

Civil Rights Tour - March 2015

A final 2/18 update for our upcoming journey....

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Mrs. Johnson's cell -	(231) 638-7104	rderezinski@yahoo.com

If you have questions before we go, or during the trip, please feel free to email or call any of the above chaperones. We will be in touch with one another and traveling together the entire time.

Change of Chicago hotel as of 2/28/15 - we have cancelled Best Western no shuttle service - we will stay at Super 8 O'Hare - shuttle to O'Hare 4:45 AM on Friday 3/6

Super 8 O'Hare (847-296-4471) <http://www.oharesuper8.com>

2951 Touhy Ave
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Directions (I 94 West to 294 North) - pass the airport its on the NW edge of the airport — stay on the right - Touhy Exit West - (go three miles - hotel is on left)

We have eight rooms reserved. The adults have two rooms (2 per room). The guys have 2 rooms (3 in each.) The girls 4 rooms (4 in two and 3 in two). Figure out your own pairings. We have 4:30 AM shuttle to O'Hare on Friday morning

Fairfield Inn - Montgomery, Alabama (334-260-8650)

8970 East Chase Parkway
Montgomery, AL
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mgmma-fairfield-inn-and-suites-montgomery-eastchase-parkway/>

We have eight rooms reserved. The adults have two rooms (2 per room). The guys have 2 rooms (3 in each.) The girls 4 rooms (4 in two and 3 in two). Figure out your own pairings.

The Drive to and from Chicago - check the blog....

The Flight - United Airlines

The Flight - OUT - Chicago to Birmingham

We fly out on Friday March 6 - 6:56 AM - United Airlines / Flight #UA-5910 / non stop

We arrive at 8:47 AM

The Flight - BACK - Birmingham to Chicago

We fly out on Monday March 9 - 5:45 PM - United Airlines / Flight #UA-6132 / non stop

We arrive at 7:52 PM

The Final Bill - \$575 by 3/2/15

The final bill for the trip is \$575 - the balance is due by Monday March 2. I will have a final bill for you at tonights meeting. This total will note candy \$\$\$ that you have turned in minus the candy \$\$\$ that is still out.

If you are making out a check - please make it out to Bob Wood, as I must use my VISA card for hotel and rental car costs.

Final Cost Includes

- Airfare - RT Chicago to Birmingham
- All travel expenses in Alabama
- Hotel - Montgomery (3 nights) - complete with breakfast
- Hotel - Chicago (1 night)
- Admission to Dexter Church, Birmingham Civil Rights Museum, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Bridge Crossing Jubilee Street Fair.

Final Bill does not include

- food other than breakfast
- Street Fair booth sales
- Museum gifts and souvenirs

How much \$\$\$\$ do I bring?

- That is totally up to you.
- Southern food is tasty (and fattening)
- Good stuff to eat and buy at the Street Fair
- Dinner on Thursday night....in Chicago

Luggage / and such on the “The Flight” -

One bag only - if you check it - it will cost \$25. If you carry your bag on (and it adheres to carry on specifics) it will not cost you extra.

Do not bring more than a single bag, and please don't bring those giant suitcases...we don't have room in the vans down in Alabama - and you'll only be on the road for four days.

Any kind of shampoo, hair gel, toothpaste, meds, and odd ball stuff like that has to fit in a small zip lock baggie if you are going to carry it on. Otherwise just pack it all. Hotels have hairdryers and soap, and towels, and irons...so don't worry about all that. If you want to share stuff to cut down on your packing that is fine...toothpaste and shampoo and toothbrushes are good. I wouldn't share socks or underwear. But that's up to you.

Don't forget your camera - and we will be walking a bit so bring some decent shoes.

What kinds of clothes do I bring?

We'll take a look at the weather the week before we go. This will be my ninth trip to Selma. Sunshine is usually in order. A light jacket works. Mid sixties during the day...and chillier at night. Once it rained for four straight days - and that was really really cold. So, just look - and be awake. On Sunday we'll go to church someplace - but church isn't like it used to be - people don't get all dressed up anymore - the old folks do. Just look nice.

NO PAJAMA PANTS or SWEATS in the hotel lobby or on the plane or walking around the streets of Alabama...we represent Oakridge High School and young people from the State of Michigan - and we do not want to look trashy. Just dress comfortably and look nice. There is a pool at the Alabama hotel - you'll need a swimsuit if you'd like to swim.

Itinerary -

Our Itinerary is totally at the mercy of the United States Government - and there is not much of anything we can do about it. Being the fiftieth anniversary - there's been all sorts of talk about numbers in the tens of thousands, five presidents, two marches instead of one, and Congressional groups clogging up museums and churches. When Congress is floating around, they get really antsy about anybody else being near and so - our schedule below may get shuffled. We will just have to roll with the punches. And continually find more food to eat. Prepare to fatten up.

No whining however...its a first world problem.

• Thursday - Drive from OHS to Chicago

Hopefully we will leave by 4:00 PM so that we can get into Chicago at a decent time and have something good to eat. Wicker Park is a very cool city neighborhood, its right off of the Expressway and it's got GREAT pizza! Plus we should arrive at our hotel at a decent hour - because we need to get up really early on Friday morning.

Thursday night - We stay at the Super 8 O'Hare...

• Friday - Up Early, Fly, Sixteenth Street Church, Civil Rights Museum, Food, Montgomery

Fly from Chicago to Birmingham - Our flight is at 6:56 AM, so we will have to get up really early and take the shuttle over to the airport. We will probably need to go in two waves to make it work. So, its important that we stay on time - planes don't hold the door if you are late.

We arrive in Birmingham at 8:47 AM - we will get some soul food for lunch...

We are trying to get into the Civil Rights museum by noon - but its tuff because of all of the politicians. We do have an appointment in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church at 3:00 PM. And if we don't get to the museum before the Church...we will go afterwards. Which will keep us in Birmingham late...we'll get something to eat (again) and head south...

We drive to Montgomery and spend the night

• Saturday - Dexter Church, Lowndes County Museum (between Selma and Montgomery), Selma Street Fair, roaming round Selma.

Saturday is Selma - after we tour Dexter Church. Dexter's got a great mural in the basement... and the church itself is historic - its where King was based during the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

A really good museum lies off the the highway between Montgomery and Selma. Its about fifty minute drive to Selma. We'll get to the Street Fair by 1:00 and spend the day just roaming around town. It's a good place to roam. You'll be able to check out things on your own - and some of us can go together. And you always have the food and the music and vendors down on Water Street. The Street Fair goes into the evening.

We drive back to Montgomery and spend the night.

• Sunday - Church in Selma, Meet at Brown Chapel at 1:00 PM and march the Bridge, Street Fair (more food), Jimmie Lee Jackson's gravesite in Marian that night...

Church is at 10:00 - and there's a lot of churches. At 1:00 we meet at Brown Chapel - speeches and prayers and politics and we march - we sing - we walk - we talk...

That is most years. This year is crazy...so I have no idea how things will shake out. There's talk of a second march on Saturday. There will be Secret Service Agents crawling all over the place - and up on the rooftops, so I'm sure that will have an impact on something. All I know is that people will come from all over the world, three Buddhist monks will be there dressed in orange and walk all 54 miles, politicians will make speeches, and everybody with a cause will be carrying a poster. There will be lots of songs and lots of prayers. And it will be interesting...

We will walk the bridge and then head back to the street fair, to eat some more.

I am trying to find us a hotel in Selma for Sunday night so that we can rest a bit before Jimmie Lee - but things are tight up there this year. So, if we can't slide up to Selma...

We will drive to Marian (about twenty miles in the opposite direction from Montgomery). And then we drive back to Montgomery and spend the night

• Monday - Go slow, Civil Rights Memorial and Museum, State Capitol down by Dexter Church, drive back to Birmingham, fly back to Chicago, drive home to Muskegon -

We only have a couple of things to do on Monday. The Rosa Parks museum is filled with (yes you guessed it, politicians). So, unless there is a morning cancellation we won't go...but that's OK the Civil Rights memorial is beautiful. It was designed by Mya Lyn - the same gal who designed the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. There is an interesting museum near by. And the Alabama State Capitol is across the street...we may run into some pro gay marriage protests since Alabama seems to be a final holdout for same sex marriage...

just like it was for Jim Crow.

We will eat one more time and then head north...We should get to Birmingham airport by 3:00. We get back to Chicago by 8:00 PM CST, which is 9:00 EST. So we won't be home til after midnight - that's if the weather is good.

• Tuesday - Everybody is in class on time first hour. We only get to do this semi-annually because we don't abuse the opportunity. I have promised administration that we will have 100% attendance on Tuesday from first hour on - regardless of what time we get home on Monday night. Also - the only way Friday and Monday is excused is if you are in school on Tuesday. Please be responsible - and be on time Tuesday for first hour class.