



North High School Green Brigade

July 20, 2011

Dear 8th Grade Band Member and Parents,

Through a recommendation from Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel, I am very pleased to announce that our group has been invited to perform and represent the State of Indiana in the **2012 National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C!** This is a tremendous honor and once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity for our students. After discussing this event with our high school students, we have now formed a parent committee that is helping to make plans and set goals for our participation. Because of the timing of this event, plus the unique opportunities it affords our North district students, **we are extending the invitation to participate to North 8th grade Jr. High Band members!** Also, parents/family members of our 8th grade band members are invited to travel and participate. We have 70+ high school performers plus 30+ family members intending to take part. There are MANY positives that I can see with extending this offer to you: first, our 8th grade North Jr. High Band (under the direction of Mr. Travis) will be a large and talented group - well prepared musically. Secondly, combining the 2012 incoming freshmen with this year's current high school group would produce a performing group of 100+ performing members, which would be an awesome musical experience for all of the kids. Third, you will find that this event will create a lot of pride and sense of great accomplishment for all participating students (AND their parents!), further adding to our long-standing tradition of excellence at North High School. Fourth, it is a great trip experience that you and your student will cherish for a lifetime!

Music for the parade (one arrangement to perform) will be distributed in March, 2012. Participating students will receive an mp3 recording for rehearsal purposes. Rehearsals to prepare for the parade will be limited and will begin in early May. There will only be one rehearsal per week. As always, students will be given adequate instruction time to solidly prepare and become highly confident for this prestigious performance. Students will be fitted for, and provided with a North HS Band uniform.

We have asked Mr. Jim Ashby, from Taylor Tours, to help design our trip. This will be a 6-day trip from July 1 to July 6, 2012. In addition to our participation in the Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks, this outstanding trip will include:

- an experienced Taylor Tours Travel Director to accompany us
- three nights hotel accommodations in the Washington D.C. area
- admissions to Newseum, Ford's Theatre, Holocaust Museum, and National Archives.
- sightseeing at the Capitol Building, White House Tour (on acceptance), Library of Congress, Smithsonian Museums, Memorials (Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, FDR, Jefferson, Kennedy Center, Iwo Jima, World War II), Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Transportation will be by professional motor coaches. Room occupancy is four students to a room and as selected by adults. We will have private hotel security, a special tour booklet, travel bag, luggage tags, and tour briefing by Taylor Tours. The cost of the trip will include transportation, all admissions and fees, an emergency medical insurance policy, and the SYTA consumer protection plan. As you can see by the proposed itinerary, most meals will also be provided.

Proposed Itinerary

Day One (Sunday, July 1): Travel overnight

Day Two (Monday, July 2): Buffet breakfast enroute; visits to Newseum, Air and Space Museum (meal coupon included), Ford's Theatre; souvenir shopping; dinner at Hard Rock Café; hotel check-in.

Day Three (Tuesday, July 3): Buffet breakfast at hotel; White House photo stop; Capitol Tour; Lunch at Fashion Center Mall in Pentagon City; visits to Memorials and sightseeing; dinner At Buca Di Beppo; Illumination Tour of the Memorials, back to hotel; rehearsal at hotel

Day Four (Wednesday, July 4): Buffet breakfast at hotel; National Independence Day Parade; box lunch; Holocaust Museum; National Archives; Dinner voucher at Union Station; National 4th of July Concert; view Fireworks in Washington D.C., return to hotel

Day Five (Thursday, July 5): Buffet breakfast at hotel and checkout; Arlington Cemetery; Group Photo; Lunch voucher at the Reagan Building; travel to the Smokey Glen Farm; buffet dinner, games, and hayride; depart for home

Day Six (Friday, July 6): \$7.00 cash for fast food breakfast enroute; arrive home

As part of our committee's plans, we have set the price at a maximum cost of \$800.00 per travelling member. Each student will have the opportunity to raise their money through various planned fundraisers that we are establishing throughout the coming school year. We want to make this trip a reachable goal for all students! In addition, the total cost of the trip will be divided out according to the schedule of payments listed below. Also, because of the nature of this trip, we will be seeking community support and corporate sponsorships that we feel will eventually lower the total cost per travelling member. Considering that this price includes transportation, admissions, hotel lodging and most meals, the tour package listed is a *fantastic* value for all that we get to see and do!

September 1	- \$100.00 non-refundable deposit due
October 1	- \$100.00 due
November 1	- \$100.00 due
January 2	- \$100.00 due
February 1	- \$100.00 due
March 1	- \$100.00 due
April 1	- \$100.00
May 1	- \$100.00 balance due (<i>reminder: amounts may decrease through sponsors</i>)

I will be contacting local media soon to share the exciting details of our participation in the National Independence Day Parade. This will be a memorable event that I hope you choose to be a part of!

Sincerely,

Steve Shelley

Mr. Steve Shelley, Director

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