

2018 DISCOVER AMERICA BUS TRIP
FOR THE BENEFIT OF ROTARY EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The 42nd annual bus trip around the USA will leave July 1, 2018 and return July 31, 2018. This trip is made available to Rotary Exchange students who have the means and desire to see the USA. It is not meant to be a burden on the host Rotary Club.

ITINERARY: The buses pick up students in Albany, Binghamton, Oneonta, Syracuse, Rochester, Philadelphia, PA, and Clark Summit, PA. With drop off points on the return in Albany, Binghamton, Oneonta, Syracuse, Rochester, and Niagara Falls. No other pickup or drop-off can be made. Accommodations for the night before or after the trip can be made in Binghamton NY, by contacting Mike Wilcox. The trip covers about 8,300 statute miles (so students should be prepared for long rides), includes 24 states, 31 days visiting the most beautiful natural and man made points of interest in the USA. The tour will visit some of the most scenic National Parks in America as well as other areas of interest. We will be going from the East Coast (Atlantic Ocean – Beach), to the West Coast (Pacific Ocean in Southern California) and back to New York. We will see places such as Niagara Falls, Chicago (Rotary International HQ), Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park, Salt Lake City, Lake Tahoe, San Francisco, Hollywood, Los Angeles, Disneyland, The Golden Gate Bridge, The Grand Canyon, Houston Space Center, San Antonio, New Orleans, Graceland in Memphis, Tenn. Dollywood Park, Washington D.C and much more. A complete detailed itinerary, including all motels and emergency contacts will be e-mailed to registered participants approximately 30 days prior to departure.

COST: \$3,200 per person for transportation, lodging, and sightseeing. Travel will be via deluxe air-conditioned motor coach. Lodging will be in hotels and motels. The **READABLE, COMPLETE** application must be received with **first payment of \$2,200, Insurance Card (COPY), and Exchange Student Card** no later than March 1, 2018. **Final payment of \$1,000 is due by April 25, 2018.**

COST of FOOD: \$800. This \$800 is a recommended amount, some students have spent less and some have spent MUCH more. This money is to be handled and budgeted by the student. Cost of Souvenirs, camera supplies and other extras are the direct responsibility of each student and must be in addition to the food money. The funds should be Travelers checks or Debit/Credit Cards (make sure it works, and notify the credit company that you will be traveling across the USA so they don't suspend the card). Since the trip is 31 days the \$800 will mean a little less than \$26 per day. Use this as a guide so that you will not be out of money before the trip ends. If you have the funds you certainly may take more than \$800 but you will still have to budget to determine what you can spend each day for the entire 31 days.

CHAPERONES: Four (4) Adults per bus.

TYPE of DRESS: Casual wash and wear clothing is recommended. **No clothing with offensive logos or phrases will be allowed. Do NOT bring your Rotary Blazer.**

BAGGAGE: One (1) large and one (1) small carry-on bag per person. Remember if you pack it, you have to carry it so make sure your bag is not too heavy for you to carry! Also a small pillow and lap blanket is strongly recommended. **(All baggage is subject to search at any time)**

RULES: The Exchange Student 6 D's will be strictly enforced, No Drinking, Drugs, Driving, or Dating (meaning public or private displays of affection), NO Disfigurements (piercing or tattoo's..etc...) and NO Disgracing Rotary. No exchanging room or bus assignments. Members of the opposite sex are to meet in the lobby or other public areas, **NO MALES IN FEMALES ROOMS OR FEMALES IN MALES ROOMS.** All curfews and departure times will be enforced. This is an educational, scenic trip. It is NOT a night-life review. **Infractions of any rules could result in being sent home at the expense of the student. Breathalyzer tests WILL be administered by the chaperones, if drinking is suspected.**

RESERVATIONS: **Strictly a first come first serve basis by mail.** Seats fill up quickly as MANY Rotary Districts participate. **NO PHONE ORDERS or incomplete applications will be accepted.** Mail **completed** applications to Michael R. Wilcox, PO Box 117, Bainbridge, NY 13733. Make checks or money orders (only checks drawn on USA banks are acceptable) payable to **DISCOVER AMERICA BUS TRIP.** Your Host Rotary Club Chairperson AND Natural Parents **MUST** sign the application. A copy of your Insurance Card and **FULL** payment must accompany each application. We make a book with every student's picture card in it, please send us one of the cards that you use for trading with other students. We **DO NOT** need your official Rotary Department of State ID Card. **Applications must be printed, completed, and readable, if we cannot read the application it will be returned and you will not be on the trip until it is resubmitted.**

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: We understand that this trip is a lot of money but a trip such as this at commercial rates would cost over \$8,000 plus meals. Careful planning and 42 years of experience by Rotary volunteers have reduced the rate to the lowest possible amount. Despite careful planning there may be some inconveniences. We hope these are very few and that you will have an enjoyable, interesting and long remembered trip across the USA.

LIMITS of RESPONSIBILITY: Rotary International, Rotary District 7170 and all other Rotary Districts and their officers/trip chairpersons in arranging travel accommodations or in rendering other services in connection therewith, do so as agents of the individual desiring such travel accommodations upon the express condition and agreement that it shall not be liable for any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, irregularity, or expense arising from the use of any travel facilities, accommodations, or services provided in connection with such individual's travel plan, nor any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay irregularity, or expense arising from strikes, war, weather, quarantines, sickness, government restrictions, or from any act or omission of any individual firm or corporation furnishing transportation, sightseeing, hotel accommodations, or any services in connection with such travel plan, or any other cause beyond its own control. The right is reserved to amend the advertised itinerary whenever advisable. Rotary International, Rotary District 7170 and all other Rotary Districts and their officers/trip chairpersons are not responsible for refunds, which might be due tour members from transportation companies, and for unused travel facilities, accommodations, and service. All such claims for refunds must be made by the individual for whom the travel plan is prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of such transportation companies or company, firm or corporation furnishing such travel, facility, accommodation, or service. Baggage and articles carried by individual during the tour are "at own risk". All costs, rates, tariffs, and other charges are subject to adjustment at any time without prior notice. The passage contract in use by the bus company concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the purchaser of these tours and/or passenger. The acceptance of any travel plan or other service by any individual shall deem to constitute an acceptance of this limitation or responsibility

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE DISCOVER AMERICA BUS TRIP

YOU WILL BE SENT HOME IMMEDIATELY AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE FOR VIOLATING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING RULES:

1. DRINKING OR POSSESSION OF ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES (if a student refuses the breathalyzer test when requested by chaperones- they will be sent home also.)
2. USE OF OR POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS
3. NO NEW TATTOOS, BODY PIERCINGS OR OTHER DISFIGUREMENTS OBTAINED WHILE ON THE TRIP
4. SHOPLIFTING, STEALING, OR GAMBLING
5. ANY OFFENSIVE ACT THAT WOULD DISGRACE THE TOUR OR ROTARY.
6. ALL STUDENTS MUST BE IN THEIR ASSIGNED ROOMS AT THE TIME DESIGNATED. NO BOYS IN GIRLS ROOMS-NO GIRLS IN BOYS ROOMS. NO CHANGES OF ROOMS OR BUSES.
7. NO SMOKING. AT ALL. (if you cannot go 30 days without smoking, PLEASE don't apply)
8. STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE TOUR EVEN WITH FRIENDS OR RELATIVES. IF FREE TIME EXISTS, STUDENTS MAY MEET FRIENDS OR RELATIVES IN THE HOTEL WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CHAPARONES.
9. BUDGET YOUR MONEY SO YOU CAN EAT ON THE LAST DAYS OF THE TRIP.
10. BE ON TIME! THOSE WHO ARE LATE RUIN THE TRIP FOR EVERYONES ELSE. THIS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN!
11. STUDENTS ARE TO STAY IN GROUPS OF FOUR (4) OR MORE WHEN FREE TIME EXISTS.
12. NO DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION.
13. ENGLISH IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE TO BE USED. IT IS VERY INPOLITE TO SPEAK YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE WHEN OTHERS CANNOT FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION.
14. ALL LUGGAGE IS SUBJECT TO SEARCH AT ANY TIME.

Please obey these rules! They are for your safety and the enjoyment of the trip for all students. Rotary wants you to have a wonderful time on this cross Country excursion, BUT BE WARNED the chaperones have the authority from Rotary to remove you from the trip if the rules are not adhered to. A lot of time and energy has gone into providing you this experience. We will not allow a few to spoil the trip for the rest. If you work with the chaperones and drivers you will have a safe and enjoyable trip you will remember the rest of your life. IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW THE RULES, YOU WILL BE SENT HOME!

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APPLICATION

NAME: _____ MALE ___ FEMALE ___

YOUR HOME COUNTRY _____ YOUR E-MAIL _____

HOST ROTARY CLUB _____ HOST DISTRICT _____ "T" SHIRT SIZE _____
(s-small m-medium L-large XL)

HOST CLUB CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS:
(Youth Exchange Officer)

_____ Name

_____ Street or PO Box

_____ City

_____ State

_____ Zip Code

HOST CLUB CHAIRPERSON'S E-MAIL _____

HOST CLUB CHAIRPERSONS (YEO) CELL PHONE# _____ WORK# _____
Include area code Include area code

I _____, will abide by the designated rules and regulations of the DISCOVER AMERICA BUS TRIP. I also agree to the attached limits of responsibility.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

I have reviewed the attached rules with the student and am confident he/she will abide by the rules and regulations. I also agree to retain an emergency fund of no less than \$300 from the student to be release to the bus trip in case of an emergency regarding this student.

HOST CLUB CHAIRPERSON
(YEO)SIGNATURE _____

We (I) agree that our/my son/daughter will abide by the rules of the DISCOVER AMERICA BUS TRIP and furthermore permit the chaperones to allow medical treatment for my child while on the trip. We (I) have attached a list of any and all medical history he/she has that might affect them during the trip.

NATURAL PARENTS SIGNATURE _____

I will get on the bus in: Albany___, Binghamton___, Oneonta___, Syracuse___, Rochester___,
Philadelphia, PA___, Clark Summit, PA___

On the return trip I would like to get off the bus in:

Albany___, Binghamton___, Oneonta___, Syracuse___, Rochester___, Niagara Falls___

Checks in US Dollars & Drawn on USA Banks, made out to "DISCOVER AMERICA BUS TRIP" ONLY are accepted and mail to:

MICHAEL R. WILCOX
PO BOX 117
BAINBRIDGE, NY 13733

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Any questions you can reach Michael Wilcox at (607) 427 8520 or e-mail mikewilcox@discoveramericabustrip.com