

8TH GRADE EAST COAST TRIP 2019

Dear Parents and 8th Grader:

My name is Sue Oaks and I teach science at North Rockford Middle School. I am also in charge of Rockford's 8th Grade East Coast Trip. I am writing this letter to inform you about an opportunity your son or daughter will have at the completion of their 8th grade year. As 8th graders, they are offered the opportunity to attend a trip out East with other 8th graders from North Rockford Middle School and East Rockford Middle School. This trip allows them to visit many of the important places they learn about in their 8th grade U.S. history class. Our East Coast Trip is an action packed adventure that we squeeze into seven days and six nights. This year we will be leaving on **June 12, 2019** and returning on **June 18, 2019**.

We begin the trip by traveling through Canada and stopping at Niagara Falls. We get a chance to ride the boat, "Maid of the Mist" and walk along the Canadian side of the Falls, taking in the beautiful scenery.

On day two we spend the day in New York City. We tour the city on a double decker bus; take a ride on the "Beast" for a close up view of the Statue of Liberty and the New York Harbor. We go to Time Square to visit, eat at Planet Hollywood, and also go to Madame Tussauds Wax Museum while we are there.

Day three begins in Philadelphia. We begin our day with Breakfast at the Hard Rock Café. We then tour the National Constitution Center, Independence Hall, and visit the Liberty Bell exhibit. We will be taking a Sightseeing Tour of the city. We eat lunch on the famous Market and then depart for Washington DC. We eat dinner at Union Station in DC and then meet up with our guide and visit the DC monuments.

Day four we visit George Washington's home "Mount Vernon" and have lunch there. We then go to some of the museums in DC and visit Arlington Cemetery. Shop at the Pentagon Mall and return to the Hotel to swim.

Day five we visit the Newseum and other museums. We go to Hard Rock Café for lunch. We then depart for Gettysburg. Upon arriving in Gettysburg, we see the movie "Fields of Freedom", have dinner, and go on a Ghost Walk.

On the sixth day, we experience a guided tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield, a major turning point for the North in the Civil War. That afternoon will be spent enjoying roller coasters and water rides at Hershey Park. That evening we will sleep on the buses and ride straight through the night. This trip is an outstanding capstone to many of the major concepts you as 8th graders will have learned throughout the school year.

A trip of this magnitude can be expensive so I understand the more time you have to save for the trip, the greater likelihood more people will be able to attend. (This year's trip is \$1,379.00) This is an all-inclusive trip. The cost covers all hotel fees, the cost of the motor-coaches, tickets to tourists' attractions, and food (with the exception of day one's lunch and day seven's breakfast). The only other money your son or daughter would need is for souvenirs. The number of students attending will dictate the number of chaperones we take, (North Rockford and East Rockford Staff). Our top priority is to make sure that every child going is safe.

I hope this letter and information is helpful and gives you enough time to plan ahead if this sounds like something your son or daughter would enjoy attending. **More information and fund raising opportunities will be available later at an informational/signup meeting on October 18, at 6:00 pm at North Rockford Middle School.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at 863-6301 ext. 1735 or by email at soaks@rockfordschools.org.

Thank you for your interest,

Sue Oaks