

“The American Dream” 2010 Trip Itinerary



This travel-study opportunity is for SPC Early College, SPC Dual Enrollment and St. Petersburg Collegiate High School students only. Participants will earn both high school and college credits by completing American National Government (POS 2041) and/or International Relations (INR 2002). The program dates are June 21-July 23, 2009, with a trip to Washington D.C. planned for July 8-17. The city will be used as a field-based setting to accomplish the learning objectives.

July 8

Travel Day

Students and faculty travel to Washington D.C.

July 9

National Aquarium

With over 200 species including alligators, piranha, shark, eel and Japanese carp, students will have an opportunity to explore an enriching distraction from their academic agenda.

Supreme Court

Students will be provided the opportunity to explore one of the three branches of our government. If the opportunity to hear oral argument in the Court is not available, students will be able to view a video. The Court's influence on social problems will also be discussed with students.

Union Station

On both Tuesday and Thursday following the academic day, students will have time to socialize, relax, eat, and, on Tuesday, catch a movie. Union Station has welcomed people to the most important city in the world for the past 100 years. This magnificent building has even played host to 17 Presidents and countless foreign dignitaries. However, what may be most impressive is the fact that Union Station's marble floors echo with the footsteps of over 32 million people each year. The station has several fine restaurants and a food court.

July 10

White House Visitor Center

A tour of the White House is being arranged through Florida Congressman C. W. “Bill” Young's office. This tour will allow students to visit and experience all three branches of government.

Library of Congress

Students will have the opportunity to tour the library. The Library's mission is to make its resources available and useful to the Congress and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations.

National Zoo

The National Zoo is a beautiful urban park. It offers stimulating education programs and a peaceful place to enjoy nature.

July 11

American Psychological Association

Students will have the opportunity to visit a professional social science association. The purpose for this visit is for students to recognize the role professional associations may play in lobbying politicians to adopt legislation that may aid in ameliorating an identified social problem.

Congressional Visit at the Capitol

A tour of the Capital is being arranged through Congressman Young's office.

Union Station

As on Tuesday, students will again have time to socialize, relax and enjoy a bite to eat at the most-visited site in Washington D.C.

July 12

Georgetown Walking Tour

Students will have an opportunity to take a two-hour, two-mile guided tour through the historical Georgetown district of DC. This walking tour is a venture through time — of 200-year-old mansions and their eccentric owners, of fortunes in trade won and lost, of marvelous architecture from Federal to Victorian, of the once-bustling freedman community Herring Hill, of political intrigue, of green preservation and urban renewal. In the 1950s, John F. Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline almost single-handedly turned the neighborhood into the city's politically fashionable place to live. This tour winds up in Georgetown's shopping and restaurant district just in time for lunch.

Spy Museum

Students will have the opportunity to explore the shadowy world of espionage and the instruments of intelligence gathering and the role spies have played throughout history.

Old Post Office Pavilion

Friday's academic day will end with a time to socialize, relax and eat at the Old Post Office Pavilion, the downtown showcase of the District's revitalized Pennsylvania Avenue. The Pavilion offers three levels of fun, including mouth-watering international cuisine, sophisticated shopping and relaxation with a jazzy piano or a string quartet.

July 13

U.S. Treasury

This tour will be arranged through our local Congressional office. Some tour highlights are the Salmon Chase and Andrew Johnson Suites, the newly restored West dome and lobby, and the Cash Room.

Smithsonian Institution

This institution represents the world's largest museum. Students will be exposed to several exhibitions that address specific topics relevant to both the study of sociology and government. Social problems will be explored by attending exhibitions entitled "Whatever Happened to Polio," "Project Hope: Forty Years of American Medicine Abroad," "The Making of a Homemaker," "The Disability Rights Movement," "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: A History of American Sweatshops," "Remembering September 11: Bearing Witness to History" and "Separate is Not Equal: Brown v. Board of Education." Exhibitions related to government will include "The Presidency and the Cold War," "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution," "The Price for Freedom: America at War," and "Vote: How Votes are Counted and Who Counts Them."

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Deliberately setting aside the controversies of the war, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the men and women who served in Vietnam. Students will have the opportunity to explore this national monument which will provide a backdrop for engaging discussion around social movements and the political decisions that follow.

July 14

Holocaust Museum

The museum provides opportunity for students to study both the social and political implications of the Holocaust, including topics such as anti-Semitism, ethnicity and the political rise of Nazi Germany following World War I.

National Mall

Students will explore the National Mall including the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

National Gallery of Art

Students will have the opportunity to explore this national gallery that was created in 1937 for the people of the United States by a joint resolution of Congress, accepting the gift of financier and art collector Andrew W. Mellon.

July 15

National Cathedral

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of our nation's beautiful cathedral and experience its architecture, grounds and history.

Smithsonian Institution

A continuation of Saturday's visit, this exploration of the Smithsonian will enable students to experience additional exhibits related to the societal and governmental issues presented in their coursework.

Arlington Cemetery

Students will be provided the opportunity to explore as a group this National Cemetery and recognize the political history present at this location. While every government-issue headstone is its own monument and its own memorial, Arlington National Cemetery has points of special interest, including the Eternal Flame of the Kennedy grave, the mast of the USS Maine, and a cairn to victims of the Pam Am Flight 103 terrorist bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland.

July 16

Pentagon Tour

This one-mile tour lasts 45 to 60 minutes and describes the mission of the Department of Defense and each of its branches of service. There are numerous displays that highlight and depict significant moments in military history. This tour will also provide students the opportunity to witness one of the locations where terrorism struck our nation on September 11, 2001, and brought terror to the forefront of social problems.

George Washington College of Law Tour

While staying in the dorms, students will have the opportunity to formally tour this institution's College of Law that was established by George Washington. As worded in his will, he left an endowment "to which the youth of fortune and talents from all parts thereof might be sent for the completion of their Education in all the branches of polite literature—in arts and Sciences—in acquiring knowledge in the principles of Politics & good Government." Students will discover how this institution has evolved and adapted to a changing society while continuing to advance its mission.

Union Station

In some well-deserved down time, students will have an opportunity to socialize, relax, eat and possibly catch a movie.

July 17

Travel Day

Students and faculty travel back to St. Petersburg.