



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q HOW DO YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFIT BY TRAVELING?

Travel exposes young people to new places, new people and new ideas. Travel brings history lessons to life, gives civics lessons depth, and exposes eager young minds to challenges and situations that they wouldn't otherwise enjoy. Positive travel experiences create well-rounded young people who appreciate the world and the people around them. Most importantly, teachers state that student travel prompts a transformation through which students grow their ambitions to know, learn and explore.

### Q WHEN DO WE DECIDE WHO WILL BE SHARING ROOMS?

Your rooming list is due to Educational Tours approximately 100 days prior to departure. We suggest the Group Leader and Students create a sign up sheet as early as possible to decide roommates.

### Q WHAT TYPE OF CLOTHES SHOULD I PACK FOR MY TRIP?

Make sure to pack comfortable walking shoes, comfortable clothes for the bus ride (especially if you are riding overnight), layered clothing for warmth and remember your performance uniform/outfit if your group is planning to perform.

**NOTE:** Check with your Group Leader for school policies on "proper attire" expected by your school.

### Q HOW MUCH LUGGAGE IS ALLOWED?

Whether by bus or by air, each person is allowed one carry-on and one suitcase.

### Q HOW CAN I CONTACT SOMEONE ON THE TRIP IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY?

You can call our emergency number - (800) 654-4560. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through our answering service. You will speak directly to someone who will contact our chain of command to handle any situation while the trip is in progress, including emergency messages from home.

### Q HOW MUCH "EXTRA" SPENDING MONEY SHOULD I BRING?

The amount of "extra" cash will depend on the length of the trip. A good suggestion is to calculate any meals that are not included on the bus ride and at your final destination. Allow enough cash to cover those meals - approx. \$15-\$25 per meal, depending on the destination. Then set an allowance for souvenirs you may purchase.

### Q CAN WE TAKE FOOD AND DRINK ON THE BUS?

Snacks are a good idea for a long bus ride. Fruit, candy, crackers, granola, etc. are good between meals. Beverages are usually allowed on the motorcoach. However, some bus companies have rules against certain types of beverages (such as dairy products).

### Q WILL THE MOTORCOACH HAVE A DVD PLAYER?

Most coaches offer a DVD player. Movies are provided by the school/students, but usually need to be approved by the Group Leader beforehand.

### Q IS THERE A RESTROOM ON THE MOTORCOACH?

Most standard size coaches have a restroom. Drivers suggest they are to be used for emergencies only. If over used, the odor can become unpleasant for those sitting in the back of the bus.

### **HOW LONG IS THE DRIVER ON DUTY?**

Motorcoach drivers can be on duty for 15 hours, but can only drive 10 of those 15 hours. Once their shift is up, a relief driver will take over. If you are en route, a relief driver will be either “bunked” on the motorcoach, or the group will stop to pick up the relief driver. By law, drivers **MUST** have 8 hours off for rest between shifts. *(Some companies may require 9 or 10 hours).* For safety reasons and legal ramifications, these rules must be followed.

### **UPON ARRIVAL AT OUR DESTINATION, WILL SOMEONE MEET US?**

You will be met by an Educational Tours, Inc. Tour Director who will remain with you throughout most of your trip. Their job is to take care of the details such as hotel check in, meal reservations, theater tickets and other activities you have planned. Tour Directors are **NOT** tour guides – they are problem solvers. They work together with the Group Leader to make sure the trip runs as smooth as possible. A good suggestion is to arrange a meeting with the Tour Director, Group Leader and Chaperones upon arrival.

### **HOW DO YOU SAFELY MANAGE STUDENTS AT THE HOTEL?**

Tour Directors arrive a day or more before the group and will prepare the hotel. They will have the pay per view channels turned off if possible. However, if the hotel offers cable movie channels, they will not be able to turn them off. All the phones will be turned off in the student rooms for outside calls. Students will still be able to make room-to-room calls.

### **WILL STUDENT ROOMS BE SPREAD OUT ALL OVER THE HOTEL?**

We work with the hotel to make sure they block the rooms as “tight” as possible. Rooms are blocked in such a way as to separate the boys’ rooms from the girls’ rooms with chaperones dispersed in between.

### **WHO GUARDS THE STUDENT ROOMS AT NIGHT AFTER LIGHTS OUT?**

For domestic destinations, private nighttime security is hired exclusively for your group. They are posted every night guarding only your rooms. The number of guards will depend on the size of your group. This ensures the Group Leader and Chaperones a restful night so they can stay alert during your trip.

### **WHAT IS AN “ETI” CLINIC?**

Educational Tours, Inc. offers clinics which feature performance and skill-building classes for bands, orchestras, jazz groups, choirs, theater groups, and more.

A clinic’s focus is on the fundamentals of music, such as performance and breathing techniques, tone production and warm-ups. We encourage clinicians to motivate students forward in a positive manner, while helping them polish both their ensemble and individual performance skills.

Clinicians are chosen for their talent and excellence as music educators from Universities all over the U.S. Most clinics will last an hour and a half and are held at a Music Studio or University.

### **IS TRAVEL PROTECTION AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE?**

Yes, travelers can purchase travel protection to reimburse the cost of the trip (less the cost of the insurance policy) if the traveler has to cancel prior to the departure date for unforeseen medical reasons. Please refer to your participant letter or contact your ETI representative for more details.

### **WILL THE BUSES HAVE OUTLETS AND WI-FI?**

Most motorcoach companies have updated most of their fleet to include outlets and Wi-Fi. Although we do reserve coaches with these features for your group, due to inclement weather and other issues that may arise, there is no guarantee that the bus or buses you get will have these features. Prepare to bring a portable charger along just in case. Do keep in mind, even if your bus does have Wi-Fi, the service may be limited due to your location en route or the capacity of users.



# EDUCATIONAL TOURS, INC.

## TOUR DIRECTOR ROLE

- They are there to make sure the travel arrangements run smoothly, so chaperones and directors may concentrate on the students and the performances. The Tour Director will be with the group until they depart for home.
- They are not chaperones, bus driver guides, or tour guides who give sightseeing commentary but function as a liaison between your group and various vendors whose services have been contracted on behalf of the group.
- They will meet your group where specified on the itinerary and will then need a seat near the bus driver for the duration of the trip. They will facilitate communication with the director and the bus driver. If there are additional escorts, they will ride on other buses if applicable.
- They will have a short meeting with directors upon arrival to discuss the itinerary and any last minute needed questions and/or changes.
- They will pay all bills for items not already prepaid on the itinerary. They will also provide tickets and cash backs to all events included on the itinerary as contracted. These items will be presented to the director on the day that they will be used.
- They will be of assistance in emergency situations by being aware of emergency medical facilities available at your travel destination.
- They may suggest some changes in the itinerary to compensate for existing conditions such as weather, traffic, delay in arrival time, etc. They are instructed to be flexible with the itinerary according to the director's choices and keeping within safety driving hours for the bus driver.
- They will have checked their Tour Director Kit as the last step in quality control and reconfirmed all arrangements prior to arrival of the group, including opening and closing times of all places.



# EDUCATIONAL TOURS, INC.

## TRAVEL AND PACKING TIPS FOR STUDENT GROUPS

### GENERAL INFORMATION

You are allowed one suitcase and one small carry-on bag. • Luggage is your responsibility at all times throughout the trip. • Luggage must be placed in the correct loading area so it gets placed on the bus. • Bring keys if you lock your luggage or instrument. • Don't over pack! What you pack is what you have to carry!

### CARRY-ON BAG

Pack your carry-on bag with any items you will need the first day. You will not be able to get to the items under the bus until it is time to check in to the hotel. • Don't forget your cell phone/device chargers and be sure to fully charge all your items before you depart. You may not have outlets on the motorcoach. • If your first day is a beach day, be sure to pack your beach items in your carry-on bag.

### APPROPRIATE DRESS

Dress comfortably – you may be sitting, walking, or standing for long periods of time. • No t-shirts with questionable wording or graphics, half-shirts, short-shorts, or miniskirts. • The school's dress code is in effect for the duration of the trip.

### SUGGESTED PACKING CHECKLIST

#### CLOTHING:

\_\_\_\_\_ Comfortable walking shoes and one pair of nicer shoes

\_\_\_\_\_ Shirts

\_\_\_\_\_ Pants/jeans/shorts

\_\_\_\_\_ Pajamas

\_\_\_\_\_ Jacket/sweater/sweatshirt

\_\_\_\_\_ Dressier outfit (*reserved for a theater night out, nice restaurant*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Raincoat/poncho/umbrella

\_\_\_\_\_ Underwear

\_\_\_\_\_ Socks

\_\_\_\_\_ Laundry bag/plastic bag for dirty clothes

\_\_\_\_\_ Bathing suit (*must comply with school dress code*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Towel (*if needed for beach day/water park day*)

*List continued on next page...*

## SUGGESTED PACKING CHECKLIST, CONT.

### MUSIC STUDENTS:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| _____ Instrument  | _____ Folder and music  |
| _____ Extra supplies ( <i>reeds, valve oil, strings, rosin, cork grease, mallets, drumsticks etc.</i> ) | _____ Costume/Uniform and accessories ( <i>ties, shoes, stole/robe, dark socks/nylons, etc.</i> ) |
| _____ Music stand/lyre  |   |
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### PERSONAL ITEMS:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| _____ Shampoo/Conditioner   | _____ Medication ( <i>follow school medication policies</i> ) |
| _____ Deodorant             | _____ Extra contacts, lens solution, lens case, glasses       |
| _____ Toothbrush/toothpaste | _____ Hair dryer  |
| _____ Hairbrush/comb        | _____ Lip Balm  |
| _____ Sunscreen             | _____ Shower/pool/beach shoes                                 |
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### OTHER:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| _____ Spending money and money for meals ( <i>if needed</i> ) | _____ Portable Charging Block ( <i>to use for charging devices during the day</i> ) |
| _____ Driver's license/student ID                             | _____ Watch   |
| _____ Cell Phone/Camera                                       | _____ Sunglasses  |
| _____ iPod/MP3, etc.  | _____ Pillow/Blanket  |
| _____ Electronics Chargers                                    |   |

# ROAD SCHOLARSHIP

**THE SYTA YOUTH FOUNDATION (SYF)** established the Road Scholarship program in 2002 to award funds to youth who are unable to afford the cost of student group trips. Based on the belief that travel is essential for a complete education, it is SYF's goal to make a positive difference, through travel, in the young lives of our global citizens. Since its inception, SYF has impacted more than 7,200 students.

A Road Scholarship is financial aid granted to individuals or groups of 5 or more who have been nominated by a teacher or youth group leader and who meet criteria within 5 categories: Achievement, Need, Initiative/Involvement, Service/Citizenship, and Connection. The grants are vetted and approved through the SYF Board of Trustees.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR A ROAD SCHOLARSHIP?

Students in grades K-12, and younger than 18 years of age will be considered. Nominations must be submitted by an educator, program leader or designated school official. Nominations submitted by parents or guardians will not be considered.

## HOW MUCH IS AWARDED PER EACH ROAD SCHOLARSHIP?

Up to \$1,000 USD will be awarded to an individual and a maximum of \$5,000 USD will be awarded to a group nomination. Nominations requesting an award higher than the maximum will not be considered.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:**  
<https://sytayouthfoundation.org/road-scholarship>

*If you have any questions regarding the Road Scholarship program, please email  
[info@sytayouthfoundation.org](mailto:info@sytayouthfoundation.org)*