

McCaffrey Middle School's Washington DC Trip
Sunday, October 6 - Friday, October 11, 2024

The non-refundable deposit of \$900 is due on or before
Friday, January 26, 2024

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING
DATES FOR THE 2 PAYMENTS OF THE
REMAINING BALANCE OF THE TRIP:**

\$1100 by Friday, March 22, 2024
\$1100 by Friday, May 17, 2024

Frequently Asked Questions About the Washington DC Trip

1. What tour company does the school use?

We use The Workshops Foundation. They are a very reputable non-profit organization that has been in existence since 1967. We have worked with this company for many years. Our experiences with this organization have been phenomenal!

2. When is the trip and what is the total cost of the trip?

When: Sunday, October 6 - Friday, October 11, 2024

Cost: Approximately \$3100

The final cost of the trip is dependent on the cost of the flights. Currently through Southwest Group Sales, you are required to pay a \$50 deposit per ticket. If you cancel, within 45 days of departure, you will lose the cost of your ticket. With United Airlines Group Sales, you are required to pay the full cost of the ticket within 24 hours of booking.

3. Is there a deposit required and if so, is it refundable?

There is a \$900 non-refundable deposit that we use to hold a spot for your child with the Workshops Foundation (WF) plus the cost of the airline tickets.

4. Is there a schedule for full payment of the trip?

Yes. Families must meet the scheduled payment deadlines for the remaining cost of the trip above the \$900 deposit. The total cost of the trip will not exceed \$3100. Subtracting off the \$900 deposit that is be non-refundable, each family owes \$2200. There are 2 options:

Option 1: Pay in full the remaining \$2200 on or before Friday, March 22, 2024

OR

Option 2: Pay installment 1 (\$1100) on or before Friday, March 22, 2024 and pay installment 2 (\$1100) on or before Friday, May 17, 2024.

5. Can I get the rest of the cost of the trip back if something happens and my child cannot go on the trip?

We will work with the Workshops Foundation in an effort to get what we can refunded if you pull out of the trip before Friday, March 22, 2024. The closer we get to the trip, the more difficult it becomes to get refunds, but we will try. Please remember the airlines have their own policy for refunds.

6. Is trip insurance available?

Yes, but this is something you do on your own. The WF recommends these insurance providers:

- Seven Corners - <https://www.sevencorners.com/#start>
- Allianz - <https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com>
- Travel Guard - an AIG company - [travelguard.com](https://www.travelguard.com)

7. How do I make a payment (see Question 26 for more information)?

Deposits and tuition payments can be invoiced and paid through their secure, Square Payment System. Also, payments can be submitted to the Workshops Foundation by check, money order, cashier's check, or credit card (Master Card, Visa, Discover and American Express).

8. Can I get points from the airline?

Because we book through group sales to get the best pricing, you are not able to use your rewards number to get points.

9. Where do the children stay?

We will stay in an upscale hotel in the Washington DC area. We look at accommodations and safety when deciding on a hotel.

10. Why does the trip take place at this time of year?

This trip is a true educational experience. In order to maximize the educational value of the trip we travel to DC when crowds are small and the weather is more likely to be pleasant since we do a great amount of walking.

11. What meals are covered?

Breakfast and dinner. Lunch is on their own and we recommend \$20 per day for lunch.

12. How much spending money does my child need?

We recommend \$300 (this includes about \$120 for lunches). Each student will receive a Washington DC sweatshirt and a backpack. Many parents have used the bank cards so their child did not have to carry large sums of money. Chaperones will also hold and dispense money for your child as it is needed.

13. What are the academic requirements for participation in this trip?

Students must have a 2.0 or higher GPA. Students with 1st trimester academic strikes are not allowed to participate in this trip.

Students must have an S or higher in citizenship.

Students cannot have any suspensions.

14. What happens if my child's grades go down?

Your child may be told they cannot go on the trip and your money will be refunded (minus the \$900 non-refundable deposit) if it is before Friday, March 22, 2024. After this date, refunds become more complicated but we will do what we can. This does happen, so please stay on top of your child's grades so we don't get put in this uncomfortable situation.

15. What are some of the possible sites/tours the students will see on the trip?

- National Archives
- White House
- Smithsonian Museum of American History, Natural History and Air and Space
- Explore Georgetown
- Night tour of the World War II, Jefferson, FDR and Iwo Jima Memorials
- Arlington National Cemetery including Changing of the Guard and a wreath laying ceremony (special for McCaffrey Middle School) at the Tomb of the Unknowns
- Visit an embassy
- Mount Vernon and the ancestral home of George Washington
- The Capital including the new Capitol Visitor's Center
- Meet with a Congressman or Senator
- Visit the Senate Gallery and listen to senate hearings
- Supreme Court
- See a play at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. Memorials
- Korean and Vietnam War Memorials
- U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
- National Zoo
- Pentagon Tour
- Washington Monument
- International Spy Museum

16. Are parents allowed to go on the trip?

No. Part of the student experience is rooming with peers and navigating the week in Washington DC without the direct guidance of their parents.

17. What happens if my child gets sick?

We would contact you immediately for your input. Any medical or dental situation that arises will be taken care of at one of the several hospitals in the DC area. IF YOUR INSURANCE CARRIER IS KAISER, PLEASE CHECK WITH THEM TO SEE IF YOU NEED AN "OUT OF REGION" NUMBER THAT IS GOOD FOR 90 DAYS.

18. What type of clothes should my child bring on the trip?

We are asking the kids to be dressed appropriately at all times. There are 3 types of days. First type is called casual. This includes nice jeans (no holes), tennis shoes and a nice t-shirt. The second type of day is business casual. This includes boys in khaki type pants and a polo or collared shirt and girls in a blouse or polo shirt and nice pants. The third type of dress is professional. Boys are in suits or slacks and a sport coat with a tie and girls are in dresses or skirts and a nice blouse.

19. What is the biggest mistake kids make when choosing clothing for the trip?

They wear shoes that are not comfortable for walking. We literally walk miles each day and the kid's shoes have to be broken in and comfortable for large amounts of walking. Also, do not over pack. You are allowed one suitcase up to 50 pounds (remember there will be more coming home than going). It is EXPENSIVE if your child's suitcase is overweight.

20. Should my child bring a cell phone on the trip?

We ask that all children, if possible, bring a cell phone with them. They are not allowed to use the hotel phones (per McCaffrey Middle School), so they will be contacting you with their cell phones. If your child does not have a cell phone, they will be able to use a chaperone's cell phone in order to call home.

21. How are the students paired in rooms and how do I know they will be safe?

The kids are able to pick some or all of their roommates. There are usually 4 to a room with 2 queen beds in each room. Each night there will be a bed check. Boys are on one floor with the male chaperones also staying on that floor and the girls on another floor with the female chaperones staying on their floor. Security hired by the Workshops Foundation will also be on each floor.

22. How are the children transported around DC?

We are transported via a chartered bus at all times.

23. How early do we need to get to the airport?

We are asking that your child be to the airport 2 hours before flight departure.

24. When will we know the exact departure times?

We will have a parent meeting about 2 weeks before leaving for DC. At this time we will give you the most current itinerary.

25. What about my child bringing electronic devices with them?

If the kids want to bring iPods, cameras or other electronic devices with them, they do so at their own risk. There has never been a problem with theft, but OFTEN kids leave stuff in museums, restaurants, etc. NO LAPTOPS.

26. Payment Information

Send checks to:

The Workshops Foundation
2101 L Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20037

If you have questions about payment on the Square Payment System or using your credit card, please contact Tom Crossan (President of Workshops Foundation).

Office: 202.965.3434

Fax: 202.965.1018

tom@workshops.org

PLEASE TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT THE HUGE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS TRIP. INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT:

- **KEEPING TRACK OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS,**
- **SAFETY INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE HOTEL,**
- **THE IMPORTANCE OF EATING RIGHT AND GETTING PLENTY OF SLEEP TO AVOID GETTING SICK,**
- **HYGIENE**
- **RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR TOWARDS OTHER STUDENTS, CHAPERONES, GUEST SPEAKERS, and DC SECURITY.**