

New Orleans Trip --- April 9-13, 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

Will meal options accommodate food allergies, etc.?

- Only one meal is covered on the trip and it is at the awards banquet. Worldstrides, the company we are using for the festival/banquet, has assured the food allergies will be accommodated. A meal selection request will be sent to participants closer to travel date. The dinner for the day we travel to LSU is currently being organized where we will eat at a LSU dining hall in which there will be a variety of options to select from such a Chick-fil-a, City Slice, Panda Express, etc. Many of these accommodate food allergies. If there is another food need for the LSU visit, we will work with the specific attendee regarding their needs providing they bring it to our attention prior to the trip. Other meals, primarily on your own, will be in New Orleans and many restaurants accommodate food allergies.

Will there be free time in the New Orleans French Quarter to tour?

- Yes; however, students will be assigned to chaperones and the “free time” is with the chaperoned group. Students should not be wondering off on their own. Boundaries will be set for the safety of all. A tentative itinerary is on the PowerPoint presentation on the webpage.

How can I be sure of the safety of my student travelling within New Orleans?

- The trip has been planned with safety in mind. We are also relying heavily on the advice of the travel company and parents who have lived in New Orleans previously and have familiarity with the area.
- All students will be assigned to a chaperone(s) in which the chaperones have oversight responsibility. No one is permitted to wonder off alone and boundaries will be set.
- The time spent within the French Quarter area is generally before dinner time to further assure safety of our group. We will not be in the French Quarter during the evening hours that would risk the safety of trip participants. The tentative itinerary is on the webpage.
- Chaperones are also required to pass the background investigation prior to the trip. Chaperone IDs and background approval will be checked prior to the trip.
- Students will be required to wear the “shirt of the day” on the trip. One shirt is the purple SOCM shirt, which all marching band students have already received.

Another shirt will be the teal marching band show shirt. The third shirt will be a New Orleans trip shirt which has not yet been designed.

Will a member of the school administration be on the trip?

- Yes. A school administration representative will be on the trip; however, the designated attendee has not been decided at this time.

What opportunities are there for guard participants on the trip?

- Guard members will participate in the itinerary with other band members. Many of our guard members also play an instrument and are welcome to participate in the ensemble competition. Guard will also have their own session with the LSU guard.

The trip is in April. Will it conflict with Prom?

- No, it will not conflict with prom. Mr. Carter has verified with admin that prom will be held April 5th.

What fundraisers are there to help cover the cost of the trip?

- Several opportunities will be offered. The popcorn fundraiser was recently completed and all profit went to the respective selling student's band account. Volunteering at the PNC Concerts and the Speedway (see info in the Newsletter to sign up) are a great way to earn funds toward student accounts. Other fundraising opportunities are being planned to help raise money toward student accounts to include Butterbraid sales and mattress sale.

Can my entire family go on the trip?

- The trip is limited to student participants and chaperones. We are not able to accommodate siblings unless they are a band student. Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles are permitted to participate as chaperones; however, they must take/pass the volunteer background check and be able to chaperone a group of band students. There may be a lot of walking in the French Quarter.

Are buses transporting students to all events?

- Buses will transport participants to/from New Orleans and all excursions to include travel between New Orleans and Baton Rouge for the LSU event, to/from

the competition, awards banquet and swamp tour, etc. Some events are within walking distance of the hotel and our group will walk together within assigned chaperone groups.

Why are we not flying to/from New Orleans?

- Due to the need to have buses from/to the airport to the hotel and to/from LSU and competition, it was determined to be more cost effective to take buses. Transportation is the most expensive part of the trip and every effort has been made to minimize cost.

How dressy is the awards banquet?

- It is as dressy as you desire – Sunday best, formal attire, concert band attire, etc. Jeans, shorts, and athletic attire is not permitted. It is a New Orleans masquerade ball themed awards dinner. Masks are optional and you must provide your own if you desire to wear one.