International Academic Competitions

The Civil Rights Trail: In Search of Dr. King's Legacy, January 16-19, 2026

Practicalities, Costs, Details, Terms, and Conditions

Hotels and Room Type / Additional Room Supplement

1. Hotels will be 2.5-3.5 stars. All hotels will feature quad occupancy and breakfast. Hotel brands that we may select include Hampton Inn, Springhill Suites, Homewood Suites by Hilton, Hyatt House, Home2 Suites by Hilton, or other comparable hotels. The exact hotels will be determined by the end of November; this may be a function of enrollment.
2. The price of $900 per person is calculated on the basis of quad occupancy. Thus if a family will need or desire an extra room, an additional $450 will be added to cover the added room.

Competitions

1. Any participant who so chooses can compete in the Southern History Bee on Sunday. This buzzer-based tournament will feature past IAC questions on all aspects of the of the American South, with a particular emphasis on the Civil Rights Movement. There will be at least two (students and adult) divisions. If we have sufficient students, we will have both an Older Students and a Younger Students division, with the median age of the competing students determining the cut off. Pre-registration on Saturday, January 17 is required.
2. All families can also compete in the Family Picture Quiz on Monday, January 19. No pre-registration is required.

Bus

1. We are planning on a 54-56 passenger bus. With the need for four tour leaders, space is limited to the first 50 tour registrants. Depending on the ultimate tour size, it is possible that the bus size may change. However, registration is guaranteed for the first 50 people to sign up in any case.
2. The bus will have air conditioning, bathrooms, and sufficient luggage space for up to one full suitcase per family, one carry-on size suitcase per person, and one personal item (e.g. backpack, laptop bag) per person. Please do not bring more than this on the tour.
3. We will have battery-operated buzzers that will be available if students wish to play quiz questions on the buses. These will be made available at other certain times depending on other tour activities.

Schedule and Itinerary Changes

1. IAC reserves the right to make schedule and itinerary changes that we believe are in the best interests of the tour. This can include changes due to weather, traffic, road closures, health emergencies, unexpected closings at sites, unexpected opportunities to visit additional sites that are not yet listed, and further reasons.
2. That said, we will endeavor to adhere as closely as possible to the itinerary that has been posted. If it is not possible for our group to visit a particular site, we will do our best to provide an alternate experience that is comparable in general cost and visit type.

Tour Expectations

1. The tour is open to all families with a child aged 6-18 who is enrolled in primary or secondary school during the 2025-26 school year. Indeed, prior experience at IAC events at any level is not a prerequisite, but note that you must have a child coming along on the tour to take part in it, as this tour is specifically designed for families with children who are interested in the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

1A. We are also allowing IAC alumni and their families and friends to take part, provided that they participated since 2020.

2. Participating families are welcome to invite family friends. Family friends may attend without having a child of their own as long as they are friends of a family with participating students.
3. If the tour has not reached its capacity by November 1, then it will be opened to IAC staff as well as IAC-affiliated teachers and coaches and their family members.
4. Subject matter content may be of a challenging nature for some participants. We will do our best to advise parents of students aged 12 and under of potentially challenging subject matter before arriving at locations where this may be presented (particularly the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, which has extensive exhibits on lynchings and other racial violence). However, we wish to present the Civil Rights Movement with all of its facets, including the violence that participants faced, and we do not intend to shy away from the truth.

Pricing, Payment, and Refund Policies

1. The price is $900 per person regardless of age. Everyone must have their own seat on the bus; infants are not permitted. The tour may be particularly difficult for students age 4-6, as the history that we will be exploring is complex and at times, violent. The minimum age to take part is 4.
2. Upon registration, an invoice will be sent. There is a 5% surcharge for paying by credit card; there is no surcharge for paying by check.
3. Payment is required to hold a reservation. After registration, families have two weeks to submit payment; afterwards, their spot is no longer guaranteed.

4. Refunds are provided in full, minus a $50 processing fee per family (or per person in the case of just one person cancelling) until December 1. Refunds are provided at a 50% rate during the month of December. Refunds are not possible during January 2026. **In particular, please note that no refunds will be given for flight cancellations (including due to weather), or an inability to reach Atlanta on January 16.**

5. Families who are unable to reach Atlanta by 9am on January 17 may meet our group in Birmingham on Saturday afternoon, January 17, but no refund will be provided for meeting our group late.

6. **Payments must be received by December 29. If payment is not received by this date, the tour reservation will be cancelled.**

Other / Various

1. There will be a moderate amount of walking expected of participants, though extensive walking tours are not part of the itinerary. Participants who use a wheelchair are welcome to join us, though they must be able to navigate the stairs up into the bus or have family members assist them to do so.