
RAA MIDDLE SCHOOL WASHINGTON, DC/NEW YORK CITY

Trip Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

BEFORE THE TRIP

How much spending money should I bring? All tickets and food are included in the price. The only money needed is money for shopping and additional food students wish to purchase. Roughly \$100.00 – 200.00 should cover what they may need.

What if my student needs medication? Dr. Scott will serve as the medicine administrator on the trip. He will keep all medications that students may need on the trip EXCEPT for students that require an inhaler (should be always kept with the student). A log of medication dispensed during the trip will be kept by the medical administrator. All information is confidential and will be handled discreetly between him and the child.

What should students wear? The weather in both Washington, DC and New York City is predicted to be between mid-30s to mid-50s. So, students will want to bring a jacket/coat, layer their clothing, and bring a hat and gloves.

Can students bring food on the trip? Yes. Students may bring snacks and re-sealable drinks for the bus and hotel stay. Students must be mindful that this is a long trip and important to keep their space on the bus and rooms neat and tidy. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Students should eat dinner or bring a meal/snack for the evening of Sunday, March 19th.

What should students pack?

Suggested items for the bus ride

- Pillow
- Light-weight blanket or sweatshirt/sweatshirt
- Cell phone and charger
- Magazines, books

Suggestions for carry-on bag:

- Refresh wipes (baby wipes)
- Glasses, contacts & solution, sunglasses
- Spending money
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Change of clothes
- Coat/jacket, rain jacket, dress in layers (weather between DC and New York is likely to vary)
- Hat
- Sweatshirt
- Hairbrush, comb, etc.

Suggested large luggage items:

- Comfortable walking shoes (we recommend no flip-flops!)
- Dress code per school regulations
- 3 casual t-shirts
- 2 pairs pants/jeans
- 1 light jacket for cold weather or rain
- Poncho or travel umbrella
- Pajamas
- Underwear and socks for 4 days

- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Hat or visor
- Hairbrush
- Toiletries: shampoo, soap, deodorant, hand sanitizer, etc. (pack in a plastic bag in case of spills)
- Camera
- Wallet and/or change purse
- Personal spending money (souvenirs and snacks)

Packing Tips: Don't over pack! A common mistake is taking too many clothes, unnecessary toiletries, etc. Each student must be able to carry their own luggage. Usually, one suitcase and one backpack are sufficient. Use Ziploc bags to hold shampoos and other toiletries that could leak.

DURING THE TRIP

How many chaperones per group? The ratio is 1 – 10 students. RMS staff chaperone our trip. Chaperones will create a REMIND group for his/her assigned students to communicate with them during the trip. It serves to build community with the chaperone group and a safety feature in the event of an emergency.

How will students communicate with their chaperone? Students will meet their chaperone during the March 7, 2023, parent meeting. Each student will be added to a REMIND messaging group with their chaperone. Chaperones will communicate information about the trip with students before and during our time in Washington, DC, and New York City.

How will student behavior be handled during the trip? All RMS rules and regulations are in effect while students are on field trips and attending extracurricular activities. **“The use of alcohol, tobacco products, or mood-altering drugs is strictly prohibited.”** And **“Profanity is unacceptable at any time.”** Students that violate school and district rules will be subject to disciplinary actions on return to school.

What are the rules for the bus (see additional rules/expectations below)? Students are to remain seated while the bus is in motion. Students will also have assigned seats near their chaperone, and attendance will be taken each time we return to the bus.

Students are expected to bring only what luggage they can carry (one suitcase and one carry-on bag), and possibly a blanket and small pillow for the bus. Luggage should be tagged with the student's name. Luggage may be inspected at any time.

Small electronic devices may be played on the bus as long as they are not a distraction to others. They are to be stored on the bus while touring. When a chaperone or bus driver is speaking to the group, students must remove earphones and headphones, and turn off all electronic devices; all students must be listening.

During nighttime driving, the interior lights will be off.

What are some locations students will visit on the trip? We will visit historic sites in Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, and New York City. Places such as the Lincoln Memorial,

Smithsonian Museums, the Liberty Center, and the 9/11 Memorial just to name a few. Refer to the itinerary (provided during parent meeting) to see full details of the planned trip.

Are students allowed to go off on their own during the trip? NO! Students must remain with their chaperone and group during the trip. The students will be delivered to their rooms at night and picked up from their rooms in the morning.

Are students allowed to carry their cell phones? Students may bring cell phones. Cell phones are not allowed out while we are touring facilities that require them to be put away (e.g., museums, certain government buildings, and theatres).

How will student rooms be organized? There are 4 students in a room with 2 full-size beds. The price for the trip is based on 4 students per room. All male and female student rooms will be on separate floors. Students may not leave their rooms without the chaperone's permission until the morning room check.

Each chaperone will monitor a maximum of 2 student rooms. Chaperones will pick up students from their rooms in the morning for breakfast.

What if my student has a food or other specific allergy? Special food arrangements will be made to accommodate any student who has special dietary concerns. Indicate any food (and other) allergies on the Emergency Contact (green) form. During the trip, a wide variety of healthy food options are available.

We will also note any other student allergies indicated on the Emergency Contact form and plan accordingly.

How are the students monitored once they are in their rooms? Students and chaperones will be on the same floors. Males are on one floor, and females are on another. Chaperones will be spaced in between our students' rooms should the need arise that they need an adult. Security will be on each end of the floor from when we return until we leave in the morning. Students are not allowed out of their rooms without permission for any reason. If they open the door, security will ask them to close it. If there is too much noise coming from a room, the administrator will be notified to come and check on the students.

What are the rules for the hotel? Students will stay in their own rooms from curfew until breakfast time. Room checks will occur nightly. Security guards will patrol the halls.

At no time may boys visit girls' rooms and vice versa. No student is to enter the room of hotel guests not from our group. No one from outside our group is to enter the room of anyone from our group.

In the hotel, one radio or TV per room may be played at a moderate level unless they are distracting others.

Rooms must be kept neat and will be checked regularly. In addition, all hotel equipment is to be used properly. Students will be responsible for the cost of any damage or missing items (such as towels, clocks, etc.).

ADDITIONAL HOTEL AND BUS PROCEDURES/EXPECTATIONS

HOTEL

- When we arrive at the hotel - every time we arrive at the hotel - students are not to disembark the bus until directions are given.
- Several students will be selected to help unload luggage from under the bus.
- Chaperones will check each room to make sure all hotel objects are intact. (ANY DAMAGE DONE TO HOTEL ROOMS WILL BE CHARGED TO THE CHILD AND PARENT.)
- There will not be any co-ed mingling in hotel rooms.
- CHECK OUT: Please remember to get all your belongings out of the room during checkout.
- BEHAVIOR: *Remember you are still under Leon County School Policy and may be suspended or expelled depending on the offense.*
 - At all times students are to remain as quiet as possible in hotel lobbies and rooms.
 - No Yelling, Screaming, or Loud talking!
 - No Running
 - No Banging on doors or walls
 - No profanity
 - NO HORSEPLAY!!
 - No fighting

BUS

- Do not stand in the aisle or in front of the bus when the bus is in motion.
- No talking during roll call.
- A reasonable noise level, as determined by the chaperones, is to be maintained. If the chaperone says that you are too loud, simply bring the volume down.
- All music will be played with earphones only.
- Food wrappers, soda bottles, etc. should be placed in trash bags located throughout the bus.
- All students are responsible for cleaning the bus at the end of every trip. "You will not get off until all trash is picked up."

AFTER THE TRIP

Are students responsible for work when they return? Students attending the trip are immersed in our Country's history and constantly learning. However, there are not specific work activities to complete while we are there. Students who do not attend the trip are doing their own set of activities while we are away. Therefore, there is no work to be responsible for upon return unless it was previously assigned by a teacher.