

## Cost Estimate to Bridge Crossing Jubilee in Selma, Alabama March 6 to March 9, 2015

# \$575

I've tried to estimate as best I can going from previous years' costs and this year's estimated number of travelers what the final bill for Close Up will be. Alabama hotel costs are set, the flight (non stop) looks good at 25 tickets at \$275- that's a pretty good price. I haven't yet booked an Airport hotel for March 6 in Chicago – that'll be an estimate. And our final hotel and ground transportation costs in Alabama will fluctuate according to how many kids end up going – but the numbers below are close. I will provide you an opportunity for fundraisers and help you to create a personal flyer - however paying for this trip will be up to YOU.

**DEADLINES ARE SIGNIFICANT** - Please make note of the following:

- **Tuesday November 11** - \$50 refundable deposit due today or tomorrow morning.
- **Thursday December 18** - Commitment Day
- **Monday January 5** - Final day for \$50 refund - However I believe we should move it up to 12/18.
- **February 1** - Names submitted to UAL - **Balance \$\$\$ of Airline Tickets due on Feb 1.**
- **February 4** - Tickets booked -
- **February 25** - Final Trip balance due / Final Parent Meeting - **Trip Balance \$\$\$ due on Feb 25.**

The biggest problem here is that January 5 is our first day back from Christmas Break - and it is on a Monday. That is a very bad day to make a final decision...so I think we should target the last week prior to Christmas Break to make our final decisions. That doesn't mean that you must pay by then. But we need to know up or down by then. If we fall below ten travelers, we cannot book group travel and our budget will be changed considerably. We can talk about this idea at the Parent Meetings. I think we would be better off, if we made Thursday December 18 the commitment date. Balance of the plane ticket is not due until February 1. Final balance for the trip will be due on February 25.

### **FLIGHT - \$275**

**Chicago to Birmingham**

**Flight Out March 6 – 7:00 AM to 8:43 AM**

**Return - March 9 - 5:41 PM to 7:46 PM**

We must fly out of Chicago...it's the only reasonable locale for cost and times. The best prices from Detroit are \$450 - they are not non-stop and have lousy times. Chicago poses a transportation problem to O'Hare. But it gets us into Birmingham nice and early on Friday morning and let's us use up all day Monday in Montgomery on the return. The flight is non-stop; so Chicago it is.

Here's the catch - and this is up to adults. We will have to carpool to Chicago on Thursday night and stay at a hotel near the Airport. We can shuttle to the Airport early on Friday morning. We must have commitments on drivers to and from Chicago. And we'll have to cram into a hotel for our Thursday night sleep. We must have commitments on drivers back from Chicago on Monday night after we return. And we will need commitments prior to booking flights.

**AIR PORT HOTEL = \$38**

## **Chicago O'Hare Airport**

I haven't yet booked an Airport Hotel; there are a million of them. This price may change a bit depending upon how many bodies we can fit into a room. Four per room - including the cost to leave a car (s) during the four day stay the number above is close. I'll know more when we get the final totals and booking.

**HOTEL = \$138**

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

We have eight rooms reserved (all Doubles). Rooms cost \$138 per night tax included. We will be spending three nights. We will put a minimum of three people in a room. The final cost will be determined by the final numbers of people attending.

Again we will not know the totals until we have final numbers, but if you figure three per room - that would be an approximate total of three nights @ \$46 per night = **\$138 for lodging.**

*A full breakfast is included with the hotel stay. And a beautiful swimming pool. At least that's what they say in the sales brochure.*

## **ALABAMA TRANSPORTATION - \$75**

### **Birmingham International Airport Enterprise**

#### **Rental Cars**

**(205) 591-1927**

I have reserved five vans at \$385 per van. We can take seven students in each van. So if we have twenty students that would be three vans (\$1155). I am looking into renting eleven passenger vans if the numbers get too big. We probably should estimate \$200 in gas and parking to the totals. At approximately \$1355 The final cost for this can be all over the board, determined by the number of travelers that we have going and the choice of vans. Let's say for now that \$75 is a reasonable estimate for transportation.

## **TOURS & Odds n Ends - \$50**

### **Joanne Bland - and the Churches**

In 2009 JoAnne Bland toured us through Selma. She did it at a very very big discount. I do not want to ask her to do that again...and I absolutely want you to benefit from her expertise. The problem is that this is her- busy weekend - it is the 50th anniversary she is a national tour director. If you want to know Selma - then you must experience Joanne. I don't know if we can pull it off - but I love Joanne and so will you and we will try. Also Dexter Church in Montgomery has a tour charge. Sixteenth Street Baptist in Birmingham is donation and the Civil Rights Museum is a nominal charge. Selma churches are all free to enter. So, lets count on \$50 per person for tour guides and costs...

I've purchased several copies of *Let the Trumpet Sound* by Stephen B. Oates. If you are going to experience the Civil Rights Movement up close, then you should be reading about it along the way. The Oates book is marvelous. You are welcomed to my copies - however you can purchase your own at Barnes and Nobles.

Everything else - food, street fair (\$20), museums, and other stuff is on you.

**Remember these costs are only an estimate. Final totals will vary pending on numbers traveling and final hotel costs per person. Group reservations come with deadlines, so I will be posting those dates on the blog as well. Communicate with mom and dad and granny. And communicate with me. A fifty year anniversary of maybe the most significant date in American history is pretty cool thing to be a part of.**

# **So here's the checklist that we are going by....**

**1 - Know the Deadlines and meet them.**

**2 - Student must complete Participant Guideline Form.**

**3 - Know that we may not be able to take everybody who wants to go.**

**4 - Know that if we do have more people pay, than airline tickets available we will use some form of noted criteria for final list of travelers.**

**5 - Just because you want to go - does not mean that you automatically will go. Students who go to Selma must be dependable and they must have good attendance and be doing well in class.**

**6 - Parents and Students who are interested in the Selma trip - must stay in touch with Mr. Wood through the buddha blog and / or Google classroom.**

**7 - Any questions - [bobwoodmsu@gmail.com](mailto:bobwoodmsu@gmail.com) or (616) 402-8668**