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What are the dates of the trip?

The dates for the trip are **Monday, March 7-Friday, March 11, 2022**. We will depart from the Rose Campus on Monday morning and return on Friday evening (exact departure time and estimated return time will be communicated in the future).

What is the cost of the trip?

I anticipate the total cost of the trip should not exceed \$1100. I wish I could give you a more definitive number, but there are several variables that may impact our cost including the number of people that sign up and our final itinerary. It is possible that the final cost will be lower than that, but it is very unlikely that it would be higher than that. Based on what I know right now my best guess is \$1100.

What is included in the price?

This price includes all accommodations and tours, as well as a deluxe continental breakfast at our hotel and dinners while we are in Chicago. Each student only needs to bring money to cover meals on the bus ride to and from Chicago, lunches during the days we are in Chicago, and any souvenirs they would like to purchase.

What is the itinerary?

Our itinerary is pretty well finalized, and will most likely include the following sights/events: a Broadway show, a Chicago Blackhawks game, Blue Man Group, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Museum of Science and Industry, the Federal Reserve Money Museum, Navy Pier, Millennium Park, Magnificent Mile, guided city tour, the John Hancock Observation Deck (360 Chicago) with Tilt experience, etc. Once we know how many are going we can finalize an itinerary and I will forward it to you.

What is the latest I can sign my child up for the trip?

The link to the sign-up form below is due no later than Monday, October 11 at 11:59 pm.

How do I sign my child up for the trip?

Follow this link to access the form to sign up your child:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wRf6FgharES1gf0SbfYIBOCKLwZDskpJjk9uc1zY7RdUNERYV01NV1pCU0NVRFPpRUlg3RTIwMkMxVi4u>

What is the payment plan?

On the sign-up form you can choose to pay the full cost of the trip on October 22 through FACTS, or you can choose to pay for the trip in equal four payments which will be deducted on October 22, November 12, December 10, and January 7

What if my child does not sign up by October 11, but later decides they want to attend?

As soon as sign-ups end I need to turn in numbers to our tour company and they will immediately begin making reservations for our group. After that, it is difficult to add students to the trip. Whether or not we can add depends on a variety of factors, and most likely your child will be placed on a wait-list in case a spot opens up.

What if my child signs up by October 11, but later decides they do not want to go.

Essentially, the earlier you know that your child needs to remove themselves from the trip the more likely you will be to receive a full refund. In the past, students that have dropped out before Christmas break have not had a problem getting all their money back. After Christmas break it becomes more difficult and you may only receive a partial refund. When this happens, the best case scenario is we have a student who is on the wait-list, and they take the place of the student who is leaving, in which case you would get all your money back.

What if I want to attend the trip as a chaperone?

If you are a parent who wishes to attend as a chaperone please refer to the letter that has the chaperone information. The link to sign up as a chaperone is:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wRf6FgharES1gf0SbfYIBOCKLwZDskpJjk9uc1zY7RdUREFaSTITR1Q5VkJYMzZUNkZTQ1hMSEU5WS4u>

What if the entire trip is cancelled due to COVID?

We will get all of our money back, less any non-refundable deposits that have already been paid by our tour company. Our tour company will do everything they can to get most, if not all, of our money back.

Is trip insurance available?

Trip insurance will be available to purchase separately. I will send out more details on trip insurance and how to purchase it soon.

It is important to note that the trip is covered if your son/daughter contracts COVID as long as you can prove they have COVID with a positive test. However, if the entire trip is cancelled because of lockdowns that have been put into effect that is NOT covered. Also, it is not covered if you decide not to attend at the last minute due to COVID concerns.

What COVID restrictions will be in place during the trip?

Our school's Covid Response Team will determine what, if any, restrictions must be in place for the trip based on CDC guidelines and local health department guidelines. This will be determined close to our departure date due to the ever-changing nature of virus restrictions. At this point, it seems like almost a certainty that masks will be required the entire time we are on the bus, as well as when we are in any public building in Chicago. Other restrictions/requirements will be determined closer to the trip.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this trip at the email listed at the top of this letter. This truly will be a fun trip, and I hope that a large majority of our seniors choose to participate in it.

In Christ,

Aaron Merz

2022 Senior Trip Parent Chaperone Information

Is there a limit to how many parents can go on the trip?

- We will take as many parent chaperones as we have room for. The number may be limited based on the number of bus seats available and to accommodate for spacing requirements. If we end up having limited spacing for the trip parents will be prioritized based on a first come basis based on those that have already filled out the interest form I sent out this past summer.

What is the process for signing up if I want to go on the trip?

- To sign up to chaperone please fill out the form with the following link:
 - <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wRf6FgharES1gf0SbfYIBOCKLwZDskpJjk9uc1zY7RdUREFaSTITR1Q5VkJYMzZUNkZTQ1hMSEU5WS4u>
 - The deadline to sign-up is Monday, October 11 at 11:59 pm.
 - After I have the final student numbers I will know how many spots we have available for parents. If there are not enough spots to accommodate all the parents that want to go then the cutoff will be based on the numbers on the list. For example, if we can take 15 parents, then the first 15 on the list that was made in the summer will be officially signed up and any numbers after that will be on a waiting list if someone drops out at a later date.
 - I will contact you by Friday, October 15 to let you know if you are definitely going or are on the waiting list.
 - At that point, only those who are definitely going will be charged the deposit. If you did not make the cutoff and are on the waiting list you will not be charged. If a spot opens up at a later date that allows you to go I will contact you to arrange payments for the trip at that point.

Can I sign up after the October 11th deadline?

- Given all the factors explained above, as well as trip logistics (reserving rooms, tickets, etc.) it is very unlikely that you would be able to secure a spot if you have not signed up by the deadline. If there are spots available and if it is not too late for our tour company to add you it may be possible. The best chance to get on the trip would be fill out the Google form as soon as possible and be sure to turn in your form by the October 11th deadline.

What is the cost for a chaperone to go on the trip?

- The following prices are what we were quoted for the New York trip. I have been guaranteed that they will not be higher than this, and they also might be a little lower. The cost is based on how many people you room with at the following rates:
 - Single Occupancy: \$1400.00 per person
 - Double Occupancy: \$1100.00 per person
 - Triple Occupancy: \$900.00 per person
 - Quadruple Occupancy: \$800.00 per person

What is the payment schedule:

- Payments for the trip will be automatically deducted through FACTS. You can choose to either pay for your trip in full in one payment on October 22, or you can choose the payment plan. If you choose the payment plan on each of the dates below one-fourth of the cost of your trip (based on your room occupancy) will be deducted:
 - October 22
 - November 12
 - December 10
 - January 7

How do I sign up for roommates?

- On the form that is due October 11th there will be a section in which you give your roommate preference or if you wish to have a room to yourself. If you want to have roommates there are usually one of two scenarios:
 - Some of you may have already talked to other parents that you know are going and have decided to room together. On the form you can list those parents that you want to room with.
 - Some of you would like roommates (to keep costs down) but do not know who else is going and/or have not talked to anyone else yet. You can indicate that on your form and when the dust settles if there are other parents in the same position I will let you know and see if you are interested in rooming together.

Can only fathers go with sons and mothers go with daughters?

- No—there are no limitations in this regard. A father can attend with his daughter and a mother can attend with her son.

Do I have to ride the bus from Lexington to Chicago and back?

- You do not have to ride the bus to and from Chicago. You may choose to fly or meet us up there. However, there will not be a discount if you choose your own transportation.

What are my responsibilities as a chaperone?

- You will be assigned a group of students that you will be responsible for. This mainly entails two things: First, helping make sure we have everybody when we are departing one place to go to another. It is much easier for each chaperone to count just a few heads than for me to count one hundred. Second, making sure you know where the students in your group are at. When we have free time students are welcome to go with other groups if a different group is doing something more preferable. They simply need to let you know where they will be and who they will be with. That way, each student has someone who knows their whereabouts.

Do I have to stay up until curfew every night to make sure my group is in their room?

- No—the faculty chaperones have that responsibility. When we return to the hotel you are free to do whatever you like, including going to bed!

Will I be able to have fun and enjoy the trip if I have those responsibilities?

- Honestly, the seniors do a great job of being responsible and with the magic of cell phones it is pretty easy to keep up with everything. Being a chaperone on senior trip is almost certainly the easiest and most laid-back of any trip that LCA takes. Ask those that have gone on the trip before and they will probably confirm what I say every year: that the parents have more fun than the students do!

Am I guaranteed to be on the same bus as my son/daughter and have them in my chaperone group?

- Yes—as long as they want to! When we have bus sign-ups any student that has a parent going automatically gets the opportunity to be on the same bus as their parent. When we do chaperone sign-ups they also automatically have the option of being in their parent’s group. However, every once in a while a student may choose to be on the other bus or in another group, so they do have to sign-up for your bus and group. However, it is rare that students do not choose to be with their parents, so it is almost certain that you will get to be with them.

How do I contact you if I have other questions?

- You can email me at amerz@lexingtonchristian.org
- You can call or text me at 859-221-3007