

SOUTHERN MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHORUS

SPRING CHORUS TRIP
HANDBOOK
WILLIAMSBURG,
VIRGINIA

APRIL 12-14, 2019



Greetings, Southern Middle School Chorus Students and Parents!

It is with great excitement that we embark on our chorus trip to Williamsburg, Virginia! This year's trip is a remarkable performance opportunity.

Parents – We are grateful for the interest and enthusiasm that you have shown not only in regards to our trip, but in support of our chorus program in general. We thank you for your patience as we work out details and finalize arrangements, and for your willingness to accompany us as chaperones. Without your help, this trip would not be possible!

Students – We are so proud of the hard work that you do, and proud that you will be representing not only Southern Middle's chorus department, but also our school and North Carolina! This trip will be a fantastic experience, and one that you will always remember. We are going to have a blast exploring Williamsburg.

This handbook contains pertinent information regarding travel, itinerary, accommodations, and other important trip details. Please read through the handbook thoroughly, and keep it handy. Most of all, prepare for the performance experience of a lifetime!

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Trip Coordinator:

Chelsea Huber

Chelsea_huber@abss.k12.nc.us

Bus/Transportation:

AT&T Charters

10 Jilden Dr Louisburg, NC 27549

(919) 853-3000

<http://www.attcoach.com>

Hotel:

Comfort Inn Newport News/Williamsburg East

16890B Warwick Blvd.

Newport News, Virginia 23603

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

Field trips with middle school students, and particularly overnight field trips with middle school students, would not be possible or successful without the aid and support of responsible chaperone volunteers. Thank you for your participation and help in making our trip a success! Students and chaperones alike must understand that chaperones are representatives of both Southern Middle and, by extension, Alamance County Public Schools (hence, all chaperones MUST receive clearance as a ABSS volunteer). Although we certainly want chaperones to enjoy the trip as well, the chaperone's primary responsibility is to ensure the safety and well-being of the students in his/her group while away from school property.

SUPERVISION

At the various locations on our itinerary in Williamsburg, it is easy to get caught up in the excitement of exploring a particular attraction of interest without first informing the rest of their group. At no point in time should any Southern Middle School student be ANYWHERE without their designated chaperone group. It is imperative that each student is accounted for at all times, and if at any time a student becomes separated from his/her chaperone for any reason, the chaperone and student should immediately call Ms. Huber. Her mobile number is **(802) 578-5150**. Chaperones should be accessible by telephone at all times, so please keep your cell phones on and charged! "Room checks" will occur nightly starting at

10:00pm. All chaperones and groups should be settled into rooms NO LATER than that time.

GENERAL TRIP RULES

All Alamance County Public Schools rules and policies are in effect during the trip, including dress code. Teachers and administrators on the trip reserve the right to request that a student or chaperone change into clothing that is more appropriate if original clothing is in violation of dress code. The use of alcohol and/or any tobacco products (including cigarettes and vapor products) is strictly prohibited. This of course applies to the students, but also extends to chaperones as well.

DEPARTURE, ARRIVAL, AND BUS TRAVEL

All students and chaperones that are riding the bus should gather at the front entrance/breezeway at SMS by 6:00a.m. on Friday, April 12th. We will depart promptly at 7a.m., but it is essential that you are there one hour earlier so that we have adequate time to call roll, load luggage, and complete other pre-departure tasks. If you are running late for any reason (car trouble, personal issue, etc.) please call your Ms. Huber before 6:30a.m. If you are not on the bus by 7 a.m. and you have not called to alert Ms. Huber of your situation, the bus will depart without you, and a trip refund cannot be guaranteed. If you are a chaperone driving yourself to Williamsburg, please make sure to explain your travel plans to Ms. Huber ahead of time.

The trip to Williamsburg will be approximately a 4-hour drive (with no stops), so please dress comfortably. The bus may also be cool, so be sure to bring a sweater or light jacket for the ride. To ensure adequate space for everyone, each person is limited to one carry-on bag (backpack size) for any items needed on the bus. Remaining bags or suitcases must be placed under the bus with the rest of the luggage. Be sure that your carry-on bag contains all that you will need for the bus ride, such as any medications, snacks, drinks, jackets/blankets, as you will not be able to access your luggage under the bus until after we check into the hotel Friday night at 9pm. Students: you MUST bring your performance clothes with you in your carry-on bag. If you wish, you may bring an entertainment device for the road (please always use headphones). All such devices, however, are YOUR personal responsibility to keep up with, and Southern Middle School and/or the teachers and chaperones on the buses cannot be held responsible for lost items. Our buses are equipped with a bus-wide DVD player and TV, and students may bring DVD's to

share, if they wish. All DVD's must receive prior approval. Rated "R" movies are not allowed and all movies above a G rating must be approved prior to trip departure. At the close of our trip on Sunday morning, we will be leaving around 9a.m., with an estimated arrival time in Graham of about 1p.m. For more details on travel and estimated departure and arrival times, please see itinerary, page 8. Parents/guardians that are not accompanying their student(s) to Williamsburg will receive a phone call or text message from your student or Ms. Huber when we are one hour away from Graham.

BUS RULES

- Please be courteous and polite to our driver. Be polite and keep noise to a minimum so that they can concentrate!
- Personal electronic devices (phones, tablets, etc.) are allowed, but may ONLY be used with headphones. It is YOUR responsibility to keep up with these items should you choose to bring them, and chaperones/teacher/Southern Middle are not responsible for lost or damaged items.
- The bus will have a restroom. Please be patient when using it.
- On the way to Williamsburg on Friday, you will need to bring your own breakfast. Please keep food/drink items to sizes and quantities that can be easily stowed in your backpack or carry-on bag. And – this is important! – if you make a mess, you must be responsible to clean up after yourself! Before getting on and off the bus, check the floor around and under your seat, and dispose of any trash.
- Stay in your seat while the bus is in motion. If you need to get up for any reason, including to throw something away or use the restroom, always ask a chaperone or teacher first.
- Our buses will have bus-wide DVD players and TVs, in which case we may opt to show a movie to the whole bus. You may bring a movie to share with the group, provided that it has been approved by a teacher.

LUGGAGE GUIDELINES

- All luggage will be stored under the bus, and due to space limitations, each person is permitted one suitcase (any size) and one carry-on bag (backpack size).
- Your suitcase will NOT be available to you during travel, so please keep any necessary items (food, medication, etc.) that you will need during the ride in your carry-on bag.
 - On Friday, you MUST pack your black performance clothes in your carry-on bag to change into when we arrive at the performance venue.
- All luggage should be clearly marked with your name and “Southern Middle/Graham NC” on the outside using luggage tags.

HOTEL INFORMATION

We will be staying at the Comfort Inn Newport News/Williamsburg East in Newport News, VA. Each room has two queen beds and complimentary wi-fi.

HOTEL RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Please do not use the telephone in your hotel room except for room-to-room or front- desk calls. All other calls should be made on personal cell phone. Any fee-based telephone charges will be your responsibility upon checkout.
- I suggest that you leave valuables and expensive items at home, but if you do bring valuables (or expensive electronic equipment), please pack up/secure those items in your luggage before leaving the hotel room each day.
- Make every effort to pick up after yourself and tidy up your hotel room before leaving each morning. Not only is it courteous for our hotel housekeeper, but it also minimizes the likelihood that you will lose something or find something missing or disposed of when you return to your room.
- If you are bringing a cell phone, be sure that you pack the charger and charge it nightly in the hotel. Chaperones – it is very important that you can always be reached by cell phone.

MEALS AND MONEY

Almost all meals, including breakfast at the hotel on Saturday and Sunday mornings, are included in the trip package. Please bring your own breakfast to eat on the bus on the way to Williamsburg Friday morning. You should bring extra money if you want to purchase:

- Any souvenirs at Colonial Williamsburg, the Williamsburg Ghost Tour, or Busch Gardens
- Additional snacks/meals besides your one meal voucher at Busch Gardens

TRIP ITINERARY

Friday, April 12:

6:00am	Students & chaperones arrive at SMS for roll call and bus load
7:00am	Bus is ready to go and we depart for Liberty Baptist Church (1021 Big Bethel Road, Hampton, VA 23666)
11:30am	Arrive at Liberty Baptist Church; change into performance attire
11:45am	Boxed lunches (sandwiches) are delivered; eat lunch and warm up
12:30pm	Group warmup on stage, with accompanist
1:00pm	Performance and mini-clinic on stage with adjudicators in the sanctuary
1:30pm	Change out of performance attire; board bus and depart for Colonial Williamsburg
2:30pm	Meet a WorldStrides staff member at the corner of Francis and Nassau Streets in Colonial Williamsburg to pick up Colonial Williamsburg and Busch Gardens tickets

Self-guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg:

Historic buildings are open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Your Self-Guided Study Visit Ticket enables you to enter trade shops where folk in period dress interact with you and answer questions about life in Colonial time.

*Please stay with chaperone groups at all times!

- 5:00pm Board bus and depart for dinner at Doraldo's (1915 Pocahontas Trail, Suite F-1 Williamsburg, VA 23185)
- 5:30pm We will load/unload group at the back of the restaurant. Group will enter Doraldo's from the back door to easily access the banquet room.
- 7:00pm Depart for Williamsburg Ghost Tour (422 E Duke of Gloucester Street Williamsburg, VA 23185)
- 7:30pm Meet your guide(s) at the corner of Francis and Nassau Streets for a 90 minute walking tour filled with folklore and ghost tales!
- 9:00pm Depart for hotel; Hotel check-in
- 10:00pm HOTEL QUIET TIME: Out of respect for the other hotel guests, quiet time begins at 10:00pm. Please keep noise to a minimum.

Saturday, April 13:

- 7:00am Hotel Breakfast is available from 7:00-10:00am. We do not all have to go eat breakfast at once; but everyone should be finished eating and ready to go by 9:15am
- 9:30am Board bus and depart for Busch Gardens
- 10:00am Busch Gardens Park
The park opens at 10:00am. Directions: Take I-64 to Exit 243A. Follow SR-199 1/4 mile to park entrance.

Students, please stay in groups with a chaperone at all times. Your Busch Gardens meal voucher can be used at any time during the day and is good for one entree and a regular drink at any of the following in-park locations: Squires Grill, Pigs in a Kilt, Grogans Grill or Das Festhaus. **DO NOT LOSE YOUR MEAL VOUCHER**

- 9:00pm WORLDSTRIDES ONSTAGE AWARDS CEREMONY
The award ceremony will be held in the park. Exact location pending. Seating is first-come-first-served.
- 10:00pm Board bus and depart for hotel; Hotel Quiet Time

Sunday, April 14:

- 7:00am Breakfast at the hotel starts at 7:00am until 10:00am
- 9:00am Check out - Board bus, load luggage, and depart for SMS
- 1:30pm Approximate arrival time back at SMS

MEDICAL

- All students must fill out a Medical Info Form (part of permission slip) before departure. Each chaperone will have a copy for the students in his/her room, and Ms. Huber will have master copies.
- Ms. Huber must be notified in writing before departure of any special medical concerns/conditions, including information on medications, for any child whose parent/guardian is not accompanying him/her on the trip
- Students should notify their chaperone if they are not feeling well. In the case of medical emergency, notify Ms. Huber *immediately via cell phone*.
- Throughout the trip, be sure to stay hydrated and eat. It will also be extremely helpful to get plenty of sleep the week leading up to the trip, because Friday especially will be an early morning and a long day full of activities, including our performance!

FINAL REMINDERS

- Students should stay with your chaperone/group at ALL times.
 - Students: If you should get lost or separated from your group, call your Director or chaperone immediately.
 - Chaperones: If one of your group members gets lost, immediately call your Director.
 - Even in the hotel, students should not go anywhere (even to a vending machine, breakfast area, etc.) without a chaperone.
- Please keep up with your tickets (Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens ticket, and BG meal voucher)
- Although this is a fun trip, please also remember that we are representing SMS, ABSS, and North Carolina. Our behavior at all times should exemplify that of ambassadors of our home town!

SAMPLE PACKING LIST

Below is a sample packing list of items that you may find helpful to bring. Items that you will definitely need are in bold.

- **Performance Attire** : All black, with nice black shoes. (same as our regular concerts). Minimal jewelry. (Must fit school dress code!!) On Friday, performance attire should be in your bus carry-on.
- **Your music in your black folder** (take on the bus with you on Friday)
- **Personal reusable water bottle** (disposable plastic bottles are ok, but your reusable one is ideal)
- **Toiletries** (toothbrush + toothpaste, brush/comb, shower gel/soap, lotion, deodorant, hair clips, etc.)
- Money – enough for snacks you may want, plus any souvenirs
- **ID/Driver's License** (for the adults/chaperones)
- **Cell phone + charger**
- Sunscreen (for Saturday)
- A hat or baseball cap
- **Comfortable shoes** for walking in Busch Gardens
- **Comfortable clothing** (shorts, capri pants, jeans, tee-shirts, a jacket, etc.)
ABSS dress code in effect: no profanity or obscene writing or images on clothing; no midriff-bearing tops
- **Your black SMS Chorus T-shirt** (we will wear them on Saturday)
- Small bag or backpack to take with you into Busch Gardens (keep in mind that you will have to keep up with whatever you bring)
- Personal entertainment devices for the bus (iPod, portable DVD player, etc.)
- Antibacterial hand gel to carry with you at all times
- Snacks and/or drinks for the bus and hotel (i.e. granola bars, crackers, cookies, chips/pretzels, fruit snacks, pudding, jello, single-serve powdered drink mixes, etc.)