



CMS 8TH GRADERS ARE GOING TO DC & NYC

JUNE 7-11, 2026

To: CMS 8th grade students, parents / guardians

From: Kelly Hillier, CMS 8th grade English teacher

We are thrilled to invite CMS 8th graders on an unforgettable learning trip to our nation's capital and the Big Apple! Students will gain a deeper understanding of our history, pay respect to fallen war heroes, and see amazing memorials and monuments. This trip will provide life-long memories. The tour is coordinated by School Tours of America (STA). Lakeville School District #194 does not assume any sponsorship or liability concerning this tour.

THIS \$2,598 PP ALL-INCLUSIVE TOUR PROVIDES:

- * Round-trip air transportation
- Quality hotel accommodations
- All meals
- Sightseeing/tour guides
- Nighttime private hotel security
- All tickets / admissions to activities
- All taxes and gratuity
- Drawstring backpack
- Lanyard and bag tags
- Comprehensive student medical & accidental insurance
- 24-hour on-call representative
- AN AMAZING TRIP!

(Cost based on quad occupancy / baggage fees not included)

T-SHIRT

A customized CMS t-shirt is included in the price of the trip. When prompted while registering online, you **DO NOT** need to order the STA t-shirt which is an additional \$20.

PAYMENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

STA offers an optional Payment Protection Program (PPP) for \$309. If you choose to purchase the PPP, payment would need to be made at the time of registration. The PPP will protect your child should he/she need to cancel. In the event the PPP is executed, the balance of the trip **LESS** \$309 will be refunded. More detailed information can be found under Terms and Conditions on STA's website www.schooltoursofamerica.com.

CHAPERONES

Adult supervision will be provided at a ratio of 1:12. All chaperones are teachers/staff who know your son/daughter well. Safety and peace of mind are our first priority. Lakeville School District #194 does not assume any sponsorship or liability concerning this tour.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If your child has a medical condition and you are unsure whether this trip is a fit for them, please contact Kelly Hillier **PRIOR** to registering to discuss the situation.

PRIOR to registering, see behavior guidelines on the attached sheet. If the student consistently shows disrespect towards their peers, teachers, staff, and/or property throughout the school year, that student may forfeit their opportunity to travel with this group. This is NOT a school sponsored tour, so chaperones reserve the right to refuse the student's participation on the trip if improvement conditions have not been met.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

CMS Trip Number: **B604**

Total Registration Spots: 50

Step-by-step instructions for online registration are attached. It is important that you read through all the information, so you know what you are signing up for.

NOTE: Once you submit the online form, a message will indicate successful registration, but this **DOES NOT** mean the student is confirmed for the trip. You will be notified of confirmation or waitlist status within one week of close of registration.

Registration window: September 23 - October 2 (midnight)

NOTE: Once registration closes, if we have more than 50 students registered, we will have a lottery for all 50 spots. If students register after October 2, they will automatically be placed on a waitlist.

Consideration will be given if numbers reach a second bus.

OCCUPANCY

All students are booked four to a room, Quad (4). If students would prefer different arrangements, fees are as follows:

Triple (3) room: \$2698 pp / Double (2) room: \$2958 pp

A family must register different occupancy with STA by October 31. After 10/31, all students will be in Quad (4) occupancy.

SUGGESTED PAYMENT SCHEDULE

There is a minimum \$99 registration fee that is applied to the price of the trip. With the PPP, minimum registration is \$408.

- 11/01/25 \$416*
- 12/01/25 \$416*
- 01/01/26 \$416*
- 02/01/26 \$416*
- 03/01/26 \$416*
- 03/29/26 \$419 (final payment)

*There is an additional \$6 handling fee per payment.

EZ PAY OPTION

If it's easier to set up an automatic payment plan, you can register a credit card with STA and a monthly charge will automatically be charged to your credit card on file. This option will avoid the handling fee.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Kelly Hillier: kelly.hillier@isd194.org

TRIP WEBSITE: <https://www.schooltoursofamerica.com/century-middle-school-trip-page>

STA Customer Service: 866.543.9625 or help@schooltoursofamerica.com

****We will have ONE MANDATORY meeting on TUESDAY, MAY 26th at 6:30PM in the CMS Cafeteria that students and at least one parent MUST attend.****

8th grade CMS to DC & NYC
June 7-11, 2026
WHAT / WHEN / HOW to REGISTER

Directions: Below are the instructions to register online. It is very important to read through and follow all of the steps, so your child is not registered incorrectly causing a glitch in the process.

1. The registration window is **9/23/25 - 10/2/25 (midnight)**. Any students registering on 10/3/25 or after will automatically be placed on a waitlist.
2. If more than 50 students register, STA will conduct a lottery for the 50 open slots.
3. Consideration will be given if numbers reach a second bus.
4. Notification of confirmation or waitlist status will be sent in the mail from School Tours of America (STA) on 10/8/25. Be on the lookout for this letter.
5. After students have been notified by mail of confirmation or waitlist, CONFIRMED students will be given a handout (in school) listing all traveler's names so they can start to think about/coordinate rooming requests. (10/9/25)
6. All students will be in quad occupancy rooms, unless a parent contacts STA to make other arrangements/payments for double or triple occupancy rooms. This must be done with STA directly (866-543-9625) by 10/31/25. Be sure to discuss with the other student's family prior to calling STA.
7. In January, students will receive a packet of forms to complete (rooming request, medical forms, behavior contract, etc.)
8. Behavior guidelines:
 - If a student is given in-school suspension (ISS) for a behavior violation, the student, parent, and Ms. Hillier will have a meeting to discuss a positive behavior plan in regards to the trip.
 - If there is a second ISS violation any time throughout the school year, the student will be immediately canceled from the trip.
 - At any time during the school year (Sept - June) if a student is given Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) for a behavior violation at CMS, the student will be immediately canceled from the trip.
 - If a student is removed from the trip due to behavior violation any time from September - June, the financial penalty for cancellation will follow the same guidelines under STA's Terms and Conditions.

STEP - BY - STEP REGISTRATION

1. Go to School Tours of America website www.schooltoursofamerica.com
2. On the top, click on the word "Register"
3. Type in Trip Number: B604
4. Type in the departure date: 06/07/2026 (The trip information will populate based on what you entered.)
5. Registration Type: Student
6. Student's Full Legal Name (Please spell the name correctly. First Middle Last Name)
7. Type in Traveler's Mailing Address, Email Address, Date of Birth, and Gender

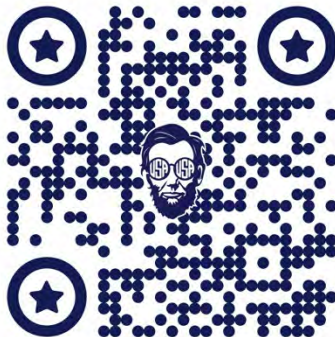
8. T-shirt: **VERY IMPORTANT---** Keep t-shirt quantity ZERO. If you click on a t-shirt size and **increase the quantity, STA will send you a standard STA t-shirt and charge your account \$20. Our CMS custom t-shirt is included in the price.**
9. Fill in the Parent/Guardian Information (Relationship to traveler, Parent First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Mailing Address, Cell Phone Number, and E-mail Address. **It is very important to include an accurate email and one that you check regularly because STA will use this to contact you if need be.**
10. Read the Terms and Conditions. At this point, you will either “AGREE” or accept the Payment Protection Plan (PPP) for \$309. or “DISAGREE” or decline the PPP. The PPP is OPTIONAL, but highly recommended. The total trip price is \$2,598. If you choose to purchase the PPP, the total price of the trip is \$2,907. The PPP is \$309.
11. Trip pricing will populate.
12. Enter the payment amount (minimum amount to pay at time of registration is \$99 if you aren’t adding the PPP. If you are purchasing the PPP, the minimum amount to pay is \$408.)
13. Sign up for EZ Pay for automatic monthly withdrawals (to avoid \$6.00 handling fee) or mail in monthly payments with a \$6.00 handling fee per payment.
14. If you choose to sign up for EZ Pay, your remaining EZ Pay payment amount per month will be determined by the amount you pay at registration.
15. Fill in Billing Information: First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Billing Address, Cell Phone Number, E-mail Address, Credit Card Number, CVV, Expiration Date
16. Click “SUBMIT”

VERY IMPORTANT: At this point, you will get a CONFIRMATION back stating you’ve SUCCESSFULLY REGISTERED your child, but this does NOT mean they are CONFIRMED. REGISTERED is DIFFERENT than CONFIRMED. BASED ON STUDENT INTEREST, A LOTTERY MAY NEED TO BE CONDUCTED FOR OPEN SPOTS ON THE TRIP.

Kelly Hillier – Trip Coordinator * Century Middle School * Kelly.hillier@isd194.org

TRIP WEBSITE: <https://www.schooltoursofamerica.com/century-middle-school-trip-page>

- This site will give you up-to-date information about the trip, upcoming meetings, forms, presentations, handouts, etc. Scan the QR code with your phone to go directly to the trip website.





LET'S GO

DC/NY



Register today at www.SchoolToursOfAmerica.com



“This transformative tour provides unlimited growth opportunities; your child will return a more passionate student, a more conscientious citizen, and a more mature person.

THE BENEFITS OF EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL WITH SCHOOL TOURS OF AMERICA



Personal Growth

Studies have shown that students who travel see improvements in grades and behavior. Your child will gain tremendous confidence and independence while traveling with classmates.



Empowered Citizenship

Travelers realize their potential to positively shape America's future as they experience deeply meaningful sites such as Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court and the National Archives.



Educational Opportunities

Available interdisciplinary learning opportunities include: college credit, leadership programs and service learning experiences.

“You will never look at your students the same because they will never be the same. This experience is life-changing.





Need help raising funds for your trip?

Utilize the power of social media with our exclusive crowdfunding platform, MyTourFund.com, where 100% of donations are applied to your trip!

This free fundraising tool allows each registered student to create a personal website where they can:



CREATE & CUSTOMIZE
THEIR PAGE

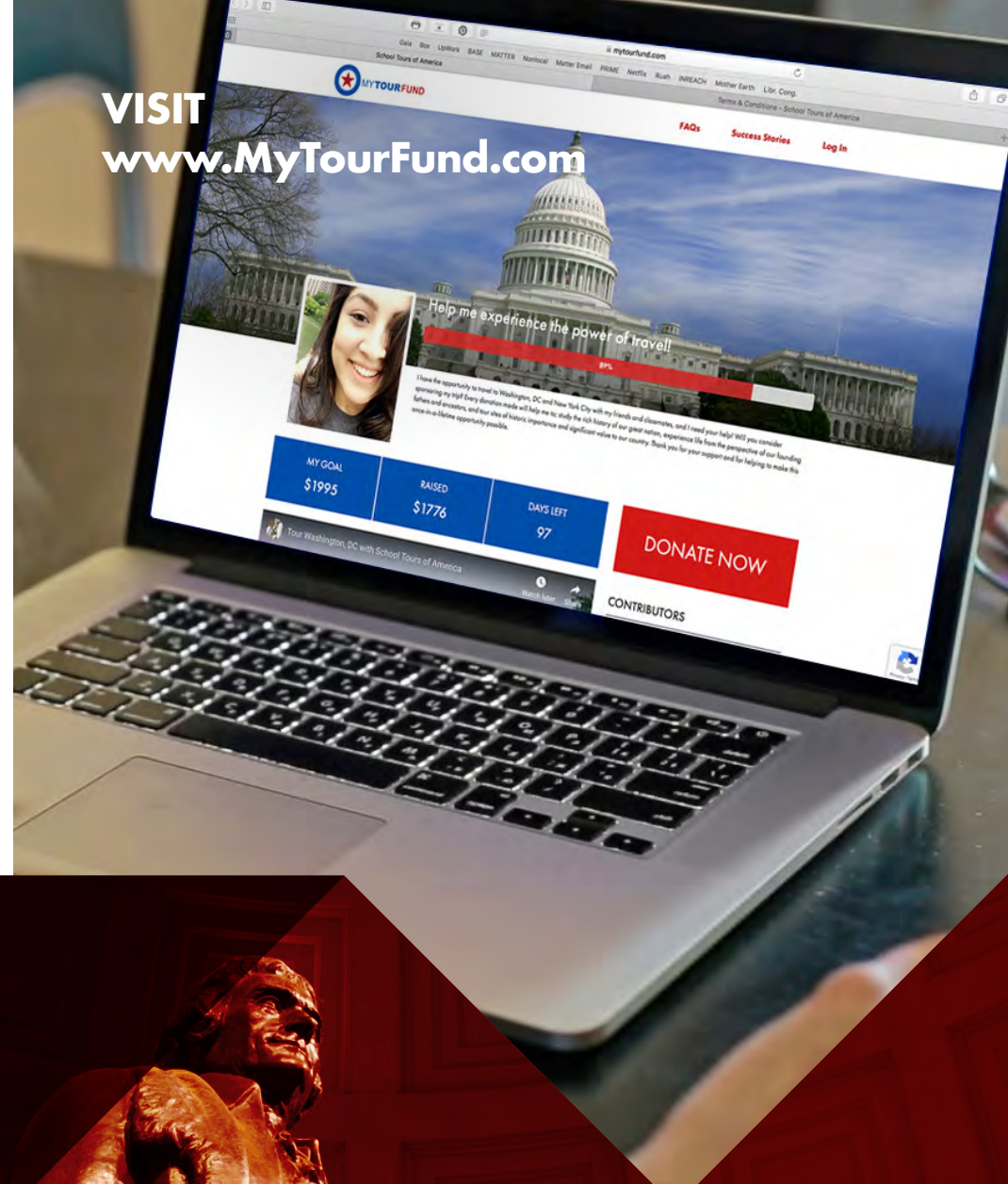


SHARE WITH FRIENDS
& FAMILY



RECEIVE DONATIONS
AUTOMATICALLY

VISIT
www.MyTourFund.com



MyTourFund.com
participants raise an
average of **\$900**
for their tour



COMMITMENT TO HEALTH & SAFETY

Not to brag, but we have the best safety record in student travel for a reason! Our decades of experience helped us craft new safety policies, protocols, and procedures to keep travelers safe at every step. Curious? Check it out at: <https://schooltoursofamerica.com/safetravel>.



TRIPStrong

To create a strong and safe approach to your next trip, your Group Leader may designate a “medical chaperone” to accompany the tour and provide support if needed.



TRIPSwag

The complimentary STA drawstring bag can be used throughout your tour to store useful trip swag like your STA t-shirt and your lanyard with emergency contact card.



Safety & Security

All tour staff is trained using a detailed Safety Contingency Plan. Our East Coast office provides immediate response and communication with local and federal authorities, and maintains a 24/7 dedicated, toll-free phone line exclusively for parents and students.



Trip Concierge

On every tour is staffed with a Trip Concierge who can meet the group at the hotel, and if necessary, provide students and teachers with assistance as needed.



Professional, Bonded Security

Private guards are stationed on hotel floors each night, ensuring that students adhere to the strict nightly curfew.



Full Insurance Coverage

Tour participants are automatically covered by medical, dental and accident insurance.

“Every member of the School Tours of America family shares the united mission of providing your child the safest, most memorable tour that will become a milestone in their life.”

PAYMENT PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP)

Life is unpredictable. We've got you covered.

Add the PPP to your tour price to receive a **FULL REFUND** (less the cost of the PPP) if you cancel **ANY TIME** for **ANY REASON** prior to trip departure.*

Benefits

PPP

- 100% refund prior to trip departure
- Include cost of program in payments
- Travel home due to family emergency
- Lost luggage protection



Full Refund Examples

PPP

- Illness
- Family emergency
- Trip cancellation by school or group leader
- Behavior / academic issues
- Sports conflict
- Financial difficulty



ORDER YOUR SOUVENIR T-SHIRT

(Ask your Group Leader if the t-shirt is already included in your trip cost.)



For a convenient way to pay for your trip, select EzPay when you register online



*For PPP pricing and details see:
SchoolToursOfAmerica.com/terms-conditions.html

REGISTER TODAY FOR AS LOW AS \$99
at www.SchoolToursOfAmerica.com



866.543.9625
www.SchoolToursOfAmerica.com



REGISTER ONLINE

Select "register" in the upper right corner of the homepage at SchoolToursOfAmerica.com



ENROLL IN EzPay

Make manageable monthly payments & avoid fees with EzPay. EzPay is available online only.



OPT-IN TO THE PPP

Protect your investment & receive a refund if you cancel prior to trip departure.