

MPD TOUR AMERICA, INC.

SMG -EAST COAST TOUR

April 18-24, 2012

Dear Traveler and Host Family:

We hope you are looking forward to your wonderful East Coast trip with a stop in Philadelphia en-route from NYC to Washington DC . This is a wonderful trip where you will experience all New York City & Washington has to offer. You'll see the great neighborhoods, famous sites and places of historical significance. No New York visit would be complete without a live Broadway Show. You will go to Philadelphia, Pa for a visit to Liberty Bell. You will be traveling along with students from all different nations that are now residing in the U.S.

Your MPD tour guides and chaperones from SMG will be on tour from the time we greet you at the airport arrival day in New York, until the day we transfer you from the hotel to the airport in Washington for your return flight to your host family.

This hotel you will be lodging at for 3 nights. (

COUNTRY INN & SUITES

100 Glimcher Realty Way

Elizabeth, NJ 07201

908-282-0020

This hotel is located near Newark Airport (EWR) and is approximately 15 minutes from NYC.

CROWN PLAZA HOTEL – 3 nights

2200 Centreville Road

Herndon, VA 20170

Tel: 1-703-471-6700

This hotel is located near Dulles Airport (IAD).

MPD TOUR AMERICA, INC.

24 HOUR EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER & AWHILE ON TOUR:

917-376-7225 AND 917-691-3097

PLEASE GIVE THIS NUMBER TO YOUR HOST FAMILY BEFORE DEPARTING HOME! It is also listed again under "AIRPORT INFORMATION" IN THIS PACKET!

ITINERARY:

- Tuesday:** Arrivals, check in hotel. Get to know you activities.
Pizza party at the hotel.
- Wednesday:** Depart for NYC, take a Staten Island Ferry to Manhattan. Begin with a walking tour of downtown to include Battery Park, Wall St, The NY Stock Exchange, Federal Hall, Trinity Church, St. Paul's Chapel. Board motor coach for Chinatown, Little Italy & Soho. Dinner will be at the South Street Seaport followed by a walk on the Brooklyn Bridge
- Thursday:** Depart for NYC, visit the Empire State Building, Macy's Shopping, Rockefeller Center and 5th Ave. sightseeing and shopping. Visit Central Park, the Dakota, Strawberry Fields and Lincoln Center. Dinner will be in Times Square you will then attend a live Broadway Show!
- Friday:** Depart for Philadelphia & Washington DC. Enjoy an afternoon visit to the Liberty Bell, walk around the Independence Hall area, lunch and shopping at the Bourse Building. Dinner will be on the way to Washington DC. Possible stop for dinner in Baltimore Inner Harbor if time permits. Transfer to the hotel.
- Saturday:** Depart hotel for Washington DC. A full day begins with a visit to Arlington Cemetery to see the "Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns" and the JFK gravesite. Visit Union Station for a lunch stop then begin a tour of Embassy Row, The White House, The US Capitol and all the Monuments and Memorials including, Lincoln, FDR, Vietnam, Korean War and WWII. In the evening dinner will be at beautiful Georgetown. Then an illuminated tour of Washington on the way to the hotel.
- Sunday:** Depart for Washington DC, The JFK Center than spend the entire afternoon visiting a Smithsonian Museum, (Air & Space, Amer. History, Native American) and many others to choose from. Dinner this evening will be at the Washington Hard Rock Café.
- Monday:** Breakfast at hotel and time to say goodbye to all our friends and memories we have made. Transfer to airport for flights home.

WEATHER INFORMATION:

Usually temperature averages low 40's to high 60's Fahrenheit. .

WHAT DO I BRING?

- The trip is only for 7 days casual dress everyday, so you don't need a lot. Limit your luggage to one carry-on **or** backpack and one large suitcase. Also, check with your individual airline carrier about luggage restrictions.
- BRING a JACKET or COAT and some layers of clothing.
- Comfortable shoes are a must. There is a lot of walking especially in New York. We visit a lot of sights on foot. We suggest not wearing any new shoes.
- Please do not bring lots of jewelry or other expensive items. Please consider Travelers Checks instead of cash; they can be replaced if lost or stolen. You are responsible for taking care of your own property. New York City's crime rate is low but most of the theft is from tourists so just be aware and do not pull your money and wallets out in the street this goes for the same in Philadelphia and Washington, DC. Watch your possessions in the airports as well.
- You will need enough money for airport snacks, (\$5-8) for lunches a day and for shopping for souvenirs etc.
- Bring a camera (a few disposables are fine) average student uses 5-6 rolls film or 4 -5 disposable cameras.
FILM SHOULD BE IN CARRY-ON LUGGAGE – NEVER PUT IN CHECKED IN LUGGAGE. Most of you will have digital cameras keep this in Carry-On Luggage.
- You will **NEED** your **HEALTH INSURANCE CARD AND IDENTIFICATION.**
- You will need a phone card or lots of change if you plan on calling home. We know most of you have cell phones but it is also good to have a phone card too!

AIRPORT INFORMATION

WHEN DEPARTING FROM YOUR DEPARTURE CITY AIRPORT:

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK IF STUDENT HAS ID WITH THEM BEFORE DEPARTING FOR AIRPORT!

Please arrive at your departure airport at least 1-1/2 hours before your flight, and allow more time if you are departing from a busy airport, airline, or terminal. Please be aware of restrictions on what you are not allowed in carry-on luggage (sharp items, etc.) All airports require you to check in and get a boarding pass before going through to security check and then onto gate area. **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR PASSPORT WITH YOU OR ANOTHER PICTURE ID IN CASE YOU NEED IT.**

WHEN CHECKING IN BAGGAGE - MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A TAG WITH YOUR HOST FAMILY'S NAME, ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER ON IT! TAKE OFF YOUR NATURAL FAMILY'S TAG INFORMATION AT THIS TIME.

If you are making connecting flights, when you check in for your first flight, get assigned seats and boarding passes for your whole trip. Check your luggage through to your final destination Newark Liberty Airport (EWR) on April 13th, and also get assigned seats for your return flights, if you don't already have them. Just remember you are flying out of Dulles Airport in Virginia (IAD) on April 19th.

If your flight is cancelled or delayed more than 60 minutes, or if you are transferred to another airline, please call MPD Tour America, Inc. office at 1-800-983-7780 so we know where and when to meet you. Do not miss your flight in order to telephone us. We will try and track your flight anyway if this should happen provided you gave us your flight itinerary prior traveling.

ALSO, AS AN ALTERNATE NUMBER IF THE LINES ARE BUSY WITH OTHER STUDENTS, HOST FAMILIES, PLEASE WRITE DOWN THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND KEEP IT IN YOUR WALLET AT ALL TIMES.

1-917-376-7225 This will be the emergency number for airport days and also throughout the tour.

ARRIVAL DAY IN NEWARK AIRPORT (EWR)

Please go straight to baggage claim area – this is where our staff will be looking for you. Look for our staff holding a sign that reads:

MPD TOUR AMERICA, INC.



We will do our best to meet you at baggage claim area on time, however if other flights are delayed, it throws off our schedule. If you do not see us upon arrival, we are with other students. Please give us time to get there. Staff is all over the airport in different terminals. It takes time to get to each terminal for different flight arrival times. We will be looking for you at baggage claim areas – so please stay in this area.

If your luggage is lost, please let our staff know as soon as they meet you so that they can assist in filing a lost luggage claim form if you did not file one already (Claim office is near baggage claim area).

Once a student is met we advise them to call the host family and tell them you that you have arrived safely! Atleast 50% will not call. PLEASE REST ASSURED THAT IF YOUR STUDENT DOES NOT SHOW UP WITH THEIR SCHEDULED FLIGHT WE WILL CALL YOU. IF YOU DO NOT HEAR FROM US – THIS MEANS EVERYTHING IS OK.

NOTE: ON DEPARTURE DAY FROM (Washington, D.C (IAD) DULLES AIRPORT TO YOUR HOST FAMILY WE WILL TRANSFER YOU FROM THE HOTEL TO DULLES AIRPORT AND MAKE SURE FLIGHTS ARE GOING OUT. IF THERE IS A CANCELLATION OR DELAY WE WILL NOTIFY YOUR HOST FAMILY. BUT IF A CANCELLATION OR DELAY IS ON A CONNECTING FLIGHT WE WILL NOT HAVE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US SO YOU NEED TO NOTIFY YOUR HOST FAMILY OF CHANGES ONCE YOU FIND OUT IF ANY, BUT ONLY IF YOU HAVE TIME TO CALL THEM – DO NOT MISS A FLIGHT BY MAKING A TELEPHONE CALL!

REMINDER OF TRIP RULES!

There will be a curfew every night. This trip has long days, and many night time activities. We do room checks each night to make sure everyone is in their own rooms, we expect cooperation with these rules.

We expect everyone to abide by all U.S. laws, as well as rules of your host organizations.

We have zero tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol. If drugs or alcohol are found in your room, we will assume the whole room is involved.

We do not discipline students: We send you back to your host families at your own expense and allow your host organization to punish you in any manner they see fit.

This is an English speaking tour. There are many languages and countries represented on this trip, please try to keep this in mind.

This is a group trip, which means that all the activities are geared to the whole group. There are opportunities to shop in little groups, but never alone. We have a policy of having at least 2 or more students together when breaking off from large groups for shopping etc.

SMOKING: This is a non-smoking trip. If you plan on smoking you will need to bring a copy of your host organization paperwork allowing you to smoke, and we will allow you to smoke as well. No paperwork means no smoking! Also you must abide all smoking laws in New York , New Jersey and Washington in the hotel non-smoking rooms etc.

Your guides will review further rules for this tour with you when you arrive. Just remember we want to have a safe and fun trip for All!
