

Dear Parents and Students,

The Washington DC trip for this year's 8th grade students is slated for **May 5th-8th, 2026!** This exciting trip is packed full of the most notable sites, monuments, museums, and government buildings in and around the city. Provided through Student Educational Tours (SET), **the 4 day, 3 night package is all inclusive with flights out of TC and is set at \$2059.00. In addition, I HIGHLY recommend the purchase of the optional trip insurance, which refunds all payments for any reason at any time during the trip process for an additional \$189.00.**

Things you can expect to see and or tour: Smithsonian Museums, Memorials (Vietnam War, Lincoln, Korean War, WWII, Jefferson, FDR, Iwo Jima and others), Capitol Hill (Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Capitol Building, & a White House photo stop), the Washington Monument, Arlington National Cemetery, Mt Vernon, and more! A detailed itinerary will be provided before travel.

Cell Phone Use During the DC Trip

To ensure the best possible experience for all travelers, we will follow a **limited-use cell phone policy** during the trip. This policy was created in response to challenges we've faced on past trips—such as students missing important instructions, not fully engaging at sites, losing phones, or experiencing disrupted sleep due to late-night use.

Here's how it will work:

- **Phones will not be used** during travel as a group (on tours, the bus, or at bedtime).
- **Phones will be collected at bedtime** and securely stored. Each room will receive a wake-up call or alarm clock to ensure students start each day on time.
- **Students may use phones** during free time at meals (lunch, dinner, and just before bed) and when they're in the buddy system during site visits (e.g., while exploring a museum).

We understand that students like to take pictures to remember their experience, and they are welcome to bring a **digital camera** for moments when phones are not accessible.

Rest assured, **chaperones will be capturing plenty of photos** throughout each day. These will be shared on our [EMS Washington DC Facebook Page](#), so families can follow along and enjoy the journey with us. You can also check out highlights from previous trips there!

Important Info: 2025–26 Washington DC Trip Application Process

To ensure this trip is a good fit for each student and the group as whole, I am asking **students** to complete an **application process with parent approval** to be considered for the trip.

Here's how it works:

1. **Student Application:**

Students must complete the following application **with parent/guardian approval**:

➡ [Student Application Link](#)

2. **Teacher Recommendations:**

Students should ask **two current EMS staff members** to complete the recommendation form on their behalf.

➡ [Teacher Recommendation Form](#)

Students can simply copy and paste this link into an email and send it to two current teachers, kindly asking them to complete the form.

Trip Approval & Sign Up!

Once a student has been approved, a link to the official **SET trip portal** will be emailed to both the student and parent where official sign up and payments are made. Please note the student is not considered rostered until your deposit is received on the SET portal. The trip caps at 46 students.

Please note:

We do **not** accept parent chaperones. TCAPS staff members and/or TCAPS retirees attend at a **1:10 ratio** to ensure student safety and support.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly at mackeyjo@tcaps.net.

Mrs. Mackey

[Student created Video about Washington DC Trip](#)
[Interview with Mackey about the trip \(Trojan TV\)](#)

See trip testimonials below:

Parent & Student Comments from previous year's trips

2024-25 Trip

"Amazing! Ella had the best experience. Thank you so much for leading such a wonderful trip!"

"I liked how there was always so much stuff to see and we were always doing something. Also I liked that there was a phone policy because we were actually interacting with other students we wouldn't typically talk to."

"Thanks for taking great care of all the kiddos. Kudos on a smooth running ship. Heard nothing but positives!"

"I loved the Washington D.C. trip because it was amazing to learn the history of our country and see the many cool things that are part of our history. It was also a ton of fun to socialize with other students while on the trip. Overall it was a ton of fun and I recommend that students do it in the future."

"Thanks for everything! Dash made so many memories!!"

"Miles has hardly messaged me but he did message to tell me he shook several WWII vets hands! So cool."

2023-24 Trip

"I had a really fun experience and recommend this opportunity to all future students."

"Everyone was so nice and we always did so many activities with our friends and got to know about historical sites that we were learning about in school."

"It was a very fun and eventful trip with lots of things to do in it, the chaperones made everything engaging and entertaining. Bus service was great and the bus driver was great."

"I had a very positive experience on this trip. This trip was so fun and beneficial for me as it has changed my view on many things in history."

"Thanks for a fantastic trip. Lauren said she had made some wonderful memories."

2022 Trip

"Thank you again for coordinating the trip. It was one of Luke's favorite experiences ever. He's already trying to plan a summer trip back to DC."

"Thank you for providing the students with such a great experience! James will remember it for the rest of his life. We cannot wait to hear all about his trip over the next several weeks. He has already shared an extensive Google Photos Album with us full of history and culture."

"Thanks for an awesome trip!!!! I know this was tons of work for you and time away. Abby said it was the best trip ever (hopefully her Hawaii trip was better...)"

“Our daughter had a wonderful time as did many of the other students. It was an experience of a lifetime for her!”

“Hi Mrs. Mackey, this is Anna Tabaczka. I just wanted to say thank you so much for taking us on this trip. It was such a fun opportunity and an amazing experience. I learned so much and grew closer with many people.”

2019 Trip

“It was such an amazing experience and I made lots of new friends and got closer with a lot of people. I am very thankful that I had the opportunity to go.” -2019 student survey response

“I thought everything was super interesting and powerful, and very fun and educational.” -2019 student survey response

“It was a lot of fun going to the museums and meeting new friends from our school and hanging out on the bus and stuff. The schedule for the days was nice too and very manageable.” -2019 student survey response