

# BSA TROOP 212

## WASHINGTON DC ADVENTURE NOVEMBER 2024

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IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS: The commitment deposits of \$100 per person, due February 5th, which will give us the actual participant count. The larger the number of participants, the better our leverage for discounts and lower final fees.

The payment schedule, after the \$100 deposit due Feb 5th, is \$450 due April 8th, \$450 due June 10<sup>th</sup>, \$450 due Aug 12<sup>th</sup> projected balance of \$150 due Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **BSA TROOP 212, WASHINGTON DC ADVENTURE,**

As you know, our Troop will be visiting our nations' Capital in November, 2024, during the Veterans Day long weekend. As a Scout Troop, we have experienced this adventure in prior years, and we have always had great adventure stories to share with our families upon our return. Properly registered Scouts and Scouters are welcome to take part in this. This booklet was prepared to answer the most commonly asked questions we received the last time we designed this trip, and should be used as a planning and preparation guide for this trip as well. If you have any questions after careful reading of this booklet, please feel free to contact the Trip Leader, John Douglas, 310-628-4312 (cell).

### **DEPARTURE TIME AND PLACE**

This time, in order to spend more time sightseeing at our Nation's Capital, we will be departing Friday evening, November 8<sup>th</sup>, at about 9 PM, subject to airline scheduling taking the "red eye" flight, landing at Dulles Airport very early ( 6 AM ? ), the next morning.

### **RETURN TIME AND PLACE**

Our best estimated schedule for return, subject to airline scheduling, is the same LAX Airport on Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, at about 8:45 PM local time. Updates on our return arrival time will be available by checking with the airlines anytime that afternoon.

### **ITINERARY**

This is a preliminary schedule, but our plans are to visit as many sights as possible, depending on the efficiency, and energy levels, of the participants. Currently, our plan is....

Air and Space Museum
American History Museum
Arlington Cemetery, Official Vet. Ceremony w/ President of US
FBI Building
FDR Memorial
Ford's Theater
Iwo Jima Memorial
Jefferson Memorial, NIGHT
JFK Gravesite
Kennedy Center Tour
Korean War Memorial, NIGHT
Lafayette Square
Library Of Congress
Lincoln Memorial, DAY
Lincoln Memorial, NIGHT
Manassas Civil War Battlefield in Virginia
National Archives
National Boy Scout Memorial
National Cathedral, NIGHT
Natural History Museum
Nurses Memorial

Pentagon, 9-11 memorial, NIGHT
Petersen House where Lincoln died
Play at Kennedy Center
Smithsonian Castle ( first WDC building )
Supreme Court
The National Archives
The Tomb of The Unknown Soldier
Ugar-Hazy Air and Space Museum
US Capital Visitors Center
US Mint
Vietnam Memorial, DAY
Vietnam Memorial, NIGHT
Washington Monument visit, DAY, Elevator to the top
Washington Monument visit, NIGHT, no elevator
White House Visitors Center
WWII Memorial, DAY
WWII Memorial, NIGHT

**EXPECTATIONS**

As you can see we expect to deliver a very broad and full visit of our Nation’s Capital, in order to make this once in a life time visit a good value for your money. Experience has shown us that many of our participants will not have the opportunity to return to the DC area for many years for a variety of reasons. Therefore, this trip is designed to make available for your enjoyment as many DC sites and exhibits possible. However, we will endeavor to custom design elements of this trip to meet the needs and requirements of all participants by accepting reasonable requests well before the trip. Planning Meetings will be scheduled and announced well in advance.

**QUALIFICATIONS TO GO**

Anyone who is a BSA registered Scouter or Scout ( boys or girls), or parent of a registered Troop 212 Scout, may come along on this adventure as long as they have the proper Scouting Certifications required, and a demonstrated ability to travel effectively on this type of High Adventure and High Activity outing. Although this is still a Scouting Trip, meaning that parents are not required to participate, this trip will also be very Family focused, so we want to encourage parents to attend in order to share this unique experience with their Scout.

**GROUP SIZE LIMITATIONS**

Due to tour bus capacity limitations we are holding to one bus load of participants which should assist in keeping the schedule punctual.

**SECURITY**

All the Washington DC officials we have contacted so far to make the arrangements for this adventure have expressed this subject is taken very seriously at every public and private facility. Therefore, we will be passing through metal detectors many times during the course of this trip. These are the same type used at the airlines and will be found at almost every Washington DC museum and monument entrance. Bag checks will often be part of the entry procedures. We have it on authority that the security devices used at Arlington Cemetery for the Veterans Day Ceremonies will be set at very strict threshold, so be prepared by not carrying any metal items on your person, including the smallest of Swiss Pocket Knives,

and expect to have your bags searched, and your cameras well inspected. Everyone is also required to have an official pictured ID.

### **WEATHER**

November days in Washington DC, at a chilly 35 degrees, can be changeable, and often unpredictable, but not a problem since most of the sights are indoors. It's a bit cooler at night, about 30 degrees. Participants should be prepared for some cold night time photography. It often rains in Washington DC, so a poncho would be useful as well. Umbrellas have proven to be less desirable for this group. In order to prepare for this colder weather eventuality, we believe each participant should have a warm overcoat. We are making arrangement with a garment manufacturer to create for us, at a very reduced rate, a Troop 212 red vest, with trip patch, that mates with a Troop 212 red overcoat, also with a trip patch, included as part of the cost of this adventure.

### **COSTS, RESERVATIONS, AND CANCELLATIONS**

All monies are being collected in payments made out to BSA Troop 212. These payments will be deposited into the Troop checking account for prepayments and deposits needed for this trip. The estimated cost of this adventure will be \$1600.00 per person to cover the cost of food, air transportation, custom souvenir patch and garments, lodging fees, vehicle fees, as well as other major costs inherent to a trip of this caliber. We believe this to be a reliable estimate, but will be influenced by the number of attendees, and the price of oil (plane fuel). We will issue a more precise estimate when we have received the first commitment deposits of \$100 per person, due February 5th, which will give us the actual participant count. The larger the number of participants, the better our leverage for discounts and lower fees. Our goal is to have a "pay one price policy", which means everything you need to have a fun and safe trip will be taken care of. The only items not covered in this price would be any special souvenirs or gifts you may wish to purchase.

The payment schedule, after the Feb 5<sup>th</sup> , \$100 deposit, is \$450 due April 8<sup>th</sup>, \$450 due June 10<sup>th</sup>, \$450 due Aug 12<sup>th</sup> projected balance of \$150 due Oct 7<sup>th</sup> , assuming we have correctly calculated our estimate.

You may choose to pay the full amount at any time prior to final deadline of October 7<sup>th</sup>. All checks should be made payable to BSA Troop 212. All Parent Release Forms, found on the web site, must be submitted no later than October 7<sup>th</sup>. Sorry, but any bounced checks will be treated as an automatic cancellation. All requests for cancellation must be received in writing. In this case, refunds are limited to the amount we have not spent as deposits or other payments on the trip participants' behalf.

### **RISK**

This trip is not for everyone because there is a great deal of walking and we are up attending breakfast every day at 6:30 AM as well as out late some evenings, for example, the theater in the round stage show at the Kennedy. To join us in the fun, you must be in good health, free of heart conditions, back problems and other physical conditions which could be aggravated by this adventure.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

We reserve the right to cancel or make changes in itinerary. This might happen if it were deemed advisable for the comfort and wellbeing of participants. In circumstances which our organization has no control, we accept and assume no responsibility whatever for any damages, injuries, losses or delays, whether to person or property. A Boy Scouts of America Tour permit has been submitted for this trip, therefore BSA Insurance coverage amounts and regulations apply.

## **BAGGAGE**

Ideally, most of your personal belongings, (do not bring a sleeping bag) should fit in one suitcase with your name on it. You may also wish to have a small carry-on bag for your camera, reading material and other small, personal items...also properly name tagged. The larger suit case will be checked in to the airlines luggage storage under the plane. Remember to not have any metal items in your carry on bag, or on your person...including the metal lugs on your hiking boots, and heavy metal belt buckles, and bottled water, which will delay entry to the flight area.

## **WHAT TO BRING**

We want you to "be prepared" for all kinds of weather. However, please try to hold your baggage to the bags mentioned above. It might be helpful if you keep in mind you are carrying your own bag(s) from the vehicle area pack line to the lodging area, as well as bring it back. So bring only the items you really need, which, as a minimum, should include:

**RAIN SUIT or PONCHO.....(Important!)**  
**WARM SOCKS .....(As a minimum, take many pairs)**  
**212 HAT, ISSUED BY NOV 8TH....(For day/evening use)**  
**HAT, WARM WOOL TYPE.....(For late evening use, just in case)**  
**WARM HIKING SHOES.....(For use each days' walking)**  
**LONG PANTS.....(For cold days and nights)**  
**SWEATER or THERMALS.....(For use under the uniform)**  
**WARM OVERCOAT, PRE-ORDERED TROOP 212 VERSION..(It does get cold at night)**  
**PERSONAL ARTICLES.....(Important medicines, sunglasses etc.)**  
**FEW BAND AIDS.....(Personal first aid supplies)**  
**WASH KIT.....(Soap, hair brush, toothbrush etc)**  
**DAY PACK.....(Fanny pack or small backpack)**  
**CAMERA AND EXTRA BATTERIES. ....(In carry bag)**  
**GLOVES & SCARF.....(With name on them)**  
**SUN BLOCK OUT.....(Even for those that "don't burn"!)**  
**SPARE UNIFORM.....**  
**TROOP RED VEST, ISSUED WITH COAT ABOVE.**  
**UNDER WEAR.....**  
**PAJAMAS.....**  
**SUNGLASSES.....**  
**WRIST WATCH.....**  
**ALARM CLOCK.....**  
**MEDICINES.....(Permission slip must indicate what these are.)**

**Personal nametags must be on all items. The above suggestion list may not be complete. You should complete it based on your personal needs/desires. If you are unsure about what to bring, please contact the Trip Leader. Don't guess...be prepared!**

## **CAMERAS**

A trip to Washington DC calls out for many picture opportunities. Please do not plan on purchasing memory cards or batteries while in DC because it will prove to be very expensive and we do not wish to reduce any site seeing time. If you are relying on charging your camera, the only outlets for use will be in your rooms, so please plan on using standby batteries accordingly. Night time pictures work best when using a tripod with release cable process. However, everyone need not bring one. For weight saving, we suggest sharing these items.

## **MEDICINES**

If a parent is not accompanying the Scout on this trip, all medicines must be properly marked with the Scouts' name as well as attached to easily understood directions, and submitted to the Trip Leader or his authorized assistant just prior to departure. The Trip Permission Slip must also indicate the names of the medicines and the use directions.

## **UNIFORM**

We take very seriously the values the Scouting uniform represents in public. So, while on cold days our over coats cover the Scout uniform, the Troop 212 Washington DC Trip tradition has been to outfit each participant with a Troop 212 baseball style cap and red vest for use. This time we are adding a Troop 212 overcoat as well. These items (cap & vest & coat) are covered in the cost of the trip and will be issued to all trip participants shortly before the departure day. In addition, FULL BSA uniforms will be worn at all times by all Scouts during this trip. Experience has shown us we all receive better services in DC when we ALL look the part. We will not be taking time out to wash any uniforms, so we suggest you bring more than one. We suggest borrowing uniforms from those Scouts not attending this trip. The few parents that do not currently own uniforms are not required to them for just this trip. They will fit in just fine with just the troop cap and red vest. However, all attempts to be in full uniform is appreciated and makes group picture taking happen more quickly.

## **MENU**

As is the tradition of Troop 212, we are planning on good meals while on this trip. They will be prepared for us in either restaurants or cafeterias. We are not cooking on this trip. You will be issued a meal voucher or other instructions prior to each meal. Details of the day will be announced each day during the Morning Announcements period in the lobby, just after breakfast.

## **LODGING**

We will be staying at the Residence Inn by Marriott in Bethesda Maryland and families will be kept together. Each room will have its own bath, and linens/towels. Land line phone use, or movie rentals in the room are the responsibility of the room participants and will not be paid for by the troop.

## **TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES**

As has always been the tradition of this adventure, we will be gathering as a group every evening prior to turning in for the night, in order to review that days' events and give some idea of the next day's schedule. We will also be gathering every morning after breakfast to give more information about that days' schedule, to also make sure we are all prepared for the day, and that we are all accounted for (see Buddy System & Trip Teams below).

## **BUDDY SYSTEM & TRIP TEAMS**

While on this adventure, there will be teams of participants made up of both Scouts and Scouters. In fact, there are two ways each person is accountable to another, for safety reasons.

**1/ (BUDDY SYSTEM)** During all Monument/Museum free time visits, and most meals, the standard Scouting Buddy System, usually 2 or 3 participants, will be employed. You all get to choose who your Museum/Monument Visiting Buddy will be. This process need not be family driven, however for younger Scouts, this might be considered. The expectation is that you will link with someone of common interests and walking speed in order to better and more safely enjoy what each monument and museum has to offer at a pace you can enjoy.

**2/ (TRIP TEAMS)** During all other times and especially during train, plane and walking travel and at the end of each free time visit in a museum or monument, there will be a Check In Time (CIT) procedure in each lobby or open area to follow. During this Check In Time (CIT), a designated CIT Leader will carry out the very important task of taking a quiet roll call (not just a head count) of the Scouts/Adults assigned to them as a Travel Team for this trip. We will not proceed to the next visiting location until each CIT Leader has reported in to the Trip Leader (John Douglas) or his designated representative that everyone is accounted for. Team size and Team Leaders will be announced during the trip update meeting ( see below) in November prior to departure day.

### **PRE-TRIP PREPARATIONS**

There will be a Trip Review Meeting all participants must attend, on Tuesday, 7 PM, November 5th.... Church Parlor and Meeting Hall, which is just a few weeks before our trip departure day. Helpful documents and any updates will be presented during this meeting. Please bring your copy of this booklet to the meeting.

### **PRE-TRIP PLANNING**

Long before this adventure launches in November, detailed preparations need to make well in advance. Individual Scouts and Scouters will be needed to assist. Many of the trip participants will be given research and reservations assignments.

### **SOUVENIR PATCH**

All participants will receive three custom prepared WDC souvenir patches. One will be on the red vest. One will be on the red overcoat. The third will be given out at the completion of the trip intended for the scouts "Brag Rag" or his uniform pocket.

### **CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION MERIT BADGES**

Scouts may be eligible to earn this Merit Badge. If, after reading the M. B. requirements, you wish to work for this badge during this trip, you are encouraged to inform the M.B. Counselor on your own prior to trip departure.

### **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

We will be using our cell phones during this trip. Please let the Trip Leader know that number well in advance of the trip. Our FM Family Radios may also be used during Tour Bus Operations. For security reasons in Washington DC, there may some sensitive areas where cell phones or radios are not allowed. As more information becomes available, we will keep you posted.

### **MAPS**

We plan to hand out walking maps at the November 5<sup>th</sup> Update and Review Meeting.

### **GROUND TRANSPORTATION**

While in Washington DC, we will be using a combination of Metro subway lines, and private buses, depending on the location of the monument/museum. We will be going over and rehearsing the subway travel procedures during the Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting. When using the Metro System each participant will use the ticket vending machines to purchase the full weeks fare card. This ticket card must be kept in a safe place at all times!

### **TRIP SURVEY**

We will be distributing a Survey Form at the completion of this adventure in order to receive feedback asking you three things you liked best about the trip and three things that need to be improved. The information from the last 6 trip surveys have been incorporated in this current adventure.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS & HELPFUL TIPS?**

1. Jewelry, rings, and other valuables should not be taken on this trip.
2. Extra spending money needs for the Scouts has been kept to a minimum because all meals and entry fees will be paid for Troop style.
3. Before we enter every monument/museum we will be traveling through a metal detector, so you must not be carrying unapproved items.
4. While we plan for cold and rain on this trip, on some occasions it was very warm, so please plan on being flexible and pack accordingly.
5. Rules of Conduct include following Scout Spirit this trip.
6. When it has been cold, a thermal vest under the uniform has been very successful in keeping us warm while still being able to "show our uniform".
7. Watches worn by each participant are highly recommended.
8. Small backpacks have been useful in the past, however, we want them removed and held in your hands during times of train travel, or other close contact conditions.
9. Wallets are best kept in pants front pockets, rather than the traditional rear pockets.
10. Each trip participant is required to have an official pictured ID on them at all times.
11. Having your own plug in headset for use on the plane is encouraged. Not to be used while walking or program time.
12. Walking during this WDC trip with a personal headset on ( one or both ears) and connected to any electronic device will result in its confiscation.

### **CLOSING SUMMARY**

This is a rare opportunity for our boys and their families to visit an exciting place most people only see in the movies, or on TV, especially for the price quoted above. The Trip Leader has made this trip several times, so you can expect this trip to be highly active throughout.