

CORPUS CHRISTI TRIP 2011

RED OAK HIGH SCHOOL BAND

TRIP INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES/RULES

- BE SURE you have connected/communicated with EACH teacher that you have and that you know exactly what your assignments and expectations are. Please do not give a teacher a reason to think poorly of the band!
- Keep your itinerary with you, and know “where to be, when to be, and how to be” at all times
- Thursday morning (departure date) you need to be at the band hall by **6:45 a.m.** We will load all the luggage and instruments onto the box truck at that time. **WEAR YOUR TRIP SHIRT ON THE WAY TO CORPUS.**

THE NINE MAIN BIG THINGS

1. ZERO TOLERANCE for alcohol, tobacco, drugs, etc. (consequences too many to even try and list)
2. THRESHOLD RULE....at NO time may you cross the threshold of the room of someone of the opposite sex. Period. No reasons whatsoever.
3. APPROPRIATE DRESS (see below)
4. PDA.....nothing beyond holding hands please (and thank you)
5. NEVER BE ALONE...preferably in groups of at least 3-4 at all times, but definitely not alone EVER
6. CHECK-INS.....without fail, check in at exactly the time you've been given. Without fail.
7. CURFEW.....you may not leave your room for ANY reason after curfew. Not to go get ice, not to go get a drink, not to sit in the hallway and ponder the meaning of life.....NO reason.
8. BEACH.....you may ONLY be on the beach at our designated times. Period. And when we are on the beach, you may not go beyond the perimeters we establish. Period.
9. CHARACTER.....continuing our theme from the fall, you need to fully comport yourself in a manner throughout the trip that is above reproach. Be respectful of anybody and everybody we come in contact with. Use good manners. Keep your voices low when required. Don't run through the hotel. Etc. Etc. Any pranks or behavior unworthy of the high standards we have for the Red Oak Band could result in: you having to spend the rest of the entire trip with a band director; you going home; you being dismissed from the band program; you being disciplined by the ROISD upon return (ISS, suspension, being pulled from graduation ceremonies, etc.) Do not bring any dishonor to the band program or to your school.

GENERAL RULES ABOUT THE BUSES

- These are OUR Buses. Keep the buses CLEAN. Don't put trash in the floor. Take good care of these nice buses!
- Small snacks on the bus are ok. Any drinks MUST have a screw-cap.
- Standard bus decorum/rules are in effect. No PDA, no waving/communicating with people outside the bus, no loud talking, etc.
- Music should be through headphones only—no external speakers.
- If you choose to bring electronics along (iPods, PSP, etc.) you are FULLY responsible for their security (on the bus and throughout the trip). AND you may not have them out when we are onboard the Lexington. (see below)
- You will stay with the same bus assignments throughout the trip – please don't ask to change

GENERAL RULES ABOUT DRESS

- always remember.....that we have the option of requiring school dress code! :)
- hats are okay (traditional ball caps - facing front; no oversized “creative” hats allowed)
- no “midriffs” should show—choose garments accordingly
- no “short shorts” If they are deemed in poor taste ~ not in your opinion, but in your chaperones ~ you will have to change. And if that's all you brought, you can always wear your band dress the rest of the trip. _
- your swimsuits should be conservative in taste. Ladies, your 2-pieces are okay, but if our mom chaperones feel they are inappropriate (“yuck factor”), you will be asked to put on a t-shirt.

GENERAL RULES ABOUT THE HOTEL

- Be VERY CONSIDERATE of other guests in the hotel. No running around the hotel, keep your voices low, no horseplay.
- Decide who will keep the keys and take good care of them
- Keep the room CLEAN / take care of your space. Your sponsors will check your room often!
- If you're in a room with a balcony....NOPE.
- You may not change room assignments.
- You may not order pizza or any other food to be delivered to your room.
- You may not order movies, games, etc. for the TV's in your room NOR may you order internet access (these should all be disabled, but even if they're not.....NOPE)

Focus on having a good time the right way and we will ALL have a great trip!!

GENERAL RULES ABOUT THE BEACH

- We want to bring you back with us to Red Oak. :) THUS, we are going to be VERY deliberate and strict about your time on the beach. It's a fun place, but it holds some dangers as well.
- You may ONLY be on the beach (including the seawall) at our designated times.
- We will set perimeter areas that you may not go further than on the beach (and in the water). VERY important.
- There tends to be a strong right-to-left pull of the water that you must be aware of (parallel to the beach). Keep your eyes on fixed points on the beach (i.e. – the hotel) and make sure you don't extend past the point of what we've designated.
- Do NOT go out too far. You can hit a low spot pretty easily and be in over your head.
- If you see a jelly fish on the beach, um....don't touch it. :)

ON BOARD THE USS LEXINGTON!

- This is, of course, a very unique opportunity for us, and is something I hope you will remember for a long time!
*** Each of you will need a sleeping bag and pillow (could probably substitute sheets and a blanket) PLUS a towel if you're showering onboard ship (probably a good idea, although you will be on the beach by about 2 pm or so) and needed toiletries. You need a beach towel anyway for the beach, so just have it with you. You MAY choose to have just a small overnight "Lexington" bag (plus your sleeping bag/pillow/towel) with your change of clothes for the next day. Then you would not have to take your full suitcase on board and could leave it on the truck. Just make sure it has what you need, since you will not be able to get back over to the truck if you forgot anything. You might consider having a flashlight as well. :)
- If you have done the "live aboard" program before, let me know before we get there. They have patches for all of us, and if this is your second or 3rd time, the patch is a little different.
- Depending on safety of the location of the truck, we MAY be taking our instruments and all luggage on board also. If that ends up being the case.....don't complain and just deal with it. :)
- *** They do NOT allow carried on food/snacks etc. on board ship. Any snack foods that you had on the drive down will need to be completed before you board or thrown away. When we are not in our crew quarters, there is a concession area on the hangar deck that you're welcome to visit. But you may not take food from the concession area down to our quarters.
- There will be a Fire Drill at some point. Take it seriously. (take everything about the ship very seriously – there is a ton of history involved with this ship and the people who work there are very protective of the ship and its history).
- Electronics other than a cell phone/camera are not allowed on board!! This includes PSP, DS, IPad, IPod, etc. (must be stowed away in your luggage and not brought out. Please follow the rules of the ship and don't put yourself and the band in an uncomfortable situation. FYI, there are very few places on board where you will be able to plug in your cell phone overnight, so consider a backup battery.
- Absolutely no running is allowed on board.
- Do not touch any switches/valves/buttons/handles, etc.
- Restricted areas on board are marked for safety – do NOT try and enter these areas.
- No one is allowed to climb on the aircraft or open the cockpit canopies. There IS an F4 cockpit onboard (somewhere) where you can sit in and take pictures.
- Between the hours of Taps and Reveille (11pm and 6:45 am) we are on "quiet hours". You must also remain in your quarters after Taps, as it is considered a safety hazard on Navy ships to be up and about when the lights go off.
- There will be times when you will be spoken to and treated in a bit of a military fashion. It's all in fun, but educational as well. I expect you all to be very respectful, to respond politely "yes sir / no sir", and treat the activities with the respect due to this ship and the thousands of military men and women who served on it. For example, there will be at least one "flag ceremony". Give all your attention and respect to the flag, and to those who are running the ceremony. There should be no silliness, no disrespect, etc. AT ALL. In fact, at some point you will possible encounter veterans who actually served on the ship. They, our country, and our military deserved our full honor and respect.

Some important notes about the itinerary:

1. Don't forget you're responsible for the cost of lunch each day on your own. These will be fast food/mall food court type stops.
2. Keep an eye on the weather in the days leading up to the trip. As of now, it looks to be in the mid 80's during the days, and in the 70's at night time, and maybe pretty windy on a couple of days.
3. Eat a good breakfast before you come, because we won't be stopping for lunch until we get on the other side of Austin (about 3 ½ hours)
4. I'm about 90% sure we will be able to check into the hotel at 2:00 pm when we get there on Friday. You can then change and get ready for the beach. If for some reason the rooms are not ready, that will complicate things a bit. We will still change and go onto the beach, so you will need to have easy access to your swimsuit, beach towel, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc. and we will have to change in the restrooms or something. If you do an overnight bag for the Lexington, this might be a good place for those things.
5. Evening curfews will be evaluated each evening based on what time we get back to the hotel and what time we have to be up the next morning. When it is announced, that's it.

6. I've included it on the bring/pack list below, but it bears repeating...DON'T FORGET every piece of your uniform! Check every single piece (especially the tuxedos) before you leave Thursday. Black shoes and socks, bow ties, especially. Tux shirt. Etc.
7. Our dinner at Landry's won't require you to dress up, but don't slob out either. :) You will have a choice of about 3-4 dinner items at Landry's.
8. You WILL however need dressy clothes for the evening when we go to the Corpus Christi Symphony. In fact, you will almost change directly from your concert clothes to your dinner/symphony clothes. (not quite – you have about an hour or so to make that change). Ties are preferable, but not required. Dresses/skirts for the ladies with appropriate shoes. No jeans or tennis shoes for anyone please, and no hats. Ladies make sure your dress is appropriate, please.
9. After dinner at Kiko's (enchiladas, fajitas, etc.), we will go briefly to a Gift Shop – mainly to kill a little time before we need to be at the Symphony.
10. During the Symphony, once more please be the epitome of professionalism. This is a very nice performance hall, and a really neat concert program. Enjoy!
11. To make sure we get everyone picked up in a timely manner upon our arrival back in Red Oak (so your directors who still have 30-35 minute drives home can get home!), we will ask everyone to start making calls home about 15-20 minutes before we get back. Parents, please be prompt!

** We don't have the cool luggage tags that we had for Disney, so make sure you get tags on all your bags. Clearly labeled with your name so you can find it easily.

TO BRING / CHECK LIST

- ___ appropriate clothing for Thursday, Friday, Saturday (don't forget the socks and underwear!)
 - * Consider including at least 1 pair of jeans, and include *nice dress clothes* for the Symphony concert (as detailed above)
- ___ your complete concert uniform (DOUBLE check for all accessories! Tux shirt, black shoes, black socks, bow tie, cummerbund, etc).
- ___ sleeping bag and pillow for Lexington + maybe a small flashlight. Label with your name so it will be easy to find.
- ___ all necessary toiletries: toothbrush/toothpaste, soap and shampoo (use!), deodorant (use!), contact solution and case (if needed), make-up, razors, etc. There should be hairdryers and irons in the hotel, but most probably not on board ship! (consider taking a small hair dryer)
- ___ if you take prescription medications, please communicate that with your sponsor. If you need us to hold the medicine for you, we can do that.
- ___ appropriate swim suit / beach towel
- ___ sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, etc. for the beach (especially sunscreen – you burn much faster in and near salt water)
- ___ maybe some flip flops for the beach? (tennis shoes are fine also)
- ___ your instrument with all needed mutes/reeds/valve oil/accessories
- ___ your contest music/folder for your band
- ___ money for lunch each day (4 lunches). All other meals are included.
- ___ any souvenir/spending money. There are gift shops at the Lexington and the Texas State Aquarium, in addition to the “Ocean Treasures” gift shop we will be going to.
- ___ maybe a small umbrella (just in case)
- ___ a plastic bag to put your wet swimsuit/towel in when we come off the beach on Sunday. (put those in your plastic bag, then put the closed plastic bag in your suitcase)

Depending on how you pack, your uniform can either be packed in your suitcase or brought in a garment bag.