

Grade Seven Class Trip to New Orleans

Dates of the Trip

We will leave on Wednesday, October 3, at 7:00 a.m. We will return on Friday, October 5, around 6:30 p.m.

Cost of the trip

\$470 per student/4 students to a room
Deposit (\$235) due Friday, August 17
Final payment (\$235) due on Friday, September 14

\$610 per adult/2 adults per room
Deposit (\$305) due Friday, August 17
Final payment (\$305) due on Friday, September 14

\$715 per adult/1 adult per room
Deposit (\$358) due Friday, August 17
Final payment (\$357) due on Friday, September 14

* The cost of the trip covers all transportation, hotel rooms, all meals, security guards at hotel, and any admission fees. Not covered are snacks and souvenirs.

Our Purpose

- To provide opportunities for students to learn about their country and its history
- To experience traveling with other people
- To bond with classmates
- To exercise independence and decision-making skills
- To have these experiences in a safe environment, guided by educators who love God and young people

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is my money refundable if I decide not to send my child on the trip?

A: Refunds can be given up through **August 31**. There will be no refunds after August 31.

Q: What if a parent wants to go on the trip but not ride the bus?

A: The only adults on the trip are people who can work as chaperones, and chaperones must be on the buses and must be with our group the entire trip. No alternative travel arrangements may be made.

Q: Will parents have seats to themselves on the bus?

A: We cannot guarantee that parents will have seats to themselves.

Q: What if a child has more than one parent who wants to go on the trip?

A: Because we have limited seating, only one parent per child may sign up to be considered as a chaperone.

Q: Does indicating a desire to be a parent chaperone on or before August 17 guarantee a spot?

A: While it is our desire that everyone who wants to serve be able to serve, due to limited space, we will not be able to make guarantees until all students have signed up and we have a count of available spots.

Q: Does the trip require physical activity?

A: YES. We will need to walk some on this trip.

What We May See

- Mardi Gras World
- Plantation Tour
- Cafe du Monde
- World War II Museum
- Riverboat ride
- Swamp Tour

IMPORTANT

EVERY STUDENT WHO GOES ON THE 2018 NEW ORLEANS TRIP IS REQUIRED TO HAVE EVIDENCE OF HEALTH INSURANCE.

Q: What if I decide later in the year that I want my child to go on the trip, but I have already indicated that he will not be going?

A: We must have a firm number for the trip by the date of the first deposit, **August 17**. After this date we will not be able to add anyone to the trip.

Q: What if I have not paid my final payment in full by September 14?

A: We must have all payments paid in full by **September 14**. This is a firm deadline. Those who are not paid in full by this date will not be allowed to go on the trip.

****If the final payment is not made, parents will forfeit any deposits that have been paid.***

Safety Measures

On the bus:

- Students must stay seated. We will make periodic stops to use the restroom and to stretch our legs.
- Adult chaperones are interspersed among the students.
- Boys sit with boys on the bus, and girls sit with girls on the bus.

In the hotel:

- Once students are in their rooms for the night, they must not leave.
- They must not open their doors for any reason.
- Chaperone rooms are interspersed, and chaperones will do room checks each morning and evening.
- A security guard will be in the hall at night.

In New Orleans:

- We expect to have at least a 1:4 adult:child ratio.
- Students will be with an adult at all times.
- Each student will have the cell phone number of his chaperone and at least one other adult on the trip.

What's Next?

A commitment form will be posted on the Harding Academy Middle School blog and Harding's website. This form is where you will indicate whether or not your student will go on the trip, and whether or not you would like to be considered as a chaperone. Your student may also get a print copy of the form in the middle school office. These forms are due by August 17. They should be turned in to the middle school office. Soon after this date, we will be able to determine how many chaperone spots will be available.

****Forms turned in after August 17 will not be considered for chaperones.***

The first deposit for students and chaperones will be accepted anytime after March 1 up until the first deadline of **August 17**.

****Failure to submit a chaperone deposit by the first deposit due date will result in a loss of the chaperone spot.***

Since the first deposit is due on August 17, we should know at that point whether we have enough students going for the trip to "make."

Communication

Information about the class trip will be communicated using the Harding Academy Middle School Blog, the Harding website, and parent emails.

All forms and handouts will be posted on Harding's website and on the middle school blog. Printed copies will be available in the middle school office.

Students should turn in forms and payments to Mrs. Gilreath in the middle school office. You may contact her at gilreath.dawn@hardingacademymemphis.org.

Important Dates

August 17

All commitment forms and first deposit due

August 31

Refund deadline

Fall TBA

Parent meeting

September 14

Final payment due

October 3–5

Trip to New Orleans

Receiving Financial Assistance

A limited amount of financial assistance is available for the Middle School trips. If you are interested in requesting help, please fill out the application and return to Mrs. Gilreath by **August 17**. No applications will be accepted after this deadline.

Providing Financial Assistance

Donations will gladly be accepted to use for students who may need financial assistance. Donations of any size will be appreciated and helpful. Please mark as a donation.

Behavior Leading Up to the Trip

When a student has demonstrated a failure to meet the standards of good behavior, the school reserves the right to revoke the student's privilege of going on the trip. Because students on these trips are representing Harding Academy and because students on these trips are granted a degree of independence, the school expects students who go on the trips to have established a record of responsible behavior at school. Additionally, a student whose account is more than sixty days past due will not be allowed to go on the trip.

A student who does not meet the criteria for the trip will not be allowed to go on the trip. A refund can be considered through August 31. After August 31, no refund will be given. If a student commits an infraction after that time, parents need to know that any money paid up to that point is nonrefundable.

It is our goal that every student will go on the New Orleans trip; however, we are aware that occasionally this is not possible for every family. If your child will not be able to go with us on the trip, please inform us as soon as possible.