outside our group is to enter our group's rooms.

In the hotel, a music device or TV per room may be played at a moderate level. They are not to distract others and are not to be played after 11:00 PM. **Lights out and quiet time will begin thirty minutes after we return to the hotel, roughly around 10pm. Security guards will patrol the halls and make nightly reports.**

Room checks will occur daily. Rooms must be kept neat and will be checked regularly. In addition, equipment of the hotel is to be used properly and left there when we depart. Students and parents will be responsible for the cost of any damages or missing materials.

*****Students who fail to follow the above rules may receive a day suspension from planned activities or some other appropriate consequence while on the trip or when returning to school! Dismissal from the trip at your parent's expense could also be a consequence.**

PACKING CHECKLIST

CLOTHING

Bring clothes for each day of your trip but not more than you actually need. **Pack what you will need to use before hotel check-in time in your carry-on bag.** We leave Beach at 5am and do not get to the hotel until 9-10pm. Students are allowed one regular/medium sized suit case/duffle bag and a small carry-on bag/backpack to bring on the bus while traveling. The Brightspark backpack may also be an additional carry-on item.

Be prepared for weather extremes, such as rain or wind with cooler than expected temperatures. To help you in planning clothes for the trip, average temperatures in Washington, DC during the month of April are a high of 75 and a low of 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

Students need to wear comfortable clothing appropriate for touring during the trip. **Bottoms worn on the trip must fall right above the knee or lower.** This means Bermuda/walking shorts or capris are appropriate length bottoms. Also, jeans without holes and appropriate tops must be worn at all times. Absolutely NO short shorts/skirts or inappropriate bottoms or tops are to be worn. DO NOT even pack them in your suitcase!! **Comfortable walking shoes are a must! Wearing socks with your sneakers is also a good idea to keep your bus smelling fresh!**

Mandatory PERSONAL ITEMS

Soap/Shampoo/Conditioner
DEODORANT
Comb/Brush
Toothbrush/Toothpaste
Rain Coat/Small Umbrella
Small Blanket and Pillow

OTHER (some are optional)

Spending Money (\$20-\$100)
Camera
Phone
Book
Travel Games
Personal Snacks

Once your luggage is stowed under the motor coach, you will not have access to items packed inside until hotel check-in at 10pm that night. On the final day of the trip (Friday), you will not be able to get in your luggage after leaving the hotel in the morning until you arrive at home on Saturday. Make sure all you need (camera/phone, money, a change of clothes, etc.) is in your luggage that you take on the bus leaving school Tuesday and leaving the hotel Friday morning. **There is no changing on the bus!**

PARENTS...

If you would like to purchase and donate a **case of water for the trip**, please do! Students get very thirsty with all of the walking we do on the trip, and the water is passed out regularly while traveling. Please bring a case of water the morning of trip departure and drop off in front of your child's bus.

ENERGY DRINKS are not permitted to be packed or purchased on the trip. Please do not purchase these for your child. Also, **no coolers are permitted on the trip unless your son or daughter has a medical or allergy need. Please see me with concerns.** Students are allowed to bring only a few snack items and appropriate drinks in a small carry-on bag for the bus trip.

MEDICATION:

- **If your child is taking a prescription medication, please keep the medication in the original bottle, put in a plastic bag, and label with your child's name, chaperone's name, and bus #. Also include dosage and times to give to your child. There will be a medication drop-off station the morning of departure.**
- **Any student taking an allergy medication should also check in the morning of departure whether it is over the counter or prescription.**
- **DO NOT pack any over the counter Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Excedrin, etc. in your child's luggage. We will have this for them on the bus and while traveling with your permission.**

ON THE MORNING OF THE TRIP...

- **Please be at Beach Middle promptly at 4:30am.**
- **The buses will depart with or without a student or chaperon at 5am.**
- Make sure to check in at the nurse's station located up the steps from the main parking lot, inside the side entrance to the building if your child needs to check in any medication.
- Be sure to follow Beach's Twitter feed as we travel to see all of the exciting places we go!!!
- Take a deep breath and know that your child is in good hands!

Contact Information

Hotel Information

Hilton Springfield- Virginia
6550 Loisdale Rd.
Springfield, Virginia 22150
(703) 971-8900

Travel Company Information

Brightspark Travel

Toll-free: 800.664.6921
Fax: 847.509.0011
www.brightsparktravel.com

D.C. Trip Coordinator Information

Mrs. Ryann Skrypec
school: 734-433-2202
ext. 2205
cell: 810-333-2148
*(if needed for contact while
traveling)*
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