

# CLOSE-UP WASHINGTON D.C.

## TRIP TIPS - on suggestions from past travels

Below is a listing of Travel Tips for our Close-Up journey to Washington D.C. These tips have been accumulated from discussion with students who've taken this trip in previous years. If you have any other specific questions...please ask.

## **FLIGHT TIPS: BRING PHOTO ID TO THE AIRPORT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**KEEP TRACK OF THINGS** - At the airport Large airports can be a bit confusing - our airports are tiny. Check your departure times on the board before you do anything. Find the right departure gate and check regularly at the desk for boarding times. If you aren't there and the plane boards. It's tuff, you spend the night in the airport - sleeping on the floor with your bag as a pillow.

**BAG CHECK** - Carry On and a a purse or back pack is free. **AFTER THAT \$25 FOR BAG / \$35 for BAG #2** - You pay at check in. Nobody needs two bags. We are only gone for six days. **Rule #1 PACK LIGHT.**

**3 OUNCES / QUART ZIP LOCK** - In order to get through Airport security, you cannot have stuff like shampoo and toothpaste unless it is no more than 3 ounces - and stored in a quart sized zip lock bag. The best thing here is just to pack this stuff in your checked luggage. Or remember they do sell shampoo and toothpaste in Washington D.C.

**FREQUENT FLYER INFO** - Make sure when we check in, if you don't have one already, to ask the attendant to open up a frequent flyer account for you. You'll get 2000 miles and miles accrue sooner than you think. If you already have a American Airlines Frequent Flyer # have the attendant enter your information @ check in.

## **CLOTHES FOR THE WEEK:**

**SHOES** - Maybe the most important thing you can do all week - is wear comfortable shoes. You're going to walk a lot!

**THREE MAIN EVENTS** - There will be two events that will require nice clothes; two are on the same day. On Wednesday, we go to a live theater performance at the Kennedy Center. Thursday night we look nice for dinner; the dance afterwards isn't dress up. Also, on Wednesday we'll be on Capitol Hill for the day...we want to look sharp up there. So khakis or a summer dress, it gets hot up on Capitol Hill, would be nice. Remember Wednesday AM we are working at the DC Kitchen which means we'll be knee deep in cut vegetables and chicken guts; so whatever you wear on Capitol Hill will have to be carried to the Kitchen via backpack. One things for sure...**absolutely no pajama bottoms and no sweat pants in public.**

**PACK LIGHT** - Otherwise - PACK LIGHT! You are limited on your luggage - and you have to lug it to the hotel and thru the airports, and to and from the hotel - via the metro. With that in mind - PACK LIGHT!!!!!!!!!!

**CHECK WITH ROOMIE** - For some things it just doesn't make sense to bring two. If your roomie has it - then share. Just decide whose got what and plan accordingly. Some things to share: hair dryer, curling iron, iron, alarm clock. And for some of you...maybe a toothbrush. Please don't share socks or underwear.

**A LIGHT JACKET** - DC weather is always nice. DC weather is always warm. DC weather is always a chance of showers - then the sun comes out and you bleach your bones. So, who knows? It never hurts to bring a light jacket - we will walk the monuments at midnight and it could be chilly.. Be ready for lots of sunshine and flowers.

**NO Pajama Pants or Sweat Pants** - not in public. If you want to wear them in your room that's fine. We represent the Oakridge School District. You are an ambassador for your generation...we will look good in transit and conduct ourselves appropriately.

## **SPENDING MONEY:**

**TOTAL CASH** - After doing a survey from past travelers' - \$225 seemed to be about the average spending cash. But remember - aside from food on Saturday and Sunday, and a Metro card for those days everything you need is covered - so you don't need to bring much spending money. Best idea is cash and a debit card. Washington D.C. is an expensive place...and you'll spend more money than you expect to spend.

**MEAL MONEY** - Close-Up covers breakfast, lunch, & dinner. You eat at the hotel or out on program. There's a lot of good eating in DC...you will want to bring some extra cash for extra eats. The breakfast at the hotel is usually pretty good - and I suggest stuffing your back pack with bananas and apples for the day...

## **WHINING:**

**IT IS THE ABSOLUTE BEST WAY TO HAVE A LOUSY TIME. AND NOBODY WILL LISTEN. SO DON'T WHINE.**

## **CALLING HOME:**

**CELL PHONES-** Travel has survived for centuries, travelers have enjoyed trips, and the world has made out just fine without the use of Smart Phones. If you live on your phone you lose the moment. I'm not going to monitor your phone use...however, when you are out with me - eating or visiting or learning, put it away please. I'll do the same with mine. When you are on Program, at lectures, visiting and learning, put it away please. I'll do the same with mine. You don't need to call home or check your Facebook or text message every waking minute. Enjoy D.C. Enjoy the moment. Give your PA, your new friends, your teacher your undivided attention. Besides there's nothing interesting that will be happening back at Oakridge that can compete with Washington D.C.

## **MEDICATIONS:**

**FILL OUT THE CLOSE UP MEDICAL FORMS** - and provide a copy of your Insurance card for Mr. Wood.

**DON'T FORGET THEM** - But if you do, have your parents send them Fed Ex overnight.

**LIST THEM ALL** - with Mr. Wood.

**GEORGETOWN MEDICAL** - Georgetown University Medical Facility is on 24 hour call through the duration of the program.

## **HOTEL / ROOMMATES/ CLOSE-UP:**

**SUBWAY CONFUSION** - If you get split up with your partner on the Washington Metro here's our rule for the week. If you go on ahead by mistake - **NOBODY FOLLOW!** That person just continues to the next stop. Get off. Get back on going the other direction to the stop you got separated at. If that gets too confusing - ride back to the hotel. Or take a cab - we'll reimburse. Check in with Close Up staff and inform them that you were separated. Best case not to get lost - **PAY ATTENTION.**

**CLOSE-UP** - They have rules. They stick to their rules. If you don't stick to their rules, you'll be headed home early...**AT YOUR EXPENSE.** So follow their rules.

**ROOMMATES** - Four to a room. Just like college. If things aren't just the way you'd like them...make the best of it. Close Up is not going to shuffle roommates because you get a first bad impression. Adjust. It'll be good practice for life in the dorms.

**STUFF LEFT BEHIND** - Close-Up will not mail you things that you forget at the hotel. And believe it or not the maid is not stealing all of your stuff.

## **CHECK OUT BLENDSPACE:**

The more that you know before you go, the more exciting travel is...I've put together a pretty good Blendspace production. Take a look and anticipate.

## **HAVE FUN:**

**CLOSE-UP IS A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE. YOU'LL HAVE A SUPER TIME - IF YOU CONCENTRATE ON THE GOOD THINGS. SO, CONCENTRATE ON THE GOOD THINGS.**

**...AND HAVE A GREAT TIME!**