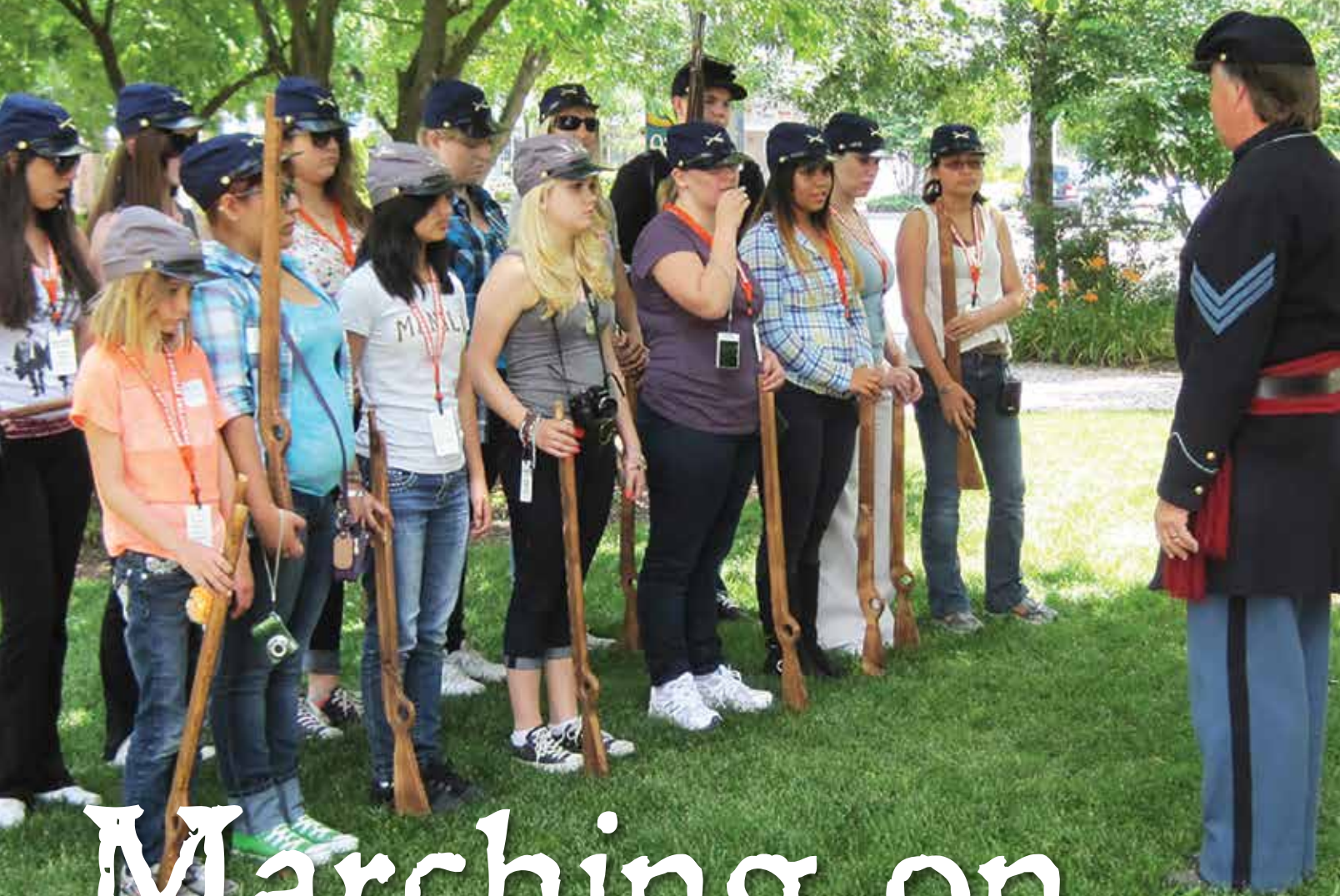


DELIVERING BUSINESS ESSENTIALS TO NTA MEMBERS

APRIL/MAY 2020

Courier



Marching on

Students line up to learn lessons
from the past **PAGE 28**

**15 CITIES WITH
STUDENT SCENES**
PAGE 15

**SPACE OUT
IN HUNTSVILLE**
PAGE 12

**DEAR NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS ...**
PAGE 8

'MY FIRST TRIP'
PAGE 48

A living-history program at the Gettysburg Heritage Center



WHERE history NEVER GETS OLD

REVOLUTIONIZE YOUR CURRICULUM WITH DISCOUNTED, GUIDED TOURS

Get out of the classroom and into history with a customized field trip to Colonial Williamsburg. History lives here and your students will never forget it. Roam through 18th-century America. Meet the patriots and be inspired by the moments of our independence.

Colonial Williamsburg

We offer a variety of options for dining, lodging and tours. Book your school or youth group trip today.

Call **1-800-228-8878**, email groupsales@cwf.org, visit colonialwilliamsburg.com/groupstours



FEATURES



12

City Spotlight: Huntsville

After sizing up Huntsville's attractions and arts—and Brussels sprouts—*Courier's* Kendall Fletcher discovered why the Alabama city is a top spot for student groups.



15

15 great destinations for student groups

While destinations await the return of travelers, school groups await heading back out on the road. To prepare for that time, *Courier* offers information on 15 places across the globe where students will find a range of compelling experiences.



48

AfterWords

This issue's end page describes the beginning of a career in tourism for six professionals who each look back to that first trip they took as a student.

CURRICULUM

26 Museums

Corning Museum, you're a real glass act |
Perfectly peculiar | Innovation on display

28 Historical Attractions

What's the story here? | Gettysburg's battlefield
and beyond | Relive Canada's 'new West'

32 Arts and Performance

Get backstage (and under the lights) at the Alabama
Theatre | AQS's QuiltWeek Shows are sew cool |
Playtime at the Opry

36 Adventure and Fun

Six unique adventures for students | Riding the rails
in Colorado | Getting back to nature

DEPARTMENTS

4 From the Editor

6 Voices of Leadership

Business

7 InBrief

See how NTA members and all professionals in the travel industry are banding together to fight the coronavirus crisis with ideas, innovation, and cooperation.

8 Dear virus,

In an open letter to the novel coronavirus, a travel coordinator voices the frustration felt by the world's tourism community.

9 Leaders of the tours

Two experienced travel pros explain the challenges and rewards—and give insider tips—associated with leading student tours.

Resources

40 Sponsoring Tour Operators

42 Student Tour Operator Guide

NTA President

Catherine Prather, CTP catherine.prather@ntastaff.com

Editorial

Editor in Chief Bob Rouse, CTP bob.rouse@ntaservicesinc.com

Managing Editor Pat Henderson pat.henderson@ntaservicesinc.com

Writer Kendall Fletcher kendall.fletcher@ntaservicesinc.com

Contributors Ryan Kramer; Catherine Prather, CTP; Carrie Rhodes

Graphic Design Jeff Quire

Advertising

President, NTA Services Kami Risk, CTP kami.risk@ntaservicesinc.com

Director of Sales and Key Accounts Beth Engel, CTP beth.engel@ntaservicesinc.com

Senior Manager, Membership Sales June Calk, CTP june.calk@ntastaff.com

Account Executive/Western U.S. Kelley Burchell kelly.burchell@ntaservicesinc.com

Account Executive/Central U.S. & Canada Gina Rutledge gina.rutledge@ntaservicesinc.com

Account Executive/Eastern U.S. TJ Olmsted, CTP tj.olmsted@ntastaff.com

Senior Manager, Marketing Ashley Fish ashley.fish@ntaservicesinc.com

PLANNING AHEAD

To view the 2020 editorial calendar, visit NTAonline.com/advertising. NTA members can submit tour product information or editorial queries to bob.rouse@ntaservicesinc.com. And for advertising information, contact Kendall Fletcher at +1.859.264.6559 or kendall@ntaservicesinc.com.

► AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE

DESTINATIONS

Coastal California

Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco

Great Lakes

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Southwest

Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Central Europe

Croatia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia

South Pacific

Australia, Guam, Hawaii, New Zealand

City Spotlight: Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL COVERAGE

Museums

DEADLINES

Space: June 5 | Material: June 15

► OCTOBER ISSUE

DESTINATIONS

New England

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

South Central U.S.

Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia

Asia and India

City Spotlight: Ottawa

SPECIAL COVERAGE

Travel Exchange '20 (Reno Tahoe)

Guide: Theaters and Broadway Shows

DEADLINES

Space: Aug. 7 | Material: Aug. 17

AD INDEX

★ New advertisers

American Music Theatre35
amtshows.com

★ American Writers Museum11
americanwritersmuseum.org

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association7
billygrahamlibrary.org

Brilliant Edventures40
brilliantedventures.com

Broadway in Chicago Group Sales16
broadwayinchicago.com

Busch Gardens Williamsburg/
Water Country USA.....11
buschgardens.com/va

Colonial Williamsburg
Foundation Inside Front Cover
colonialwilliamsburg.com/groupstours

Disney Theatrical Group33
disneyonbroadway.com

Ed-Ventures.....40
ed-ventures.com

★ EPN Travel Services.....40
epntravel.com

Graceland & Guest House at Graceland34
graceland.com

Great Tour Experiences40
greattourexpériences.com.au

Hello Ireland/Irish Coaches 32 CC Group40
irishcoaches.ie

History Colorado31
historycolorado.org

Huntsville, Alabama
Convention & Visitors Bureau.....38
huntsville.org

★ Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation28
historyisfun.org

Milne Travel.....41
milnetravel.com

Mirvish Productions35
mirvish.com

The National World War II Museum8
nationalww2museum.org

North Dakota Tourism Division.....39
ndtourism.com

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum ...29
patriotspoint.org

Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau3
discoverphl.com

★ R.C.G. Tours41
rcgtours.ca

Redding Convention & Visitors Bureau10
visitredding.com

Ron Jon Surf Shop..... Inside Back Cover
ronjonsurfshop.com

Salem Witch Museum27
salemwitchmuseum.com

Savannah Riverboat Cruises.....37
savannahriverboat.com

Smithsonian's National
Air and Space Museum Back Cover
airandspace.si.edu

★ Sweet Home Alabama5
alabama.travel

★ Travel Gallery41
travelgallery.com

U.S. Space & Rocket Center30
spacecamp.com

USS Midway Museum23
midway.org

Virginia Beach
Convention & Visitor Bureau25
visitviriniabeach.com/groupstour

Westcoast Connection/
360° Student Travel.....41
westcoastconnection.com

Winchester Mystery House27
winchestermysteryhouse.com

Witte Travel & Tours41
wittetravel.com/tours



PUBLISHED BY NTA SERVICES, INC. Email: kami.risk@ntaservicesinc.com

COURIER (USPS 602270, ISSN 0279-4489) (Vol. 47, Issue 4) published nine times a year by NTA Services, Inc., 101 Prosperous Place, Suite 350, Lexington, KY 40509. Periodicals Postage Paid at Lexington, Kentucky, and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate is \$60 per year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Courier*, 101 Prosperous Place, Suite 350, Lexington, KY 40509.

COURIER is the official licensed publication of NTA®, an international trade association of the packaged travel industry. Copyright© 2020, NTA Services, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means, electrical, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without written permission of *Courier*, except for quotations made for purposes of a review. All inquiries should be sent to *Courier* magazine, 101 Prosperous Place, Suite 350, Lexington, KY 40509, +1.859.264.6559. Additional subscriptions can be purchased by calling +1.859.264.6559. Printed in USA.

Advertising rates are available upon request. For a change of address, subscribers may notify *Courier* directly, by email or letter.

COURIER'S MISSION STATEMENT

Courier aims to facilitate member-to-member partnering by spotlighting member product and destinations worldwide, to provide information on current industry trends and issues, and to inform members about NTA initiatives, events and benefits.



Courier is printed on 100% recyclable material



PHILADELPHIA.



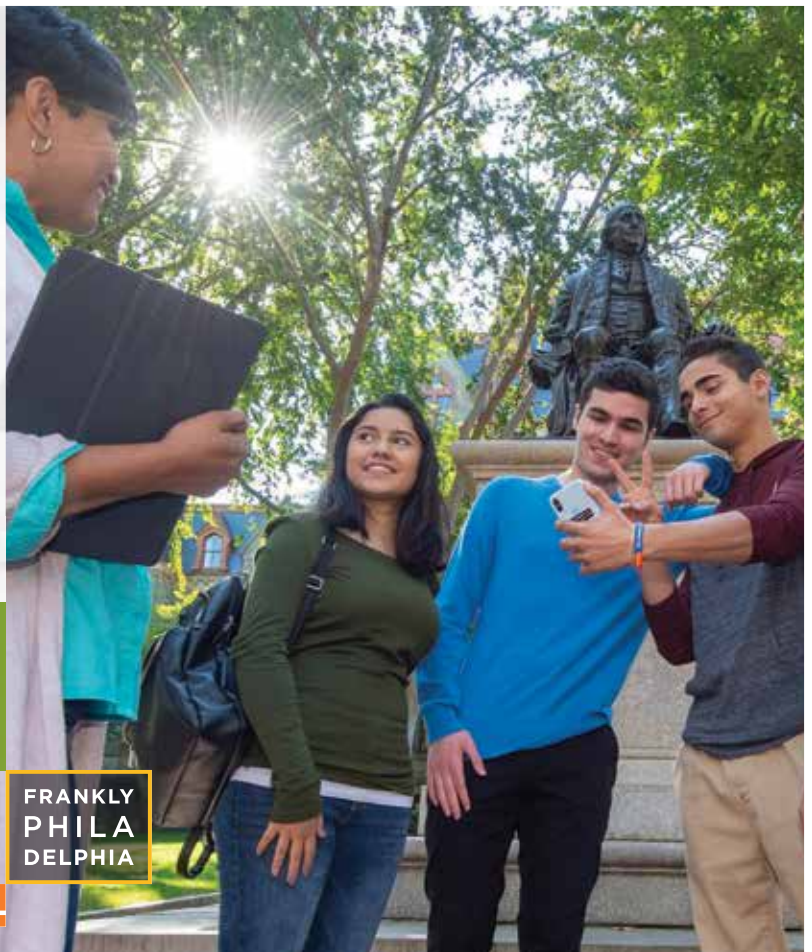
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THE KIDS TELL US.

Kids are like sponges. So take 'em someplace where they can really soak up the fun. Yep, we're talking Philadelphia.

Think of us as your Philadelphia concierge, providing local contacts, recommending attractions and itineraries, and cluing you in on where to stay and eat.

PHLCVB
Philadelphia Convention
& Visitors Bureau

Plan your tours today at
discoverphl.com/groups or call
Jim DePhilippa at 215-636-3312.



FRANKLY
PHILA
DELPHIA

PHL

**ONE LIBERTY
OBSERVATION
DECK** PHILLY FROM THE TOP

THE
HIGH
POINT
OF ANY TRIP

Shockingly
★★★★★
**AWESOME
VIEWS!**

Perfect for Both Student and Adult Groups * PhillyFromTheTop.com

For More Information or to Book Your Group

Contact Diane Meglino at Diane@PhillyFromTheTop.com or 215-845-4160

Other historical attractions explain the what.
We also shine a light on the why.

UNITY

To learn more,
call 215.309.0316 or visit
faithandliberty.org/groupstours.

COMING LATE 2020
PHILADELPHIA, PA

FAITH
AND
LIBERTY
DISCOVERY
CENTER

**Bob Rouse**

Editor in Chief
101 Prosperous Place, Suite 350
Lexington, KY 40509 USA
+1.859.264.6548
bob.rouse@ntaservicesinc.com

SPRING 2020 is not how I imagined it, and I'm guessing that you, too, had better plans for March and April than to sequester yourself from the outside world.

See, it's that outside world that keeps the pages of *Courier* flipping, the tour buses rolling, and the turnstiles turning. The reason we're not happy with being cooped up is not only that we can't connect with familiar faces and places. We also can't explore new places and experience different cultures. *We can't travel.*

But we will travel again.

The COVID crisis disrupted my spring, derailing trips and canceling events I had really looked forward to. But I consider myself lucky. Untold numbers of people were denied their weddings and reunions, and many lost their jobs or their loved ones to the disease.

Millions of students saw their spring sports sidelined, their time together interrupted, and their school trips canceled.

But we will travel again.

In that spirit, this issue of *Courier* lays out a world of ideas and inspiration for travel planners who one day soon will hit the road again. On pages 15 through 24, you'll find nice nuggets



CC FLICKR/JACKPEASEPHOTOGRAPHY: bit.ly/ZUHd9jW

of information, compiled by Pat Henderson, describing destinations that await the return of student groups. One of them—Huntsville, Alabama—got an on-the-ground inspection by Kendall Fletcher of its up-in-the-air industry: space travel. That City Spotlight takes flight on page 12.

We also detail how much there is to learn for school groups diving into history, science, arts, and adventure. Those far-from-boring subjects are explored on pages 26 to 39.

And then think about logistics. Getting there might be half the fun, but it's a lot *more* fun for a group's leader if someone else does the planning and lays out the itinerary. Those some-ones—NTA tour operators listed on pages 40 to 46—know how to make a trip click. And to get a glimpse into their world, check out my interview with two seasoned pros, starting on page 9.

This spring I missed seeing the Kentucky basketball team win another national title. I missed seeing the thoroughbreds run in April at Keeneland Race Course, near my home. I missed traveling to Florida to see my son play spring-break baseball with his college team, and I missed being able to help conduct a conference in Alaska for the remarkable tourism professionals of NTA.

Spring will come again, though, and I'll enjoy baseball and horse racing and college basketball. And I plan to see Alaska and Florida another time.

Because we will travel again.

Read on,

April/May *Courier* Destination Index

Alberta 31	North Carolina 28
Arizona 36	Norway 18
California 22, 26	Ohio 17, 28
Colorado 17, 37	Ontario 19
Georgia 24	Oregon 38–39
Huntsville, Alabama 12–14	Pennsylvania 30
Illinois 16	Puerto Rico 22
Italy 21	Québec 20
Kansas 28	Rhode Island 20
Kentucky 34	South Carolina 32
Louisiana 19	Tennessee 35
Manitoba 28	Utah 21
Massachusetts 28	Virginia 18
Michigan 27	Washington 38
Missouri 39	Washington, D.C. 24
Nevada 28, 36	Wisconsin 36
New York 26, 36	Wyoming 36

On the cover:
Students fall in at the
Gettysburg Heritage Center in
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
Photo by Destination Gettysburg





Orange Beach, Gulf Shores



Kelly Ingram Park, Birmingham



Bellingrath Gardens and Homes, Theodore



Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, Leeds



Huntsville US Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville

GROUPS LOVE ALABAMA



"Alabama offers a great value for a solid destination. That directly converts to great profits for me. Multiple sold-out Mystery Tours have taken my groups to outer space in Huntsville and they've experienced the trials and victories of the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham and Montgomery."

- *Clayton Whitehead, CTP, CITM, Vice President, Sports Leisure Vacations.
9521-H Folsom Boulevard. Sacramento, CA, USA 95827*



"Our tour takes participants on a journey through living history in Birmingham, Greensboro, Marion, Selma and Montgomery and teaches one of the most important lessons of the 20th century."

- *Steve Cox, International Expeditions, Helena, AL*

Contact Rosemary Judkins
Sales Manager, Alabama Tourism Department

334.242.4493

rosemary.judkins@tourism.alabama.gov

Sweet Home
Alabama



Catherine Prather, CTP

President
101 Prosperous Place, Suite 350
Lexington, KY 40509 USA
+1.859.264.6545
catherine.prather@ntastaff.com

CORONAVIRUS. COVID-19. Uncertainty. Fear. Social distancing.

I know we're tired of hearing these words and dealing with a crisis like none other, but it's our new normal. For now.

I'll admit I have times of bitterness. 2020 started off with amazing promise. But being bitter and having worry is a waste of imagination, and during these days, we need every ounce of innovation, as well as positivity, kindness, patience, and tolerance.

And hand-washing. OK, I'm sorry; I had to say it.

It is scary that hand-washing seems like a novel thing for so many, but I think proper hygiene won't be the only good thing to arise from this crisis. Yet to get to that point and to get through this, we must work together.

Our tour operators need their NTA supplier and destination partners like at no other time since 9/11. Reimagining and relaxing cancellation and refund policies, working toward postponements and rescheduling, catering to late-booking requests (because it will happen), and assisting with the redesign of tours and packages are some of the ways that members can work together to help businesses survive.

We will be a different industry when we come through this. Sadly, many businesses in travel and tourism and hospitality—especially small ones—will not make it. And millions, literally millions, of our colleagues will be displaced. To help mitigate this as best we can, your NTA team has been working tirelessly to find resources, develop tools, create community-building opportunities, offer education, and advocate for financial relief. (See page 7.)

I wrote the first draft of this column more than four weeks ago. At that time, uncertainty and fear had caused a lockdown paradox among travelers around the globe. Widespread cancellations, travel restrictions, and event cancellations were sending a seismic shock across all sectors of our industry, and we couldn't understand why all this was necessary.

Today we've accepted that we must do what we can to stop the spread of the disease so we can get back to "normal" and reopen our borders, restaurants, attractions, and hotels, and confidently fly on planes and ride on motorcoaches ... so we can simply get back to traveling and exploring the world.

For now, there continues to be fear and uncertainty. Your travelers feel it, and so do you in your own businesses, with your trade partners, and even with your viability. In this time of uncertainty, when I look to the future—the *near* future—I am certain that the time will come when travel explodes with a pent-up demand. We'll see a desire to connect and re-engage, a drive to collaborate and give a boost to every partner who needs it, and an eagerness to explore all the places we've been missing.

I know I will be excited to see you at industry events that have been rescheduled, and I'll be beyond thrilled to see you in November at NTA's Travel Exchange in Reno.

So for now, let's keep doing what we can to support one another and help deserving businesses survive. And let's be ready to thrive.

Be safe and be well,

Catherine



Board of Directors appointment

Michelle Pino was appointed by Chair Jim Warren to the at-large seat on the 2020 NTA Board of Directors. Pino, co-owner of Northeast Unlimited Tours in Sandwich, Massachusetts, formerly chaired NTA's Members Solutions Advisory Group. She will serve through November, when the 2021 board is elected.

NTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Chair

Jim Warren, CTP
Anderson Vacations
jwarren@andersonvacations.ca

Vice Chair

Chase Poffenberger
Academic Travel Abroad
cpoffenberger@academic-travel.com

Secretary

Debra Asberry
Women Traveling Together
debra@women-traveling.com

Immediate Past Chair

Paul Larsen
Ed-Ventures
pcl@ed-ventures.com

DMO Director

Kelly Dean
Ottawa Tourism
kdean@ottawatourism.ca

Tour Supplier Director

Cory Mace
North Central Group
cmace@ncghotels.com

Directors

Dawn Burns
Deadwood CVB
dawn@deadwood.org

Jorge Cazenave, CTP
Cazenave Argentina
jorge@cazenaveargentina.com

Angela Harness, CTP
Tanger Outlets
angela.harness@tangeroutlets.com

Jara Haas, CTP
Major Marine Tours & Harbor 360 Hotel
jara@majormarine.com

Ashley Kingman
Travel Portland
ashley@travelportland.com

Fraser Neave, CTP
Wells Gray Tours
fraser@wellsgraytours.com

Nish Patel
Mayflower Cruises and Tours
nish@mayflowercruisesandtours.com

Monique van Dijk-Seppola
Scandinavia Tours
monique@scandinaviatours.no

Jerry Varner, CTP
Making Memories Tours
jerry@makingmemoriestours.com

Christina Werner, CTP
Custom Holidays
christina@customholidaysonline.com

Director at Large

Michelle Pino
Northeast Unlimited Tours
michelle@northeastunlimitedtours.com

InBrief

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT YOUR
ASSOCIATION AND THE INDUSTRY

COMPILED BY BOB ROUSE

Out of COVID comes community

WITH MOST travel screeching to a halt in March, NTA provided members with ways to stay informed and with channels to share strategies. Here is a sample of available resources ... so far:

Network calls: Within a week of the travel shutdown, NTA scheduled conference calls with three member networks—tour operators, DMOs, and tour suppliers—and more calls are coming. As important as the shared knowledge is, it's equally valuable for members to connect with colleagues to commiserate and encourage.

Engage: NTA's online community is getting a real workout. With many members working from home—and all members focused on the virus—Engage has proven to be a useful platform for sharing and soliciting information in real time with trusted colleagues.

COVID-19 Central: As helpful as NTA's internal networks have been, we're also sharing the insights, updates, and resources we've gathered with the larger community of travel professionals at ntaonline.com/covid-19-central.

Webinars: NTA is calling on its legal, business, and travel-market experts and conducting webinars that are recorded and stored online.



Leaders from 11 travel and tourism associations convened in person and by phone in Washington, D.C., on March 19. Clockwise from lower left: Brian Beall, CLIA; Zane Kerby, ASTA; Catherine Prather, NTA; Terry Dale, USTOA; Carylann Assante, SYTA; Peter Pantuso, ABA; Chun Wright, ATTA

Surveys: We learned after our first COVID-19 survey that this fast-changing situation requires steady monitoring, so we're continuing to gather feedback about the economic impact of the crisis.

Advocacy: Along with collaborating with other travel associations to lobby for federal relief, NTA has received and shared a steady flow of legislative updates from our Washington, D.C., consultant, Elevate Government Affairs.

NTAcourier.com: The *Courier* website will keep posting articles with expert advice—and fantastic places to visit.

And NTA's work continues. Projects in the works include a platform for members to share their tour product digitally and next-step career resources for travel professionals who have lost their jobs during the pandemic. ☺

The **BILLY GRAHAM**
Library

STUDENT TOURS



Monday to Saturday, 9:30–5:00
BillyGrahamLibrary.org • 704-401-3200
Reservations required for groups of 10
or more; email LibraryTours@bgea.org
or call 704-401-3270.

4330 Westmont Drive • Charlotte, NC
A ministry of Billy Graham Evangelistic
Association [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [n](#) [s](#) [p](#)

©2019 BGEA

In 1973, Billy Graham preached to
more than 1 million people in
Seoul, South Korea.

“Every synonym for amazing!”

—KRISTA, MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

Bring your students and “*come and see what God has done*” (Psalm 66:5, ESV) as He used a humble farmer’s son to share His love with millions, from integrated crowds during the civil rights movement to thousands trapped behind the Iron Curtain at the height of the Cold War. Free, downloadable resources enrich students’ experience before, during, and after your visit—and each grade level lesson plan meets North Carolina and federal standards.

To plan your visit or find out more, go
to BillyGrahamLibrary.org/Students.



To the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19,

Congratulations on your meteoric rise to fame. In the span of a mere few weeks, you have become a media darling, the world's biggest celebrity, and the puppeteer manipulating how we humans go about our lives. Bravo.

Far be it from me to stand toe-to-toe against such a herculean organism, but I must beg your mercy on just a few fronts.

More than anything, I beg that you cease your theft of life and of the health of our most vulnerable. We know you have the ability to kill silently, but why must you be so selective with how you do it?

Only when you accept my plea to restore our collective health, I must make another request: Can you please stop bullying the tourism industry?

Since you are still in your infancy and have had but a few months to gain an understanding of the world you have so badly shaken, I will give you a primer of what tourism represents:

The tourism industry is the global community that helps us all to remain just that: a community. Ten percent of the entire planet can proudly state that they put their talents towards this noble line of work, and I have the privilege of being one of them. Through tireless planning, networking, and research, we help make this vast world accessible to all of its residents.

I want to make sure you understand that you have robbed us of something invaluable: the true payoff of our work. At this point in the year, it is not uncommon for us to be working 14-hour days, giving every ounce of ourselves to our jobs, ensuring we do right by our travelers.

There's something miraculous about this, though: You don't hear us complaining. When we receive photographs and videos of the people for whom we work as they have paradigm-shifting

experiences, it makes every late night at the office more than worth it.

This year, we are still working those long days and nights, but, due to the carnage you have splattered all over the planet, it is all without that payoff. You have viciously watched and laughed as we are forced to disassemble all of the work we tirelessly devoted to our art, and, most brutally, you have given us no sign of when you will stop this.

Please, virus, I beg you: Let us know when you will cease. Decimating the part of the year we most look forward to is selfish enough, so why must you threaten to be even more gluttonous in your thievery?

Theaters are dark, buses are parked, museums are shuttered, and people are lonely and disconnected.

You've had your time in the sun. Please stop.

Let me—and millions of my colleagues and friends worldwide—return to our travel trade. Let us work our magic so that we can help make this crazy world fun and friendly for millions of travelers.

Sincerely,

A travel coordinator, sitting at his dining room table, trying to clean up your mess ☹️

This letter was written by Ryan Kramer, who works for Bob Rogers Travel, an Illinois-based tour company that specializes in student travel. Reach him at rkramer@bobrogerstravel.com.





**STUDENT LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY**

ONE IMMERSIVE WEEK,
JUNE 21-27, 2020

College Credit





The opportunity of a lifetime, learning from top Museum historians.

- Take a ride on PT-305
- Go behind the scenes with Museum curators
- All meals and hotel included

www.ww2museumtours.org/student-travel

[1-877-813-3329 x 514](tel:1-877-813-3329)



Leaders of the tours

BY BOB ROUSE

Although most student travel—field trips, performance tours, athletic team travel, etc.—was canceled this spring due to the coronavirus scare, it's certain that school groups will hit the road again in the future. They'll travel to learn, to sing, to play, and to broaden their minds.

Two experienced tour operators share what *they've* learned from planning and conducting hundreds of student trips.



Julie Kozikowski
CTP, president
Destinations Unlimited
Plymouth, Connecticut
julie@megahits.com



Jorge Pardo
founder/president
Vámonos Tours
San Juan, Puerto Rico
jorge@vamonostours.com

What are the rewards of working with student groups?

Kozikowski: I love to see the smile on a student's face when they see something for the first time or realize the significance of what they are seeing or doing. I know so many people whose career choices were affected by student travel—language teachers, tour operators, hoteliers, etc.—that I often think about how this trip might affect a student's life in the future. I find their excitement for what they are experiencing to be infectious.

Pardo: There are so many rewards! Students are more flexible and eager to follow a guide's plan and itinerary than any other age group. Seeing the thrill in the eyes of students who are experiencing an exotic destination for the first time is an uplifting reward. I also love the humanity and diversity students experience when they interact with local people, especially other students. For many, their tour abroad is positively life-changing.

Are there unique challenges that come with this age group?



Students at Independence Hall, Philadelphia

Pardo: There are some challenges with any age group. Here are some I see especially in this market: allergies and illnesses during the tour, homesickness here and there, and unrealistic demands from school boards and administrations (at times). And for us, there's the responsibility we take of making sure kids will be safe without their parents on tour.

Kozikowski: I think one of the challenges with a student group in today's society is to keep their attention. Students are used to finding entertainment at all times on any number of electronic devices. So not only is it key to *get* their attention, but also to *keep* it for more than a few minutes. We need to remind students often to not walk and text at the same time, as they could look up and realize that the rest of the group is no longer around them.

Also, with a phone in every student's hand, they communicate with home at a moment's notice. This can be good and bad, as sometimes the old-fashioned "telephone game" can come into play. I once had a motorcoach with a faulty belt that smoked a little. We pulled over, the driver dealt with the issue, and we were on our way. When we later pulled into the school, a parent was frantic because her child had texted to say the bus was on fire!

How does the COVID-19 crisis compare to previous challenges?

Pardo: After handling unforeseen circumstances such as the Zika virus, earthquakes, hurricanes, and economic woes in some of our destinations, we thought we could handle anything. I think we still can, but this pandemic is unlike any other situation. It's global, so it's not as if we can tell our client, "Don't worry; we'll take you to another destination instead." Unless we start taking travelers to a different planet, COVID-19 has neutralized us.

After months secluded in their homes, though, travelers will be thrilled to reconnect with our amazing world and experience the human bond through travel again. I can guarantee our destinations, partners, and staff will be better prepared to care for them and keep them safe. For example, the San Juan airport in our top destination, Puerto Rico, is the first in the U.S. to create a 24/7 human-fever monitor for all arriving travelers. It works through a sensor camera that catches everyone's temperature from a distance. Pandemics and viruses will have a harder time slipping by in the future.

Kozikowski: What makes the current crisis different is that we don't have a firm end date. It is hard to know what a week from now will look like, never

mind months. Several of our schools are already looking at 2021 and making their annual plans, though, and we're telling those schools and parents that we strongly encourage taking the trip protection plans, because they have a "cancel for any reason" clause that will provide a 75% refund. We are using the COVID-19 crisis as an example that you just don't know what may be happening in the world at the time of your trip, and this is the best way to offer financial

protection. Some schools have even decided to require everyone to take the trip protection plan.

What one thing do most single-trip travel planners fail to consider?

Kozikowski: I often say I wouldn't try to conduct a band, so why does the band director think he can book a tour? I think most single-trip planners not only underestimate the time it takes to move groups of 50 or more people, but they also fail to

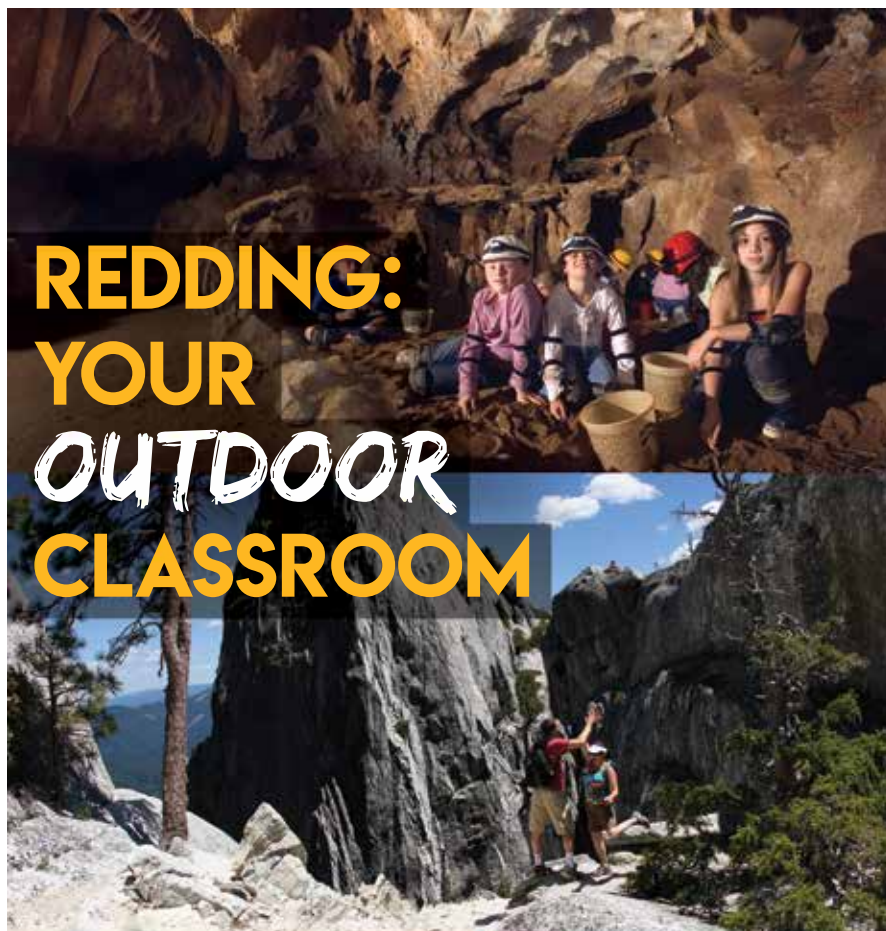
consider that not all businesses are set up to take large groups. Many attractions that you might visit with a family cannot take groups of 50 or 100. And just because a restaurant provides a good dinner for 10 people, it does not mean they can handle 100. Even hotels are not all created equal, as some focus on family travel or corporate travel. The hotels we use specialize in the student market and are familiar with the security needs that we require. These security requirements and our experience help put a group leader's mind at ease.

Pardo: They might not consider the liability of running the tour and its consequences. It's also important to have a solid plan B when plan A isn't available, whether it's my tour or a provider's tour that hits a snag. I would also say a company having available staff on-site is important to the success of a tour.

What the pros tell parents

Julie Kozikowski has had enough experience with student travel to know just what to tell parents prior to a trip:


- If you send snacks with your child, please put them in gallon zip-lock bags to prevent a mess on the bus.
- Encourage your child to eat a good breakfast each day on the tour because the days are long.
- Make sure your child packs a pair of good walking shoes, as we will be walking several miles each day. Flip flops and slippers aren't great for touring.
- See that your student packs in layers and packs a coat (rather than just a hoodie), as it will be cooler in the evening.
- They should not pack their gaming system.
- A frequent question is "How much money will they need?" Most of our meals are included on the tour, so there really isn't a need to bring much money. But, as I have two children of my own, I always tell parents that whatever you give them for spending money, they will spend.



REDDING: YOUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

CLASS		RECESS
Astronomy		Horse Riding
Biology		Kayaking
Geology		Rafting
Hydrology	+	Snowshoe
Minerology		Trails & Treks
Volcanology		Waterfalls

= REDDING, CA



**VISITREDDING.COM/
STUDENT-GROUPS**
SHEILA@VISITREDDING.COM
(530) 225-4010

Have a cell phone policy!

BY CARRIE RHODES, VAMONOS TOURS

AFTER HUNDREDS of tours, we noticed that students' attention, discipline, and responsiveness are much stronger and rewarding in groups that adhere to a no cell phone policy. Without a cell phone, students appreciate the sights, talk to each other, and pay attention to the guide. But, how do parents stay in touch with them? What if they want to take pictures or need to check their email?

Here's three options to consider for your cell phone policy:

Option 1: Unplugged! Cell phones stay home and students are able to be fully present while on tour; the trouble here is that chaperones become responsible for taking and sharing photos of the tour.

Option 2: Day communication only—only allow cell phone usage during the day. Collect phones after dinner and give them to students in the morning. This option greatly avoids any possible social media bullying and/or restless nights. It also allows students to take pictures while on tour while ensuring a full night of much needed sleep.

Option 3: Night communication only—opposite of option 2—only allow cell phone usage at night. Cell phones are collected in the morning and given to students after dinner. This helps students engage during the trip and communicate with parents at night in the rooms. However, it does open the door for restless nights and possible social media bullying.

From experience, nothing works better than option 1. We've also noticed smooth tours and attentive students with option 3. In any event, make sure you obtain policy approval from your school supervisors and administration. You need their support when parents or students complain. Choose wisely! ☺

A museum that inspires students to write!



AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM

A one-of-a-kind interactive and immersive museum experience celebrating American writers of all genres.

Book Your Tour Today!

AmericanWritersMuseum.org/visit • 180 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL



Single-Day Tickets only

\$33



PANTHEON

COMING THIS SPRING

BOOK YOUR GROUP TO SAVE OVER 60% ON TICKETS

[BUSCHGARDENS.COM/YOUTH](https://buschgardens.com/youth)

The **ALL-NEW PANTHEON™** is coming to Busch Gardens this spring. Reach 73 miles per hour and soar over 15 airtime hills on the **World's Fastest Multi-Launch Coaster!**

Busch Gardens
WILLIAMSBURG, VA

Offer valid for student groups of 15 or more on regularly scheduled operating days from 3/15/2020 - 11/1/2020. Pricing & products are subject to change.
©2020 SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved.

Huntsville: A space place

BY KENDALL FLETCHER

WHETHER I WAS weaving through the gorgeous antebellum district, walking beneath a massive test rocket, or dining on the best Brussels sprouts ever—fried in truffle balsamic honey—I kept hearing the same thing: Huntsville is growing.

It's well on its way to becoming the biggest city in Alabama in the next five years, with its population having grown exponentially over the last 15. Google and Facebook will soon have facilities in the area. The FBI has long had a presence in Huntsville, and a second headquarters will open, ushering in

up to 5,000 agents and their families. NASA operates every space experiment from the Marshall Space Flight Center on the U.S. Army's Redstone Arsenal. Thousands of students travel from all over the world each year to attend Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. With innovative restaurants, beautiful parks, statehood history, and arts and culture, Huntsville is a growing, shining star among the many NTA-member student-friendly destinations.

And I was able to see it for myself in March with my mom, Mimi.

Arts

The Huntsville Museum of Art is a striking structure settled at the water's edge in the city's Big Spring Park. It's a quiet place to stroll from room to room; each one is a different color and displays works from a variety of artists in both permanent and traveling exhibits.

It's home to more than 3,200 objects, and all are incorporated into the museum's main focus of 19th- and 20th-century American art with an emphasis on the Southeast. The museum's youth section, named The Stender Family Interactive Education Galleries, is centered on immersive exhibits, like "A Walk Through Time," where visitors tunnel through the world's contributions to the evolution of art.

The museum has offered hands-on art classes for more than 40 years to both adults and youth. Workshops slated this year for high schoolers include ceramics, calligraphy, watercolor, and creating stained glass suncatchers. For younger groups, programs focus on drawing and mixed media, and studies of color, texture, and lines. They can participate in a half-day art camp offered during spring break as well as other thematic tours. Students can also get into the museum for a deeply discounted \$5.

As I panned over paintings of blue hydrangeas and hay bales and landscapes, I wondered how these concepts became the vivid creations that hung on the museum walls in sleek black frames. We were able to take a peek into that process at Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment.

The large warehouse (once a cotton and textile mill) is home to 150 art studios and more than 200 artists from every discipline. In rooms encircled by exposed brick and soaring windows, artists were doing their thing—from painting on canvas and creating jewelry to quilting. If the artists' doors were open, we could walk in and browse, ask questions, and watch them create.

Hungry visitors can grab some specialty crepes, pizza, and popsicles. Many events, workshops, and classes are

For more information, contact Pam Williams of the Huntsville CVB at pam@huntsville.org or go to huntsville.org.



Kendall in the rocket garden at Marshall Space Flight Center

MIMI SPARKS



Huntsville Museum of Art

KENDALL FLETCHER

offered year-round at the venue, which is the largest privately owned arts facility in the South, y'all.

And, lastly, those aforementioned Brussels sprouts were also, well, art.

Space

"Huntsville is the birthplace of the U.S. Space Program. Even if you're not excited about space, it's exciting from an historical standpoint," said Pam Williams, tourism sales manager with the Huntsville CVB.

We stayed just across the road from the NTA-member U.S. Space & Rocket Center, and the view of an illuminated space shuttle and rocket only heightened our anticipation to get inside the state-of-the-art attraction. There, we met Sara Vowell, assistant director of sales and outreach, who warmly welcomed us to Space Camp, which brings in 40,000 kids each year from 82 different countries. They participate in simulated missions to learn how to be an astronaut—among other occupations—during the week-long camp.

"They're given different roles—like a commander, a scientist, a pilot—and they learn to work together and train for their mission all week, but they really learn about jobs in STEM careers," Vowell said.

Camps are open to kids ages 9 to 18, and the curricula are tailored to age groups. With so many hands-on activities that make students work together, the camps are very effective in team-building.

They increase self-esteem, too. Vowell said she hears from many parents who had observed their children's struggles with fitting in, and after attending Space

Camp, those kids feel as though they belong somewhere. Students can also attend Aviation Challenge Camp as well as Space Camp Robotics.

As we toured the Davidson Center for Space Exploration, we strolled beneath a fully restored Saturn V, an enormous authentic test rocket, and saw many interactive exhibits, a museum, a newly added planetarium, and the National Geographic Theater. Discounted tickets are available for school groups that visit the center, Vowell said.

As we viewed exciting and one-of-a-kind exhibitions, like the Apollo 16 command module, I watched my mom making connections. She's often discussed her memories of seeing footage of the first moon landing on television and her knowledge of early missions that took

off (literally) during her childhood. Not only did we see authentic displays that shed light on the past, but we also closely observed what's happening currently in space exploration—and what's to come.

From there, she and I hopped on the bus to tour the Marshall Space Flight Center on the U.S. Army's Redstone Arsenal. The flight center's 1,100-acre grounds are home to NASA's Payload Operations and Integration Center, where we peered through glass at the important people who communicate with other very important people on the International Space Station. The tours take off from the Space & Rocket Center once a day, seven days a week (weather permitting), and special group arrangements can be made.

For more info, go to spacecamp.com or email the attraction's Tom White at tom.white@spacecamp.com.

History

When we first drove into town along Church Street, the green and yellow building to the left of the railroad tracks was an eye-catcher; it was the Huntsville Depot. Constructed in 1860, it's the only antebellum depot standing in Alabama (and one of the oldest in the U.S.).

The Depot harbors rich stories of Union takeovers and served as a Confederate prison, and much of its



"ISS: Science on Orbit" exhibit

U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER

history is literally written on the walls. Troops who stayed there wrote and drew images that remain, which are equally beguiling and haunting. The Depot offers student programs, including a Civil War encampment with costumed interpreters telling the life stories of soldiers during that time. Other programs focus on medicine, women's roles, and more in-depth lessons on the positions of trains and depots during the war.

On our last day, we headed to the popular attraction in the sky, Burritt on the Mountain. The property overlooks Huntsville—and our mountaintop view was extraordinary.

The grounds are expansive and inviting, and we stepped inside the beautiful mansion built by Dr. William Burritt in the mid-1930s. The physician was way ahead of his time, living in frugality and designing his house to be green and environmentally sound. He salvaged materials from other buildings and mixed Federal, Art Deco, and Greek Revival styles to construct his retirement home in an X-shape, which was the best way to let in breezes and sunlight to naturally cool and heat. There is also a rental facility on the property that is utilized for field trips during rainy weather.

It was quite a surprise to find an adjoining historical park, which featured several original structures where an assortment of student programming is offered.



HUNTSVILLE CUB

Demonstration at Huntsville Depot

"I truly believe we are filling in the gaps that are left open in education now," Chief Programs Officer Tammy Cooney said. "The great thing about museum education is we get the freedom to do that."


One of our most captivating finds in the park was the school constructed as part of The Rosenwald Plan, which combined the efforts of Booker T. Washington and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald to build rural schools for African-American children from 1913 to 1937. The program funded 5,358 buildings across 15 Southern states—and I don't remember a thing about it from my own education. Perhaps that's what Tammy meant by filling in the gaps.

The tour was a sobering experience, as it detailed how the school served as one

of very few safe places for black children to receive an education during that time. The attraction offers several programs that highlight the lives of rural Alabama schoolchildren in 1918 and includes grade-appropriate lessons and a craft. Student experiences can be customized and can go as in-depth as leaders desire.

While Huntsville's population is on the rise, so are the options for its many, many visitors. There will be 11 new hotels opening over the next two years, music venues and restaurants are being built or expanded, and festivals and other events come to life year-round in Big Spring Park in the heart of the city.

New is good, but I discovered quickly that Huntsville finds value in what was there first. Columns from the original courthouse now stand in the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Original homes and sites are now museums. Space shuttles are now roadside beacons.

"We have a strong revitalization effort without destroying things," Williams said. And that's why Huntsville is growing. 



Burritt on the Mountain

KENDALL FLETCHER

Other very cool attractions

- Grille 29
- Huntsville Botanical Garden
- The Earlyworks Children's Museum
- The Alabama Constitution Hall Park & Museum
- The Twickenham driving tour
- Straight to Ale restaurant at Campus 805
- Blue Plate Café

15 Great Student Destinations

While this year's prime spring travel season for school groups didn't materialize, it's not too early to start dreaming about (and even planning) future trips.

Where will you go? What will you do?

Those are key questions, and *Courier* is here to help you answer them.

On the following pages you will see information on 15 destinations around the world—from Chicago and Niagara Falls to San Diego and San Juan—that offer special experiences for students. Your travelers can check out places such as Québec City and Jamestown/Williamsburg, Virginia, where early European explorers settled, or discover the ties that Colorado Springs, Salt Lake City, and Lillehammer, Norway, have to the Olympic Games.

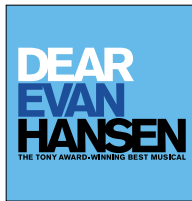
Thanks to its rich, multi-ethnic history and waterfront location, Québec City is a popular destination for students.



BROADWAY IN CHICAGO GROUP SALES



NOW PLAYING



JUL. 7 - SEP. 27, 2020



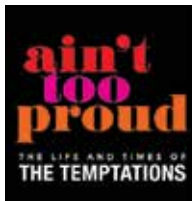
BEGINS JUL. 8, 2020



AUG. 11 - 23, 2020



AUG. 25 - SEP. 6, 2020



SEP. 23 - OCT. 25, 2020



OCT. 21, 2020 - JAN. 3, 2021



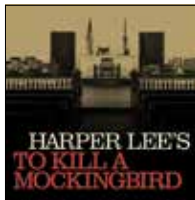
NOV. 3 - 15, 2020



NOV. 10 - 22, 2020



DEC. 17, 2020 - FEB. 21, 2021



JAN. 20 - FEB. 7, 2021



MAR. 2 - APR. 4, 2021



APR. 6 - 18, 2021



JUL. 13 - AUG. 15, 2021

Groups call: 312-977-1710
Email: GROUPSALES@BROADWAYINCHICAGO.COM
BROADWAY IN CHICAGO.COM

Catillac Theatre CIBC Theatre JAMES M. SMITH THEATRE AUDITORIUM THEATRE

15 Great Student Destinations

Chicago

Chicago is a city that knows a thing or two about welcoming school groups. With a varied and extensive list of world-class attractions, the destination on the western shores of Lake Michigan is a major draw for education-based touring.

The city's Museum Campus, which includes the Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, and the Shedd

Aquarium, is a good place for exploration. The Field, which opened in 1894 and will celebrate its 100th year at its current location in 2021, includes nearly 40 million artifacts and specimens.

The attraction has a range of student-focused exhibits detailing life, earth, and social sciences. Interactive sessions take place at the Grainger Science Hub, and other special programs and tours are offered based on grade level.

The nearby Adler Planetarium welcomes more than a million visitors with a goal of helping them better understand the universe. With two domed theaters, a selection of staff-facilitated activities, and a range of interactive exhibitions, the Adler lets students learn about the research and findings of scientists, engineers, astronauts, and astronomers. Programs include the Astro-Science Workshop, Doane At Dusk, and special night-sky events.

For additional information, contact Arnaldo Altoran of Choose Chicago at aaltoran@choosechicago.com or visit choosechicago.com.

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Shedd Aquarium | The Art Institute of Chicago | The Museum of Science & Industry

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Millennium Park & Maggie Daley Park | Lincoln Park Zoo



The Field Museum

THE FIELD MUSEUM



Adler Planetarium

ADLER PLANETARIUM

Cincinnati

"In Cincinnati, we invite students to experience our city in a way that's engaging and entertaining," says Jenell Walton, vice president of communications and strategic development for the Cincinnati USA CVB. "And it's more than the free activities and museums, the professional sport teams, and the world-class arts and culture scene. Here, we create opportunities and themed itineraries for students that allow them to immerse themselves and connect with the unmistakably Cincinnati experience."



MARK BEALER PHOTOGRAPHY

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Located on the banks of the Ohio River, Cincinnati played a pivotal role in many enslaved people's journeys toward freedom. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center shares the stories of the nation's heroes via hands-on scavenger hunts through the exhibits and history lessons that meet state and national curriculum standards.

At the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, school groups will find one of the largest collections of animals in the U.S. Later in 2020, the attraction will debut Roo Valley, a new signature area that will feature a two-level adventure course in the treetops with 60 activities, including options for all skill levels and abilities. Beneath the trees, students can interact with kangaroos in a 15,000-square-foot space and see little blue penguins through an underwater viewing portal.

To learn more, contact the Cincinnati USA CVB's Ronnie Mayo at rmayo@cincyusa.com or visit cincyusa.com.

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal | BB Riverboats | Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Kings Island Amusement Park | Scene 75

Colorado Springs

There is a lot of excitement in Colorado Springs these days as the June debut of the new U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum draws closer. The new facility marks another chapter in the city's partnership with the U.S. Olympic movement, as many sports have headquarters in the city, and thousands of athletes train throughout the area.

The museum details the history of the Olympic Games, dating back to their origin in ancient Greece, with a special focus on Team USA. Students will learn how athletes train, see medals and other memorabilia, and even take a virtual walk at the opening ceremonies alongside U.S. athletes. Other curriculum-based programs will be part of the new attraction's programming.

Floy Kennedy, director of tourism industry sales with Visit Colorado Springs, says another popular spot for school groups is the recently reopened U.S. Air Force Academy Planetarium.

"The U.S. Air Force Academy is a destination that will inspire many students to further explore STEM subject matter," she says. "After the morning program at the state-of-the-art planetarium, they can watch 4,000 cadets in the noon lunch formation and then visit the Barry Goldwater Visitor Center to learn more about life as a cadet at the Academy."

The planetarium offers interactive sessions with astronomers and other staffers, behind-the-scenes tours, and space shows on the big screen.

To learn more, contact Kennedy at floy@visitcos.com or go to visitcos.com.



U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PLANETARIUM

U.S. Air Force Academy Planetarium

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Space Foundation Discovery Center | National Museum of WWII Aviation

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Cave of the Winds Mountain Park | Royal Gorge Bridge & Park | Garden of the Gods

Jamestown/Williamsburg



Interactive program
at Jamestown Settlement

JAMESTOWN-YORKTOWN FOUNDATION

One of the most history-rich places in the United States is the Williamsburg-Jamestown-Yorktown area in southeastern Virginia. This famous corridor traces its roots back to 1607, when Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in America.

There are myriad ways for school groups to unpack more than four centuries of history as they explore the cities. They can tour a working archeological site in Jamestown, walk along the streets of historical Williamsburg, and take part in water-front experiences in Yorktown.

Two top attractions are Jamestown Settlement and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. The 17th century was an interesting time at Jamestown Settlement, as Powhatan Indian, English, and African cultures blended together. That story is told through artifacts, films, and interactive interpretation in outdoor recreations of a Powhatan village, a circa-1607 English ship, and a fort.

Additional stories of citizens and soldiers are told at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. At a period Continental Army camp, students can join an artillery crew, where they learn about the weaponry of the time. They can also take part in daily tasks and help with chores at the Revolution-era farm.

For more information, contact Visit Williamsburg's Vivian Bunting at vivian.bunting@visitwilliamsburg.com or go to visitwilliamsburg.com—and reach out to Joan Heikens of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation at joan.heikens@jyf.virginia.gov or go to historyisfun.org to learn more.

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Historic Jamestowne | Colonial Williamsburg | Yorktown Battlefield

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Busch Gardens Williamsburg

Lillehammer

Located in the mountains of southern Norway beside Lake Mjøsa, Lillehammer oozes with charm. The city of 27,000 is a hub for outdoor adventure and is home to a varied list of attractions and a major university.

Student groups can learn more about the country's tie to the Olympic Games during a visit to the Norwegian Olympic Museum. Medals, uniforms, skiing equipment, and memorabilia from the nation's Olympians—as well as items pertaining to the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer and the 1952 Summer Games in Oslo—are on display throughout the attraction.

A short movie also details how Lillehammer used the 1994 games as a successful springboard to economic and community redevelopment, which is still paying dividends today. Plus, many of the venues used during the Olympics are still in use for international competitions and as recreational spots for locals.

Another popular attraction for students is Maihaugen. This open-air museum has more than 200 period buildings that have been relocated to its grounds from across Norway.

These historical structures are organized into themed areas that include The Rural Section, featuring houses and offices from farming communities; The Town, detailing life and commerce in an early 20th century Norwegian town; and The Residential Area and its houses representing the various decades of the 1900s.

Maihaugen offers curriculum-based tours and programs, and it plays host to a number of student-centered events and performances throughout the year.



Historical building
at Maihaugen

PAT HENDERSON

To learn more, contact Monique van Dijk-Seppola of Scandinavia Tours at monique@scandinaviatours.no or go to scandinaviatours.no.

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Lillehammer Art Museum | Olympiaparken

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Hunderfossen Familiepark | Rondane National Park

New Orleans

The rich music, food, art, and historical traditions in New Orleans help the city offer a blend of cultural experiences for students from around the world. When they head to the multi-ethnic Louisiana destination, many attractions await, including the Historic New Orleans Collection and Studio Be.

Located in the French Quarter, HNOC is part museum and part research center, with a focus on preserving the history and culture of the city and the U.S. Gulf South region.



J. STEPHEN YOUNG

Gallery at the Historic New Orleans Collection

The attraction's new exhibit space, the recently renovated Seignouret-Brulatour Building, is home to galleries featuring large-scale images, video clips, touchable objects, a smelling station, and more.

As they explore the new space, school groups can get a glimpse at artifacts and archaeological materials that were discovered below the building during the excavation process.

Another immersive experience awaits students at Studio Be. A project by local artist Brandan "Bmike" Odums, Studio Be is a cultural art gallery housed in a warehouse just two blocks from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts. The exhibits use art, in a variety of media, to tell the stories of revolutionaries, heroes, and everyday New Orleanians.

To learn more, contact Thu Tran of New Orleans & Company at tran@neworleans.com or visit neworleans.com.

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

National World War II Museum | Louisiana State Museums, The Cabildo and The Presbytère | Mardi Gras World

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park | City Park

Niagara Falls

Located in the waters between Canada and the United States, Niagara Falls is one of the world's most recognizable landmarks. Its millions of gallons of water that flow downward each minute are the main draw for the millions of people who head to its namesake city in Ontario for exploration.

There are many ways for school groups to experience the falls, and most tours start with a cruise into the fabled waters. Hornblower Niagara Cruises and Maid of the Mist alternate departures from the Canadian and U.S. sides, respectively. During the 20-minute voyage, passengers feel the spray of the thundering falls and see the rocky, sculpted cliff walls.

When it is time for some recreation, WildPlay Niagara Falls delivers the thrills. The main attraction is the zip line that rises 220 feet above the water. Once they are strapped in, participants are whisked 2,200 feet over the gorge at speeds of up to 42 miles per hour and, if they keep their eyes open, can enjoy sweeping views of the Canadian and American falls. WildPlay also has three adventure courses that include dozens of climbing, jumping, and swinging aerial components.

To learn more, contact Niagara Falls Tourism's Christina Marcotte at cmarcotte@niagarafallstourism.com or go to niagarafallstourism.com.



WILDPAY'S ZIPLINE TO THE FALLS

Zip lining at WildPlay Niagara Falls

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Journey Behind the Falls | Skylon Tower

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours | Niagara Skywheel

We get it. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, students are not traveling together. But we know that travel will return when we put this virus behind us. We want you to be packed with ideas ... and ready to go.

—The Courier staff

Providence

“Being a college town itself, Providence is a great destination for students to experience,” says Christina Robbio, director of communications for the Providence Warwick CVB. “The abundance of history, culture, food, and art make Providence a fun and educational place to visit.”

She says one of the city’s top attractions for school groups is the museum at the Rhode Island School of Design. The university, which was founded in 1877 as a private art and design college, welcomes creative types to pursue bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

At the museum, works by current students are on display alongside pieces from renowned painters and sculptors that represent different cultures from several eras. During a visit, school groups can see this diversity as they tour the permanent collection and view special traveling exhibits.

Museum educators work with teachers regarding specific themes for tours or in-depth programs. Gallery discussions and art-making workshops in the design lab are popular for teens.

College students can request access to objects not on view through one of the museum’s two dedicated study centers. The Costume and Textiles collection and the Prints, Drawings, and Photographs collection offer weekly open hours to view objects and learn about the collection with curatorial guidance.

To learn more, contact the CVB’s Jonathan Neis at jneis@goprovidence.com or visit goprovidence.com.



RISD Museum

RISD MUSEUM, PROVIDENCE, RI

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Museum of Natural History and Planetarium |
Go Providence’s historical walking tours

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Roger Williams Park Zoo | BankNewport
City Center

Québec City



Walking tour of Old Québec

VILLE DE QUÉBEC

Located on the St. Lawrence River, Québec City is a destination that teems with history. It was founded in 1608 by French explorer Samuel de Champlain and is one of the oldest European-founded cities in North America.

The provincial capital is home to a number of places that help students explore heritage and culture, including Parliament, the Fortifications of Québec National Historic Site, Morrin Center, and the Citadel of Québec.

The National Assembly offers free guided tours of the Parliament Building, touching upon the details of the history and workings of Québec’s parliamentary institutions and highlighting the treasure trove of art found within the walls.

Four centuries of history can be discovered at the Fortifications of Québec. Students can take part in a scavenger hunt, go on a guided tour with a Parks Canada docent, enjoy the Tea With the Officers session at Artillery Park, and visit the costume workshop.

At the Morrin Center, which was built more than 200 years ago as the city’s first prison, school groups can unpack the tales and legends of colorful local characters as they walk through the rows and rows of cells. At the Citadel, students can take in the breathtaking views of the river, city, and countryside, and watch the Changing of the Guard ceremony (held daily at 10 a.m. from mid-June to early September).

To learn more, contact Québec City Tourism’s Nancy Dacres at nancy.dacres@quebecregion.com or go to quebecregion.com.

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

The Plains of Abraham | Huron-Wendat First Nations Museum

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Village Vacances Valcartier | Mega Parc and Galeries de la Capitale

Rome

“Rome is one of the few cities in the world where you see, touch, and feel the past; just walking in or through its famous archaeological sites is amazing,” says Daniele Panzarin, CEO of Target Travel in Venice, Italy. “Walking inside the Colosseum or through the Roman Forum, just to mention the two most famous spots, is an experience that has no comparison.”

Panzarin’s company organizes tours to destinations across his native Italy, and Rome is a popular choice for student performance groups.



Student performance group at St. Peter's Square

“Giving a performance in Rome, whether for a choir or an orchestra, is always quite unique,” he says. “The churches, basilicas, cloisters, squares, and theaters of Rome all have an atmosphere that alone highlights the performance.”

Multiple concerts take place during the tour at venues such as St. Peter’s Basilica, the Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore, the Oratorio del Caravita, Church Sant’Ignazio Loyola, and the Basilica San Paolo fuori le Mura and San Paolo entro le Mura. Target Travel also works with local choirs and orchestras to organize combined concerts featuring both Italian students and the visiting performers, which adds another element to the cultural exchange.

Each of the performance-based itineraries also includes time for sightseeing around Rome.

To learn more, contact Panzarin at daniele.panzarin@targettravel.it or go to target.travel.

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Vatican Museums | The Pantheon

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Villa Borghese complex | Trevi Fountain

Salt Lake City

Flying into Salt Lake City, it is impossible not to notice the beauty of the surrounding mountains. School groups can get two very different perspectives on how the landscape has impacted the area when they visit the Natural History Museum of Utah and Utah Olympic Park.

The state’s official museum of natural history features engaging exhibits that highlight significant paleontology discoveries, gem and mineral displays, preserved artifacts from prehistoric peoples, and the stories of Utah’s native people of today.

While nearby Park City is well known as the site of the prestigious Sundance Film Festival, the destination is also a hot spot for student groups seeking to channel their inner Olympic dream. At Utah Olympic Park, they can enjoy a range of activities and visit two free museums—the Alf Engen Ski Museum and George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games Museum—that detail the city’s highly successful time as Winter Games host in 2002.

The year-round training facility offers recreational opportunities, including a bobsled experience, a zip line tour, extreme tubing, a ropes course, and rock climbing. Additionally, groups can see the Flying Aces All-Star show and go skating at the on-site Utah Olympic Oval.

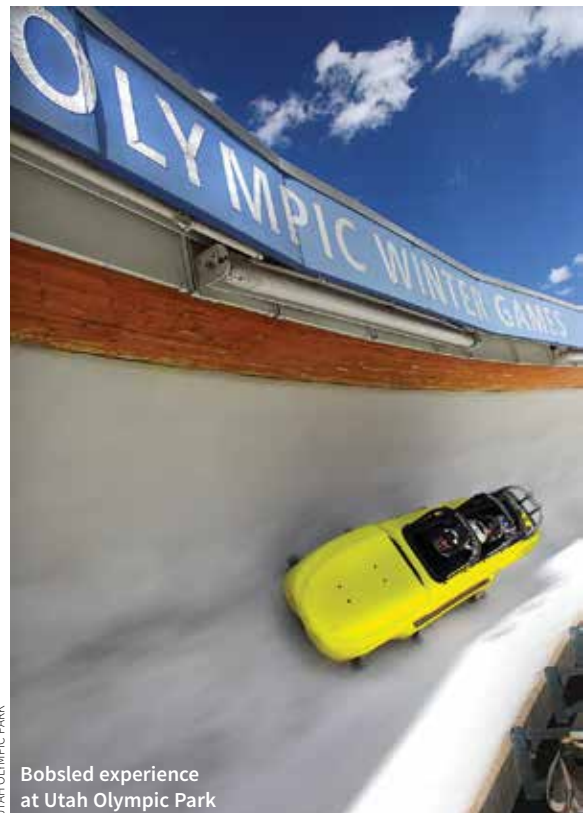
To learn more, contact Visit Salt Lake’s Eric Thompson at ethompson@visitsaltlake.com or go to visitsaltlake.com.

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Historic Temple Square | The Leonardo Museum

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

City Creek Canyon | Snowbird ski resort



UTAH OLYMPIC PARK

Bobsled experience at Utah Olympic Park

San Diego

Located on the sunny shores of the Pacific Ocean, San Diego was the first California city visited by Europeans. Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and his crew reached San Diego Bay in 1542, which led to eventual occupation by the Spaniards.

Home to more than 15 museums, sprawling Balboa Park is a good place to discover the city's history. It is a busy time at the park, as



California Tower at the Museum of Man

the California Tower recently reopened following a major renovation, and the Comic-Con Museum is slated to debut next year.

Students can get a bird's-eye view of downtown San Diego, the ocean, and the nearby mountains from the top of the Museum of Man's California Tower. The 40-minute tours of the eight-story monument also include information on the origins of Balboa Park and the many ethnic groups that call San Diego home.

The Comic-Con Museum will offer a look at a very different aspect of the city's character. Since debuting in San Diego in 1972, Comic-Con has become the must-attend annual event for pop culture fans, and it now draws more than 125,000 people each July. The new attraction will include immersive exhibits, multiple theaters, and extensive educational programming on a range of topics.

To learn more, contact Phil Hannes of the San Diego Tourism Authority at phannes@sandiego.org or visit sandiego.org.

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

USS Midway | Birch Aquarium Museum | Fleet Science Center

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

The Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center | SeaWorld San Diego | San Diego Zoo and Safari Park attractions

San Juan

BY PAT HENDERSON

During a visit to Puerto Rico last year, I got to explore the island with long-time NTA member, Vámonos Tours. While I'd written about the student tour operator multiple times for *Courier* magazine, it was a real treat to get to see the Vámonos team in action.

The company focuses on localized experiences, and a typical tour highlights the best of San Juan and mixes in stops elsewhere on the island. The day I joined one of their school groups, middle schoolers from Alaska, for some cultural-based activities was spent in Ponce, a city on the southern coast.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, the students got a salsa lesson at a studio that has produced many championship-winning dancers, checked out a local arts festival, and enjoyed a mofongo-making class followed by a meal featuring the traditional Puerto Rican dish.

I was particularly impressed with the Spanish-only rule for the tour. Since the teens were part of a Spanish-immersion class, they were told to speak Spanish during the official activities. Likewise, the guides and tour leaders were only to offer their commentary or instructions in Spanish.

While that was great for the students, it didn't help me because my command of the language isn't very commanding. I muddled

through, though, and was just thankful that the mofongo-making demonstration was more of a visual exercise than an oral one.

To learn more, contact Jorge Pardo of Vámonos Tours at jorge@vamonostours.com or go to vamonostours.com.



Vámonos Tours' group
at San Juan National Historic Site

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

San Juan National Historic Site | Old San Juan walking tour

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

El Yunque National Rainforest | Toroverde adventure park | The bioluminescent bay at La Parguera

We get it. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, students are not traveling together. But we know that travel will return when we put this virus behind us. We want you to be packed with ideas ... and ready to go.

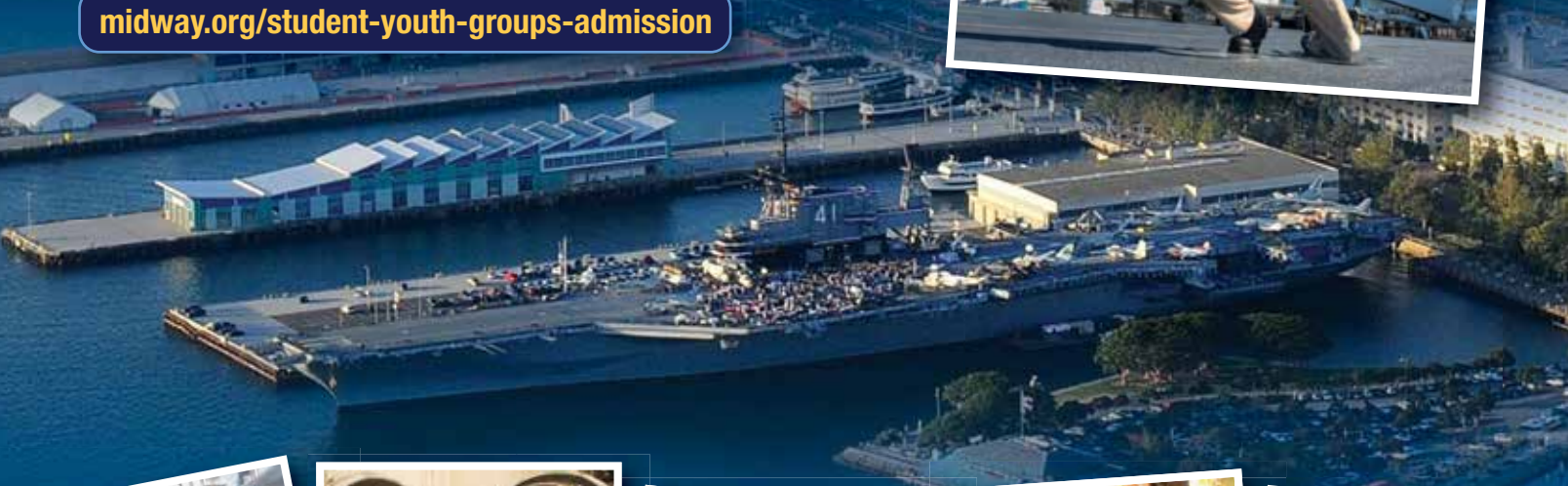
—The *Courier* staff

USS Midway Museum's Unique Learning Adventures *in San Diego!*

Experience life at sea on a famous aircraft carrier! Explore 60 exhibits, 30 aircraft, climb-aboard planes & more!

Learn more about discounted rates for school groups:

midway.org/student-youth-groups-admission



Also, Spend the Night Aboard the USS Midway Museum!

Sleep in Navy Bunks • Enjoy Behind-the-Scenes Tours
Eat in the Galley • Embark on a Reconnaissance Mission
Experience an Unforgettable Adventure

For overnight dates and to reserve your space, visit:

midway.org/snoozecrewz

Savannah

With its moss-draped trees, quaint public squares, and colorful heritage, Savannah is a destination that has a lot to offer. The city on Georgia's southeastern coast is home to two historical attractions that harken back to the mid-19th century: the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters Museum and the Massie School.

Considered to be one of the finest examples of Regency architecture in America, the Owens-Thomas House recently underwent a major renovation project on its auxiliary areas. The refreshed house museum details the lives of the enslaved people who lived and worked there and describes their interactions with both the plantation owners and their family members. The slave quarters, one of the last remaining examples demonstrating how enslaved people in cities lived and worked, contain one of the only original examples of "haint blue" paint on the ceiling.

Opened in 1856 as the area's first free public school, the Massie School offered education to the children of Savannah's poor and underprivileged. It was absorbed into the public-school system a decade later, and the school's eight grades served the city for another 120 years. Today, the Massie Heritage Center offers a look into what school was like for children of the past, with interpretive programs and interactive exhibits.

To learn more, contact Visit Savannah's Mindy Shea at mshea@visitsavannah.com or go to visitsavannah.com.



Student program at the Massie Heritage Center

VISIT SAVANNAH

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace |
The museums at Tricentennial Park |
Tybee Beach Ecology Trips

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Savannah Riverboat Cruises | Adventure Tours in Motion Segway Tour

Washington, D.C.



Planet Word

PLANET WORD

While Washington, D.C., is a city that offers a number of iconic attractions, its museum scene is always changing and expanding.

In the past four years, the National Museum of African American History & Culture and the Museum of the Bible have opened, and the International Spy Museum moved to a chic new space near the Wharf. That trend is continuing, as Planet Word gets ready to open at the end of May.

At Planet Word, school groups can discover the fun of words and language. Through playful, interactive, and unique experiences, the new museum will help students build literacy skills and learn more about the importance of language. Immersive spaces will allow for self-expression—telling jokes, singing, reading, and writing—and live performances from local artists will round out the experience.

Another DC attraction, the National Geographic Museum, updated its gallery spaces last year. The museum provides a place where the stories and images of renowned explorers, photographers, and scientists can be displayed. During a visit, students can see permanent and changing exhibits that draw from NatGeo's 125 years of covering the world.

To learn more, contact Lindsey Hill of Destination DC at lindsay.hill@destinationdc.com or go to washington.org. ☎

TOP EDUCATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

International Spy Museum | Smithsonian Natural Museum of Natural History's David H. Koch Hall of Fossils | Ford's Theatre

TOP RECREATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Smithsonian Folklife Festival | The National Zoo

TAKE YOUR LESSONS TO NEW HEIGHTS



BRING YOUR GROUP TOUR TO LIFE.

By land, air, and sea, there's no shortage of ways for your group to have an epic adventure. Enjoy uncommon access to nature's wonders and unforgettable hands-on educational experiences in Virginia Beach.

Plan your group's Live the Life Adventure at VisitVirginiaBeach.com/GroupTour.



Museums

COMPILED BY BOB ROUSE

Corning Museum, you're a real glass act

Located midway between New York City and Niagara Falls, with convenient access off Interstate 86, is the Corning Museum of Glass. Created in 1951 by Corning Glass Works as a gift to the nation, the museum campus holds the world's most comprehensive collection of glass, the foremost library on glass, and one of the top glassworking schools in the world.

"We provide guided tours of our collection, which is divided into ancient, modern, and contemporary periods," says Melissa Rose, group sales manager. "A tour tells the story of glass and how Corning became the 'Crystal City.'"



Innovations Center

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS

Students can explore the science and technology of glass in the museum's Innovations Center, which explains the company's major inventions—optical fiber, Gorilla Glass, Corelle, Pyrex, etc.—through interactive displays.

"A really popular program is the live, narrated demonstrations that run daily. You'll see glassblowing, glass breaking, flameworking at the torch, and optical fiber demos," Rose says.



Flameworking demonstration

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS

Visitors can try their own hand at glass making in workshops where they create a glass flower, a pumpkin or a holiday ornament.

And if a group of hungry students needs to fuel up, they can eat in a spacious café—either indoors or outdoors—with lunches they bring with them or purchase at the café.

"We can also provide bagged lunches or cater a pizza party or other meals," Rose says.

Students under 17 get complimentary admission, and the museum provides drivers and escorts with courtesy cards that can be used anywhere in the café or gift shop.

For more details, contact Rose at rosemm@cmog.org or visit cmog.org/group-tours.

Perfectly peculiar

The Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, California, is just the type of mansion students love: beautiful but bizarre.

Sarah Pardee Winchester, heiress of the Winchester Repeating Arms fortune, began building the home in 1884, and construction didn't stop for 38 years, until her death in 1922. Ms. Winchester, said to be haunted by the guilt of lives lost to the Winchester rifle, designed the dizzying Victorian-style structure with many quirky features: doors that open to walls, stairways that lead to the ceiling, and an assortment of other oddities.

The massive 160-room mansion has been open to the public since 1923, and groups can take guided tours of the estate every day except Christmas. (Another exception is a temporary closure during the coronavirus crisis, but if you're curious, you can take a virtual tour at winchestermysteryhouse.com/video-tour.)

To get details, contact Nathan Emmett at nathan@winchester-mysteryhouse.com or visit winchestermysteryhouse.com.



Stairway to the ceiling at the Winchester Mystery House

WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE



Classic comfort food at Lamy's Diner

Innovation on display

Across a campus of 250 acres in Dearborn, Michigan, The Henry Ford has three attractions with one-of-a-kind collections and experiences: the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, Greenfield Village, and Ford Rouge Factory Tour.

"At The Henry Ford, you'll discover America—its culture, invention, people, and can-do spirit," says Vickie Evans, senior account representative. "And for students there are hundreds of hands-on ways to explore The Henry, enjoy it, and be inspired by it."

In June, the museum is opening a new permanent exhibit, "Driven to Win: Racing in America," presented by General Motors. And every year, spring is a great time to visit Greenfield Village, with its many special events, including Civil War Remembrance and Motor Muster.

While touring The Henry Ford—and Evans recommends spending up to two full days there—students can partake in unique culinary experiences, including dining 1850s-style inside Eagle Tavern in Greenfield Village. "The restaurant uses recipes that were handed down from the cooks that made their home there 175 years ago," she says.

Another distinctive eatery is Lamy's Diner, situated in the middle of the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. The diner crafts classic comfort food with modern freshness, and its menu items were first created in 1946 by the owner of a New England diner.

The Henry Ford was recently voted one of the top history museums in the United States by *USA Today* readers, and *The New York Times* named The Henry "One of the Coolest Museums in the World."

For more information about visiting, contact Evans at vickiee@thehenryford.org or visit thehenryford.org.

Start with...

Salem's Most Visited Museum

Because...*History Matters!*



19 1/2 Washington Square North • Salem, Massachusetts 01970
Open Year Round • Shop at our museum store onsite or online!

978.744.1692 • salemwitchmuseum.com

Français, Deutsch, Español, Italiano, 日本語, Русский, 官话

Make us a part of your next visit to New England!



SAN JOSE'S #1 ATTRACTION

GROUP RATES • CATERING PROGRAM • FREE BUS PARKING



INCLUDE THIS BEAUTIFUL BUT BIZARRE 160-ROOM VICTORIAN MANSION ON YOUR NEXT CALIFORNIA TRIP!

WINCHESTERMYSTERYHOUSE.COM | GROUPSALES@WINCHESTERMYSTERYHOUSE.COM

f t i | 525 S. WINCHESTER BLVD. SAN JOSE, CA 95128

Historical Attractions

COMPILED BY BOB ROUSE

What's the story here?

Every city has a history, and the following destinations have a potent past to share with students.

Carson City, Nevada

Historical claim to fame: Abraham Lincoln, recognizing the importance of Nevada's silver and gold to the Union's Civil War effort, signed Nevada into statehood on October 31, 1864.

Must-see site: The history of the region is showcased throughout the Nevada State Museum, highlighting the original Carson City Mint building and Coin Press No. 1.

History-rich hidden gem: The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum, which opened this year, tells the difficult story of what life was like for the American Indians who were separated from their families.

visitcarsoncity.com

Email: lbruegge@visitcarsoncity.com

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Claim to Fame: Winnie the Pooh was named after his hometown of Winnipeg. The Pooh

Gallery in Assiniboine Park houses artifacts and memorabilia about the world's most famous bear.

Must-see site: The Canadian Museum for Human Rights takes students on a journey of the evolution, celebration, and future of human rights using cutting-edge technology and hands-on learning.

Hidden gem: The Royal Canadian Mint produces over one billion coins per year for up to 75 countries, utilizing state-of-the-art processes that students will see during a tour.

tourismwinnipeg.com

Email: sarah@tourismwinnipeg.com

North of Boston (Salisbury, Massachusetts)

Historical claim to fame: The region offers a story in every mile, including the truth behind the Salem Witch hysteria of 1692 and streets with four centuries of architecture.

Must-see site: Along with other witch-history venues, the NTA-member Salem Witch Museum lets visitors experience the drama of that dark time.

History-rich hidden gems: The Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester focuses on area artists and the history of Gloucester as a fishing and trading port. The Museum of Printing in Haverhill tells how printing has changed over 200 years.

northofboston.org

Email: acasey@northofboston.org

Manhattan, Kansas

Historical claim to fame: The city was founded by the people on the steamboat *Hartford*, which got stuck in the Kansas River. They decided to stay.

Must-see site: At the Flint Hills Discovery Center, students learn all about the Tallgrass Prairie, the most altered ecosystem in North America—with only 4% of the original prairie remaining.

History-rich hidden gems: Along with the Hartford House, a prefabricated home loaded in 1855 on the stranded steamboat, students can visit the Wolf House Museum, a limestone house interpreted as an 1880s home.

visitmanhattantanks.org

Email: marcia@manhattan.org

Columbus, Ohio

Historical claim to fame: Columbus is the capital of Ohio and best known as the home of The Ohio State University. Students can go on guided tours of bastions of both institutions: the Ohio Statehouse and Ohio Stadium.



Canadian Museum for Human Rights

CC FLICKR/MURRAY FOUBISTER: bit.ly/2UNIBNk

Must-see site: The recently opened National Veterans Memorial and Museum is the only place in the country to learn the stories of U.S. veterans across all branches of service and through all eras of conflict. Open Wednesday–Sunday.

History-rich hidden gem: The 150-year-old Kelton House Museum and Garden includes an Underground Railroad Learning Station.

experiencecolumbus.com/tours

Email: rdudley@experiencecolumbus.com

Charlotte, North Carolina

Historical claim to fame: Named for King George III's wife, Queen Sophia Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Charlotte was dubbed a "hornet's nest of rebellion" by British General Cornwallis in 1780.

Must-see sites: The U.S. National Whitewater Center, the NASCAR Hall of Fame (with programs that show how racing teams use science, technology, engineering and math), Discovery Place (with four hands-on museums), and Carowinds Amusement Park

History-rich hidden gem: A talk with Dr. Tom Hanchett, staff historian at Levine Museum of the New South, who says the city's history "is begging to be told."

crva.com

Email: chacara.harvin@crva.com

*Real History.
Real Fun.*

JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT



AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN



Plan your trip today.

historyisfun.org

COME ABOARD FOR *Adventure!*

PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL & MARITIME MUSEUM

CHARLESTON'S LARGEST MUSEUM!

Perfect For Every Group

Self-guided tours:

- USS YORKTOWN Aircraft Carrier
- USS LAFHEY Destroyer
- Vietnam Experience Exhibit
- Medal of Honor Museum

Easy Group Check-In

Free Wi-Fi

Free Bus Parking

On-site Cafe

Add-On

VIP Tours

Audio Tours

Flight Simulator

Helicopter Rides

Overnight Camping

Group Discounts Available

**Explore the massive aircraft carrier USS YORKTOWN,
destroyer USS LAFHEY, and much more!**

**There are more than 1,000,000 sq.ft.
of things to see and do.**



PatriotsPoint.org | (843) 884-2727

40 PATRIOTS POINT ROAD | MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464

Gettysburg's battlefield and beyond

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, is a fascinating destination with unique learning opportunities for students. The best-known attraction is Gettysburg National Military Park, and school groups of varying sizes can explore it via walking tours or aboard a bus, a bicycle, a Segway, or a horse. All of these journeys are led by a knowledgeable, licensed battlefield guide.

Beyond the battlefield, though, Gettysburg and Adams County offer many other educational opportunities that revolve around history and also bring in STEM elements, agriculture, environmental studies, and the arts.

The Eisenhower National Historic Site gives student groups the chance to not only experience history but also to get their hands dirty with a multi-part agricultural program. Dwight Eisenhower, the 34th president of the United States, was an avid farmer and a supporter of sustainability.

When he purchased his Gettysburg farmhouse, Eisenhower wanted to leave



Student group at Devil's Den

DESTINATION GETTYSBURG

the land better than he found it. Students who visit the site can learn about soil composition, aquatic ecosystems, native wildlife, and forestry. These programs are available at no charge to educators of students in grades 5 through 12. Visitors can also learn about the Eisenhowers' life by touring the farmhouse.

The Gettysburg Heritage Center offers hands-on, immersive museum exhibits as well as special programs for student groups, such as "Learning to be a Civil War Soldier" and "A Day in the Life of an 1860s Child." A new program, typically offered after-hours, is "Night at the Museum, 1863," which brings exhibits to life as historians interact with students while they make their way through the museum.

The Seminary Ridge Museum focuses on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, along with medical conditions during the Civil War and the issues that led to the war itself. This museum offers many interactive student options, such as scavenger hunts and programs that include "Civil War Emergency Care" and "Mending the Wounded." New this year is "Run the Museum," a simulation activity for student groups that puts them in charge of a field hospital, where they perform triage and solve various scenarios.

Students can learn about local farming and agriculture at markets throughout the countryside, such as Hollabaugh Bros. Fruit and Farm Market. There, groups can take a tractor ride through the orchard and discover the importance of sustainability in agriculture. More lessons await at Land of Little Horses, which offers programs related to animal care while incorporating STEM concepts.

For more information, email Donna White of Destination Gettysburg at donna@destinationgettysburg.com or visit gettysburggrouptours.com.

SPACE CAMP • AVIATION CHALLENGE • SPACE CAMP ROBOTICS • U.S. CYBER CAMP

SPACE CAMP®





Call 1-800-637-7223 today
to book a group for this unique
STEM-based adventure.






SpaceCampUSA

www.spacecamp.com

Relive Canada's 'new West'

Showcasing four distinct time periods of Western Canadian history, Heritage Park Historical Village in Calgary, Alberta, allows students to immerse themselves in the past.

"Our History Relived guided tour is a journey in time into the lives of the pioneers who forged an existence from only what they carried with them from their homelands," says Sandy Wilde, group tourism manager. "Each participant receives their 'landing papers' and becomes an integral part of the story, experiencing the trials and triumphs of those who settled this part of the world."

Heritage Park's newly refurbished Natural Resource Area highlights Western Canada's energy industry: past, present, and future.

"Step into the past and walk deep inside an early 1900s coal mine, with only the glow from your headlamp guiding the way," Wilde says. "You'll feel the ground shake as powerful machinery hammers through rock in search of oil at a replica of Alberta's first oil well and derrick."

Newly restored exhibits share energy stories from the past, and at a new, state-of-the-art interpretive center, students can learn about modern green technologies and also get a glimpse into the future of energy.

Admission to the attraction includes access to all exhibits, entertainment, and rides, including a paddlewheel boat, antique midway rides, and horse-drawn wagon tours.

"We operate two steam locomotives to move our guests around the attraction, and we've restored several one-of-a-kind rail cars, including one of only two remaining colonist cars, which were the cars that immigrants rode to the 'new West' after they came to Canada from Europe," Wilde says.

To learn more, connect with Wilde at swilde@heritagepark.ca or visit heritagepark.ca.



HERITAGE PARK HISTORICAL VILLAGE

Heritage Park Main Street



Trinidad History Museum



El Pueblo History Museum



Ute Indian Museum



Center for Colorado Women's History
at the Byers-Evans House Museum



History Colorado Center



Fort Garland Museum

Ancestral Adobe • Historic Homes • Heritage Gardens


HISTORY *Colorado*

Schedule your tour today!
719-583-0453 • h-co.org/museums

 COLORADO
TOURISM OFFICE | COLORADO.COM

Arts and Performance

COMPILED BY KENDALL FLETCHER

Get backstage (and under the lights) at the Alabama Theatre

Student groups can tap and sway their way from the audience to the stage in student-focused workshops at the North Myrtle Beach-based Alabama Theatre.

Two-hour workshops are offered to groups with a minimum of 20 students. During the program, dancers and choir and band members take an exclusive backstage tour; participate in an instructional workshop with an approved curriculum and training in lighting, staging, and sound; and put on a 15-minute performance before the theater's regular show. The experience wraps up with onstage photo opportunities.

Nominated as CMA Venue of the Year as well as voted the No.1 Live Entertainment Theatre by Myrtle Beach visitors and locals, the Alabama Theatre was opened in 1993 by its namesake country music band. It celebrates 27 years of operation in 2020 with some exciting additions to "ONE The Show," its signature production on six nights a week, February through October.

The theater commits to showcasing all types of music, and the updated show is bursting at the seams with variety—Broadway numbers from "The Greatest Showman" and Disney's "The Lion King" along with Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" and Peaches and Herb's "Shake Your Groove Thing." The show also weaves in gospel music, veteran salutes, bluegrass tunes, melodic duets, and comedy by Grant Turner.

Top-selling artists and well-known TV personalities are in the lineup for The Alabama Theatre's 2020 Guest Artist Concert Series, like Josh Turner, Jay Leno, and Three Dog Night, as well as tributes to The Beatles. The series is scheduled for select dates throughout the year. And during November and December, "The South's Grandest Christmas Show" is staged six nights a week; it includes a tribute to Santas around the world and finishes out with a dazzling New Year's Eve celebration.

Group incentives include ticket discounts, dinner packages with area restaurants, and priority seating.

For more information, contact National Group Sales Manager Ellen Calhoun at ecalhoun@alabama-theatre.com or go to alabama-theatre.com.



Technical tour



Dance workshop



"ONE The Show"

ALABAMA THEATRE

BRING YOUR GROUP THE MAGIC OF
Disney ON BROADWAY!



"THERE IS SIMPLY
NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT."

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Disney PRESENTS

THE LION KING

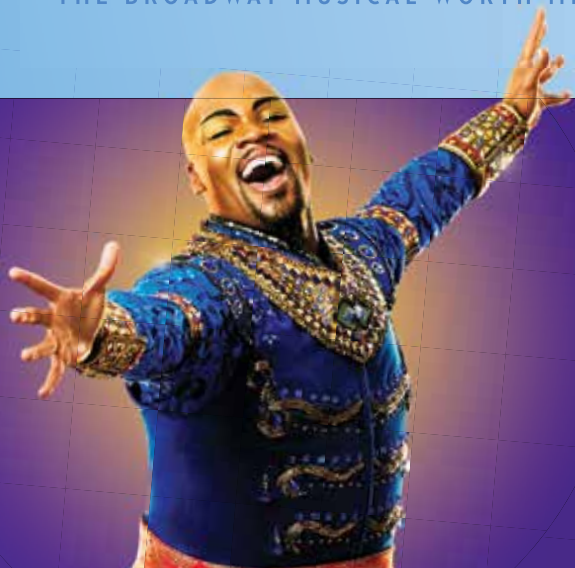
THE AWARD-WINNING BEST MUSICAL

"A BRILLIANT SPECTACLE!"

VARIETY

Disney FROZEN

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL WORTH MELTING FOR



"BROADWAY MAGIC!"

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Disney Aladdin

THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL

800-439-9000 • **Disney**TheatricalSales.com

Contact a Group Sales Associate today to book your group!

AQS's QuiltWeek Shows are sew cool

Fiber arts can be a colorful thread in a tightly woven arts education. And the American Quilter's Society, the world's largest quilting membership organization, travels the U.S. each year to showcase the art form at six AQS QuiltWeek Shows in popular destinations.

When student groups visit one of the shows, which occur throughout the year, they can see more than 500 quilts on display. Many are award-winning and exhibit a variety of techniques, including

traditional designs, like Lone Star and Log Cabin, as well as modern designs that use machine quilting and hand-dyed fabrics.

Student workshops and classes are offered on-site, and AQS Executive Show Director Bonnie Browning says the organization can assist tour operators in quilt-related itineraries for their groups. The classes are open to every age and are offered for all levels of quilters. Sewing machines are provided, and all-day classes include show admission for the



BONNIE BARBERA



day. Discounted show tickets and classes are available for groups of 25 or more.

This year, shows drawing an average of 15,000 people will pop up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Charleston, South Carolina, as well as its headquartered city of Paducah, Kentucky. This year marks Paducah's seventh anniversary as a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts & Folk Art, one of only two in the country.

"The three- and four-day shows offer a variety of programming, including special exhibits of hundreds of quilts from the world's most acclaimed quilt artists, workshops by renowned instructors, contests, and a merchant mall with the latest machines, fabrics, and tools for quilters of every skill level," Browning says.

Quilting originated as a utilitarian skill, she says, and its evolution as an art form has been recognized around the world for its historical, geographical, and political influences by mostly female artists.

"Today, quilting is a personal form of expression, and artists are pushing the envelope, juxtaposing contemporary, avant-garde subjects and materials with this medium. Quilts are one of the most visually compelling historical art forms in the world and are an important part of a well-rounded arts education," Browning says.

Traveling with the show this year is a special exhibit, "The Bob Ross Cherrywood Challenge," which features the work of 75 quilters who created a wall-hanging quilt inspired by lakes, mountains, and "happy little trees"—all regular themes in Bob Ross' PBS show, "The Joy of Painting."

For more information, contact Roxanne Malley at roxanne@robinmalpass.com or go to americanquilter.com.



Opry daytime tours
feature stars' dressing rooms

Playtime at the Opry

Nashville has become a hive for songwriters and musicians in all genres—from pop and country to contemporary Christian—and it's an ideal locale for students with musical interests to buzz about.

"One unique thing about many of the attractions in Nashville is they complement one another to show a comprehensive look at music," says Wayne Chandler, director of sales and group services with Grand Ole Opry Entertainment Group.

The Grand Ole Opry is a hotspot for rising stars, and student performance groups can experience that excitement for themselves. Chandler says about 80 percent of the school groups that visit are music classes, choirs, or bands, and the Opry has put together an exclusive performance package for these musical bunches.

Students can gather at the Opry Plaza in front of the Grand Ole Opry House for a performance as guests pour in for the famous weekly show. The package includes recognition in the plaza, tickets for the Grand Ole Opry, admission to the Opry daytime backstage tour, lunch or dinner, and a collectible pin for each performer.

The backstage tour opens the door to the past, diving deep into the stories of the talented people who've shaped country music. It begins with the Circle Room theater experience—led by a virtual Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood—then takes a trip through stars' dressing rooms and the backstage area. Groups can also stand beneath the spotlight on the famous Grand Ole Opry stage. Chandler says specialty programs that cover the technical side of the business are offered as well.

For more info, email Chandler at wchandler@gaylordentertainment.com or go to opry.com/groups. 📍

TORONTO THEATRE

IS JUST A BUS TOUR AWAY!



NOW ON STAGE
Royal Alexandra Theatre



JUN 16–AUG 24
Princess of Wales Theatre



BEGINS OCTOBER 2020
Ed Mirvish Theatre

416.872.1212 | mirvish.com | 1.800.461.3333

AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE



BIG CITY SHOWS. SMALL TOWN CHARM.

Located in the heart of Lancaster County, American Music Theatre hosts more than 300 performances each year on our incredible, state-of-the-art stage. Featuring high-quality, family-friendly original shows, our comfortable, convenient, and group-friendly theatre has something for everyone, including an unmatched ticket value, FIT options, a wonderful gift shop, and plenty more.

Book your trip to AMT and see why we get a standing ovation from a quarter million guests each year.

Ask about AMT's exciting and educational **Student Experience** and pull back the curtain on a truly inspiring trip your students will applaud!

**Performance Opportunities also available.*

The 2021 AMT Show: SWINGTIME · April 20–October 9, 2021
The 2021 Christmas Show: Winter Wonderland · November 2–December 30, 2021

800-648-4102 | Sales@AMTshows.com
2425 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA | AMTshows.com/Groups

Adventure and Fun

COMPILED BY PAT HENDERSON

Six unique adventures for students

As student groups head out of the classroom for school trips, fun can be as much a part of the tour as learning. There are a number of travel companies across the United States that blend the two, but in a variety of ways. Here is a look at six sightseeing providers that offer a unique way to experience their destinations:



The RIDE

Kristen Peterman,
kpeterman@experiencetheride.com

Students get to see New York City from the stadium seats aboard THE RIDE's multimillion-dollar motorcoaches. As the tours roll through the Manhattan streets, they can take in the view of famous landmarks through vehicle's floor-to-ceiling windows and hear stories about the Big Apple. The company has added new multimedia options, The Tour and The Downtown Experience. experiencetheride.com



Dave Hansen River Trips

Bud Chatham, info@davehansenwhitewater.com

For the past half-century, the outfitter has provided exciting whitewater and scenic river trips for travelers who want to enjoy some on-the-water adventure in the Jackson Hole region of northwestern Wyoming. The whitewater tours go through Class II and III rapids on the Snake River Canyon, and the float trips on a tamer section of the Snake are set against a backdrop on the Tetons. davehansenwhitewater.com



Milwaukee Food & City Tours

Theresa Nemetz,
theresa@milwaukeefoodtours.com

The company showcases its namesake city and its diverse culinary scene as part of walking or motorcoach tours. Students are taken to neighborhoods originally settled by Italian, Irish, Polish, and German immigrants, where they sample the food and discover the culture and history. Student travel planners can select from pre-scheduled or themed itineraries, or request a customized tour. milwaukeefoodtours.com



US Ghost Adventures

Josef Kruger, contact@usghostadventures.com

US Ghost Adventures offers entertaining and authentic ghost tours of 23 top destinations across the United States, from historical Eastern cities such as Boston; Washington, D.C.; and Charleston, South Carolina; to Seattle, San Francisco, and San Diego on the West Coast. During tours, school groups can hear tales of these haunted cities and learn what makes each one different. usghostadventures.com



Pink Adventure Tours

Leslie McLean, leslie@pinkjeep.com

Pink Adventure Tours welcomes guests for on- and off-road adventures through some of America's amazing parks. The company's guided expeditions showcase the natural beauty of Sedona, Arizona; Grand Canyon National Park; Las Vegas; and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. During the tours, students gain a deeper understanding of the natural world and geology. pinkadventuretours.com



Maverick Aviation Group

Dan Flores, dflores@flymaverick.com

Since 1995, Maverick has been offering helicopter tours of Las Vegas. Students can enjoy flightseeing rides that showcase Hoover Dam and the neon lights along the Vegas Strip. The company also offers departures from Phoenix; the Grand Canyon; and Maui, Hawaii, and many of its packages include a flight and other components, such as rafting excursions, meals, and coach tours. maverickhelicopter.com

Riding the rails in Colorado

The rugged mountains of Colorado offer a range of rail adventures for school groups. Whether students are hub-and-spoking from Denver or touring the southern part of the state, they can hop a ride with three sightseeing rail companies described here.

Located 65 miles west of Denver, Georgetown is a quaint mountain outpost that was known as the “Silver Queen of the Rockies” during its mining heyday in the 1870s and 1880s. The **Georgetown Loop Railroad’s** main sightseeing ride goes along a stretch of the Clear Creek Valley and up a steep incline—the train rises 640 feet in just 3.1 miles—between Georgetown and Silver Plume.

A favorite with student groups is a combo package called the Everett Gold Panning & Silver Mine Tour. This program, which includes a tour and a gold-panning experience at the Everett Mine, recalls the city’s boomtown days. Two programs featuring the Lebanon Silver Mine also are available.

Down in the Four Corners area of the state, the **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad** cuts through the San Juan National Forest to connect its namesake cities. The historical line, which began operating more than 135 years ago, has sightseeing rides and special-event trains that take passengers along the Animas River.

In addition to enjoying a ride on the rails, students can take the Rail Yard Tour near the depot in downtown Durango. As part of the one-hour tour, they see rolling stock and visit the machine shop, roundhouse, car shop, and the D&SNGRR Railroad Museum.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the **Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad** offers an unforgettable day



Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad

trip between Antonito, Colorado, and Chama, New Mexico. Coal-fired steam engines power the trips that showcase a variety of landscapes: deep canyon gorges, green meadows, and the high desert along the 64-mile route.

Groups can start in either Antonito or Chama, take the train to the other city,

and catch a motorcoach back to their departure point. Or, the schedule can be flipped, with a bus ride to begin the day, then a train tour providing the return transportation to either destination. A buffet lunch is provided on all of those routes, and school groups of 20 or more receive discounted pricing on tickets.

Contact details

Corrine Williams
groups@cumbrestoltec.com
cumbrestoltec.com

Carrie Whitley
cwhitley@durangotrain.com
durangotrain.com

Tom Hill
tom.hill@historicrailadventures.com
georgetownlooprailroad.com

SAVANNAH RIVERBOAT CRUISES

SAVANNAH'S ONLY RIVERBOAT TOURS & DINING EXPERIENCE

- NARRATED HARBOR SIGHTSEEING CRUISE
- NARRATED HARBOR LUNCHEON CRUISE
- DINNER ENTERTAINMENT CRUISE
- MONDAY GOSPEL DINNER CRUISE
- FUN & EDUCATIONAL CRUISES FOR SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUPS

Other cruise options available — Call for schedule

CATERING TO TOUR GROUPS FOR 30 YEARS — WE ARE THE SAVANNAH EXPERTS!

For more details please contact our group sales department, 912.232.6404 or at www.savannahriverboat.com

Getting back to nature

When it is time to explore the great outdoors, wildlife viewing has always been a popular activity for students. Educators that include visits to nature centers and parks on itineraries not only expose teenagers to Mother Nature, but they also allow for recreational opportunities.



Zip Wild's Deep Forest Challenge at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

Located in the shadow of Mount Rainier, southeast of Seattle, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park is a 725-acre attraction near Eatonville, Washington, that combines wildlife viewing with outdoor fun.

Nature walks along hiking trails and narrated tram tours give students an up-close view of local wildlife. As they explore the park's different areas, they can see bighorn sheep, caribou, and elk, as well as wolves, lynx, bears, and other predators.

At Zip Wild's Deep Forest Challenge area, five exhilarating zip line courses take students up into the tree canopy for adventure. In addition to soaring along the zip lines, they also walk, crawl, or scramble through obstacles ranging from a series of suspended bridges to a climbing wall.

To learn more, contact Northwest Trek's Joy Tevis at joy.tevis@nwtrek.org or go to nwtrek.org.

Oregon's Sea Lion Caves

Another hot spot in the Pacific Northwest for wildlife viewing is Sea Lion Caves. Since opening nearly 90 years ago, the attraction along the Oregon Coast in Florence has welcomed hundreds of thousands of students.

Part wildlife preserve and part bird sanctuary, the caves are situated right on the Pacific Ocean. Groups take a short elevator ride from the welcome center to the main viewing area, where they can watch sea lions, migratory birds, and other animals in their natural habitat. Depending on the season, the caves also are a good spot for whale watching.

Sea Lion Caves staff members also have developed an extensive set of material that teachers can use leading up to a visit to

REVOLVED AROUND EXPLORATION



Home to the largest space museum in the world, "Rocket City" celebrates man's greatest achievement and reignites America's adventurous spirit. With a variety of art, entertainment and natural attractions, visitors will find much to explore on this stop together.

(800) 843-0468 | huntsville.org





Sea Lion Caves

introduce students to the attraction's natural history, geology, and environmental and biological science.

To learn more, contact Boomer Wright at sealionboomer@hotmail.com or go to sealioncaves.com.

Dogwood Canyon Nature Park

Branson, Missouri's Dogwood Canyon Nature Park has a lot to offer for school groups. The 10,000-acre park in the Ozark Mountains is home to flowering dogwood trees, dozens of waterfalls, an ancient burial grounds, and trout-laden streams.

There are a number of ways to see the park, ranging from walking a 6.5-mile trail and biking along a paved path to taking a horseback or Segway tour. Its streams hold many rainbow

trout, and catch-and-release fishing expeditions, fly-casting clinics, and self-guided fishing excursions are popular.

As part of the guided Wildlife Tram Tour, students take an open-air tram into the wilderness that is home to steep canyons, soaring bluffs, and stone arches. The two-hour ride includes a chance to see wildlife such as longhorn steers, elk, and bison.

To learn more, contact Melody Byrd at mbyrd@dogwoodcanyon.org or go to dogwoodcanyon.org. 



Dogwood Canyon Nature Park's Wildlife Tram Tour

BRANSON CVB



Be Inspired.

Follow your curiosity to Theodore Roosevelt National Park where bison and wild horses roam through Badlands vistas. Access the North Unit from Watford City and the South Unit from the old west town of Medora, with its acclaimed Medora Musical and Roosevelt's cabin from when he ranched here. Visit us online to plan your group tour.

NDtourism.com/grouptravel

NORTH
Dakota

Be Legendary.™

Sponsoring Tour Operators

The following tour operator companies are supporting the National Tour Association by advertising in this issue of *Courier*.



Brilliant Edventures

Elaine Moulder, Tim Moulder,
Brittany Dykla, Tish Losure
620 Sea Island Road #301
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
+1.912.434.3088
elaine@brilliantedventures.com
brilliantedventures.com

Brilliant Edventures is a full-service, wholesale tour operator providing expert tour planning and management services to U.S. and Canadian destinations. We provide affordable, complete, customized tour services and tour itineraries with wow factors that inspire learning and life-long memories. We offer group leaders, tour operators, and educators the ability to manage the entire tour planning and fulfillment process with one service provider from start to finish.



Ed-Ventures

Paul Larsen
320 Elton Hills Drive NW
P.O. Box 7086
Rochester, MN 55901-2476
+1.507.289.3332
pcl@ed-ventures.com
ed-ventures.com

Ed-Ventures offers life-changing travel experiences through customized tour itineraries that are fully escorted and highly inclusive for adult groups, student groups, and faith-based travelers. With over 100 years of collective experience creating tours, our team has earned a reputation for delivering top-notch, personalized tours to destinations around the world. Many of our trips include, but are not limited to, North America, Europe, and the Holy Land. Call us for a quote today!



EPN Travel Services

Jamie Davidson
1784 W. Schuylkill Road
Douglassville, PA 19518-9100
888.323.0974
info@epntravel.com
epntravel.com

EPN Travel specializes in music festivals and performance-group tour planning. We are the travel division for Music in the Parks and Festivals of Music and work very closely with our festival directors. If a festival is not what you are looking for, we also arrange custom performance tours. Our travel specialists will work with you to plan a remarkable adventure and learning experience for your students, based on **your** needs and expectations for the trip.



Great Tour Experiences

Charmaine Edwards
31 Darug Ave., Glenmore Park
Sydney, NSW 2745 Australia
+61.02.47330.638
greattourexpériences@outlook.com
greattourexpériences.com.au

We are an inbound tour operator selling your new destinations: New Zealand and Australia Down Under. As a receptive tour operator, we deliver great experiences for large and small student and adult groups. We are New Zealand Tourism, 100% pure New Zealand "Gold Specialists." We know we will provide you with unforgettable, great memories for life because making arrangements is our business. Spring and summer itineraries are waiting for you, covering education, music and adventure, summer camp, and special-interest tours. We also have a new music festival in Christchurch, New Zealand, coming in 2021.



Hello Ireland Tours/ Irish Coaches-32cc Group

Sandra Curtin, Holly Banks
Ulster Bank Chambers, 2/4 Lower
O'Connell Street
Dublin 1, Ireland
+353.1.878.8898
sandra@irishcoaches.ie
holly@helloireland.com
irishcoaches.ie

With our servicing fleet of 50 vehicles, which includes everything from eight- to 67-seater deluxe coaches that are based around the whole island of Ireland, we can service your every need. We specialize in student groups both big and small. Transfers, half or full days, day trips, and evenings can be priced and quoted. Local or extended tour guides can also be provided. We can select, advise, and provide good accommodation in Dublin and around the country.



Milne Travel

Emily Martel
545 Hooksett Road
Manchester, NH 03104
+1.603.836.4699
emily.martel@milnetravel.com
milnetravel.com

Milne Educational Tours partners with educators and group leaders to plan fully customized tours through our commitment to excellence in educational travel, and cultural and language exchanges. Whether you are part of a Spanish class seeking a language exchange in Spain, a history class studying the American Revolution, a group pursuing an art history seminar in Italy, or a tour operator looking for receptive services in New England, we offer the best value in domestic and international travel with the understanding of group budget and needs.



R.C.G. Tours

Roger Gervais
2020 Boulevard Laurier
Québec City, QC G1T 1B6
+1.418.682.6702
roger.gervais@rcgtours.ca
rcgtours.ca

R.C.G. Tours has been a licensed and bonded wholesaler and receptive operator since 1986. We offer land programs for adults and seniors, as well as student educational programs, especially throughout Canada and the Eastern United States. We also cater to corporate and leisure markets. We have done many special events and organized various technical trade missions for different corporations and associations. We look forward to hosting your groups and to have the opportunity to enhance your travel product offer that meets your budget!



Travel Gallery/ Taking Music Everywhere

Frank Fish
3814 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 201
Pasadena, CA 91107
+1.626.577.9717 or 800.858.6999
frank@travelgallery.com
travelgallery.com
takingmusiceverywhere.com

Discover the world with us! Planning all-inclusive tours for student performing arts groups is our specialization. Building on your ensemble's goals, we craft opportunities to participate in major music festivals and appear at legendary venues and historic locations the world over. Imagine: Your next trip can be just the way you envision it; it is **your** tour! Call us today to realize your next trip.



Westcoast Connection/ 360° Student Travel

Jason Tanner
154 E. Boston Post Road
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
800.767.0227
jasont@westcoastconnection.com
westcoastconnection.com

Our mission is to create life-changing experiences that teens remember as the best of their lives. We've been operating outstanding summer programs for teens since 1982 and have enriched the lives of over 37,000 high school students to date. Offering 70-plus programs in over 25 countries, we're able to provide the perfect summer program to fit your individual needs, whether you want to travel, learn, or volunteer.



Witte Travel & Tours

Mindy Alexander
3250 28th St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
+1.616.957.8113
mindya@wittetravel.com
wittetours.com

Witte Travel & Tours specializes in designing and operating custom student travel programs that are tailor-made to provide the richest context for your curriculum. Whether your group wants to read sonnets in England, trace the development of architecture in Italy, speak French in Paris, study ancient history in Greece, or revel in the biodiversity of Costa Rica, we have the knowledge and connections to bring your students' learning to life in the great classrooms of the world.

We get it. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, students are not traveling together. But we know that travel will return when we put this virus behind us. We want you to be packed with ideas ... and ready to go.

—The Courier staff

Student Tour Operator Guide

The following pages include a list of tour operators who work with student travel planners. Listings in this guide are based on each tour operator company's primary membership designation or profile selections—as provided to the National Tour Association—and the information was current as of March 4, 2020. Please check NTAonline.com for updated contact information on these NTA tour operator members.

ARGENTINA

Cazenave Argentina
Jorge Cazenave
Buenos Aires, Argentina
cazenaveargentina.com

ARMENIA

ESI DMC Armenia
Amalia Stepanyan
Yerevan, Armenia
dmcarmenia.com

AUSTRALIA

39 Degrees South
Nayaz Noor
Victoria, Australia
39degreesouth.com.au

Great Tour Experiences

Charmaine Edwards
Sydney, Australia
greattourexpériences.com.au
See Sponsoring Tour Operator listings on pages 40–41

CANADA

ALBERTA

Anderson Vacations
Jim Warren
Calgary, AB
andersonvacations.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA

CAL Travel & Tours
Alice Lin
Richmond, BC
calworld.com

Goway Travel
Evan Kranson
Vancouver, BC
goway.com

Rocky Mountaineer
Michael Comeau
Vancouver, BC
rockymountaineer.com

NEW BRUNSWICK

Freedom Tours
Ellen Tucker
Saint John, NB
freedomtours.com

NOVA SCOTIA

Atlantic Tours Ltd.
Richard Arnold
Dartmouth, NS
atlantictours.com

ONTARIO

1000 Islands Tours & Travel Inc.
Jean Cutcliffe
Gananoque, ON
1000islandtours.com

Ellison Travel & Tours Ltd.
Doug Ellison
Exeter, ON
ettravel.com

Great Canadian Holidays Inc.
Lorna Hundt
Kitchener, ON
greatcanadianholidays.com

ISX Canada Ltd.
Sonia Cheng
Toronto, ON
isx.ca

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Target Tours
Lynn Dunphy
Stratford, PE
targettours.ca

QUÉBEC

Autocar Excellence, Excellence Charter
Real Boissonneault
Levis, QC
excellencecharter.com

R.C.G. Tours Inc.
Roger Gervais
Québec City, QC
rcgtours.ca

See Sponsoring Tour Operator listings on pages 40–41.

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica Travel Excellence
Carlos Blanco
San Jose, Costa Rica
travelexcellence.com

CROATIA

Katarina Line-Incoming Croatia
Katica Hauptfeld
Opatija, Croatia
katarina-line.com

EGYPT

Egyptian Educational Travel (EET)
Romani Gaballa
Giza, Egypt
egyptianeducatortravel.com

ENGLAND

Explore Britain Tours Ltd.
Carolyne Cree
Newark, Nottinghamshire, England
explorebritaintours.co.uk

Globetrotters Travel & Tours
Peter Craddick
Harrow, Middlesex, England
gtnt.com

Select Travel Service Ltd.
Matthew Squire
Huntingdon, England
selecttravel.com

Sovereign Tourism Ltd.
Kourosh Abbassi
London, England
sovereigntourism.com

ETHIOPIA

Ghion Travel and Tours PLC
Yoseph Getnet Teshale
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
tourghion.com

FRANCE

French Incoming
Pierre-Yves Mazeaud
Jaunay-Clan, France
french-incoming.com

Objectif France

Joël Massé
Lacenas, France
objectif-france.us

GERMANY

Appina Travel GmbH
Luis Lintner
Gauting-Munich, Germany
appina-travel.com

Terra Lu Travel & Consult GmbH
Christian Utpatel
Homburg, Germany
germany4groups.com

GREECE

Amphitron Prisma
Constantinos Mitsiou
Dafni-Athens, Greece
amphitrongroup.com

Hellenic Travel Network
Nicos Georgakopoulos
Athens, Greece
hellenictravel.net

ICELAND

Gudmundur Jonasson Travel, Iceland
Renato Gruenenfelder
Kópavogur, Iceland
gjtravel.is

IRELAND

Discover Ireland Tours
David O'Gorman
Cork, Ireland
discoverirelandtours.com

Enchanted Ireland Tours Ltd.
Sean Fenton
County Kerry, Ireland
enchantedireland.com

Greenlife Tours LTD t/a Caminoways
Robbie Smart
Dublin, Ireland
greenlifetours.com

Hello Ireland/Irish Coaches 32 CC Group

Holly Banks
Dublin, Ireland
irishcoaches.ie

See Sponsoring Tour Operator listings on pages 40–41.

ISRAEL

Gemm Travel–Holy Land

Henrique Abreu
Jerusalem, Israel
gemmtravel.com

Israel Experts

Adi Aharoni
Or Yehuda, Israel
israexperts.com

NET–Near East Tourist Agency

Sami Abu-Dayyeh
Jerusalem, Israel
netours.com

Tailor Made Tours Ltd.

Josephine Zinder
Tel Aviv, Israel
tailormade.co.il

ITALY

Acquaforte Italian Travel Designer

Alice Contiero
Venice, Italy
acquaforte.eu

Michelangelo International Travel

Aldo Caronia
Riva Del Garda, Italy
michelangelo.travel

RS Travel Development

Ruggero Scoma
Rome, Italy
rstravel.it

Target Travel

Daniele Panzarin
Mestre Venezia, Italy
targettravel.it

JORDAN

Dakkak Tours International

Majeda Dakkak
Amman, Jordan
dakkak.com

LITHUANIA

ESA Baltic

Agne Samkuviene
Vilnius Dstr., Lithuania
esabaltic.lt/tour-services

MEXICO

Grupo Meca Mexico

Raynald Paquet
Mexico City, Mexico
grupomeca.com

NETHERLANDS

Ruijs Travel

Corné Ruijs
Lith, Netherlands
ruijstravel.com

NORWAY

Scandinavia Tours

Monique van Dijk Seppola
Vågå, Norway
scandinaviatours.no

PERU

Domiruth Travel Service

Martin Harbaum
Lima, Peru
domiruth.com

SCOTLAND

Europe Incoming Scotland Ltd.

James Grieve
Linlithgow, Scotland
europeincoming.co.uk

JACTravel Ltd.

Matthew Lepisto
Edinburgh, Scotland
webbeds.com

SLOVAKIA

Discover Slovakia Tours

Marcela Lauková
Zvolen, Slovakia
exploreeasterneurope.com

SOUTH AFRICA

Embrace South Africa Tours

Deon Kitching
Kuil River, Western Cape, South Africa
embracesouthafricatours.com

TANZANIA

Pongo Safaris & Tours Limited

Scholastica Ponera
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
pongosafaris.com

UNITED STATES

ALASKA

Alaska Coach Tours

Erica Hedman
Juneau, AK
alaskacoachtours.com

Alaska Skylar Travel LLC

Haiyan (Skylar) Jiang
Anchorage, AK
5ialaska.com

All Alaska Tours Inc.

Al Koch
Anchorage, AK
allalaskatours.com

Premier Alaska Tours Inc.

Karlynn Wilkie
Anchorage, AK
premieralaskatours.com

CALIFORNIA

ACC–American China Connection

Sonny Shang
Covina, CA
5166usa.com

America Int'l Travel Services Inc.

Misha Thompson
San Francisco, CA
usa-aits.com

American Adventures

Esther Beebe
Laguna Hills, CA
americanadventures.com

American Spring Travel

Jane Huang
City of Industry, CA
spring-tour.com

Asia Getaway Inc.

Polly Yu
Carlsbad, CA
asiagetaway.com

Bay Magic Meetings & Tours

David Rubens
Walnut Creek, CA
baymagictours.com

BHY Enterprises Inc.

Zheng Tian Pang
Alhambra, CA

Blue Connection (LA) Corp.–dba Bluetravel

Eddy Ming Du
City of Industry, CA
bluetravelus.com

City Escape Holidays

Bo Adams
Palm Desert, CA
cityescapeholidays.com

Ctour Holiday LLC

Mark Ma
Monterey Park, CA
ctourholiday.com

Cuba Travel Services

Michael Zuccato
Cypress, CA
cubatravelservices.com

Dream Catch International Inc.

Mary Chen
Temple City, CA

Eagle Tours LLC

Jerry Sun
El Monte, CA

Educational Discovery Tours

Kris Partain
Truckee, CA
educationaldiscoverytours.com

Entour Inc.

Will Zhang
Diamond Bar, CA

FDS Global Consulting Corp.

Fang Duanmu
San Francisco, CA

Galaxy Tour Inc.

Vicky Liu
West Covina, CA
galaxytour-usa.com

Gary Express Inc.

Lynn Li
Rosemead, CA
garyexpress.com

Global Culture International Corporation

Sonny Soohoo
Pasadena, CA
globalcultureinternational.com

Golden Bridge Holiday Inc.

Joyce Chen
El Monte, CA

GPA International Travel Services Inc.

Shirley Wu
San Gabriel, CA

Grand Destinations

Ocean Ma
Alhambra, CA
gdmusa.com

International Student Tours

Robert Voelz
El Dorado Hills, CA
istours.com

Joy Holiday

Harry Chen
Millbrae, CA
joyholiday.com

JS Global Inc.

Steven Shi
West Covina, CA
jsglobalusa.com

L.E.A.D. USA

Marie Martin
San Diego, CA
leaddiscoveryusa.com

Lion Tours USA Inc.

Daniel Shen
Temple City, CA

Lulutrip Inc.

Faith Zhang
San Jose, CA
lulutrip.com

Olympic Express

Sarah Yin
El Monte, CA
usolympicexpress.com

Open Roads Tour & Travel Solutions LLC

Kevin Murphy
Carmichael, CA
ortts.com

Rainbow Holiday Inc.

Tony Liu
Arcadia, CA
rainbowholidayusa.com

RCK International Inc.

Rosemary Cai
Arcadia, CA

Roaming USA

Kay Zhang
Alameda, CA
roamingusatravel.com

S.H. Tours Inc.

Silvia Chuang
San Francisco, CA
shtoursinc.com

Shine Tours Incorporated

Joseph Chi
West Covina, CA
shinetours.net

Sino American Link

Jingsheng Wang
Burlingame, CA

Soccer Camps International

Stephane Moreau
Palo Alto, CA
soccercampsinternational.com

Super Vacation Inc.

Helen Koo
Monterey Park, CA
americaasia.com

SVH Tours and Travel Service

Vic Sarkisyan
Glendale, CA

Taya International Inc.

Jing Sun
Temple City, CA
tayainternational.com

The Travel Corporation

Julius Stecker
Cypress, CA
ttc.com

TMT Travel Inc.

Amy Chen
Rosemead, CA

Tour America Inc.

Gloria Lan
Los Angeles, CA
touramerica.us.com

ToursForFun & Handcraftedvacations

Vivian Li
Arcadia, CA
handcraftedvacations.com

Travel Gallery Inc.

Frank Fish
Pasadena, CA
travelgallery.com

See Sponsoring Tour Operator listings on pages 40-41.

W J Global Inc.

Jeffery Chen
Diamond Bar, CA
chinatour.com

COLORADO

Globus Family of Brands—Globus, Cosmos, Monograms & Avalon

Pam Hoffee
Littleton, CO
globusfamily.com

CONNECTICUT

Destinations Unlimited Inc.

Julie Kozikowski
Plymouth, CT
destinationsunlimitedinc.travel

Friendship Tours

Brett Isaacson
Bloomfield, CT
friendshiptours.net

Getaway Tours Inc.

Blair Soucy
Terryville, CT
getawaytours.com

Tours of DistInction Inc.

Tyler Zajacz
East Windsor, CT
toursofdistInction.net

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Academic Travel Abroad Inc.

Kate Simpson
Washington, DC
academic-travel.com

The Group Tour Company Inc.

Chris Babb
Washington, DC
grouptourcompany.com

Guide Service of Washington Inc.

Neil Amrine
Washington, DC
dctourguides.com

Tour Designs Inc.

Gordon Stearns
Washington, DC
tourdesignsinc.com

FLORIDA

American Tours & Travel Inc.

Jenee Masterson
Orlando, FL
bandfest.com

Creative Tours Florida

Michael Mishko
Kissimmee, FL
creativetoursfl.com

Cultural Hi-Ways

Jane Rolla
Jensen Beach, FL
chiways.net

Group Travel Consultants Inc.

John DeCrotie
Orlando, FL
grouptravelconsultants.com

Kompas Holidays International

Predrag Krivokapic
Fort Lauderdale, FL
kompas.net

Orient International Travel Inc.

Mei Wang
Orlando, FL
orientintltravel.com

GEORGIA

Best Friends Travel & Tours Inc.

John Lin
Atlanta, GA
igotours.com

Brilliant Adventures

Elaine Moulder
St. Simons Island, GA
brilliantadventures.com

See Sponsoring Tour Operator listings on pages 40-41.

Tales of the South

Linda Odom
Tybee Island, GA
talesofthesouth.com

US China Connection Inc.

Demin Fan
Suwanee, GA
uschinaconnection.com

HAWAII

Asia Pacific Travel & Tours

Cindy Ke
Honolulu, HI
apttusa.com

Galaxy Tour Inc.—Honolulu

Cindy Ke
Honolulu, HI

Golden Seagull Group Inc.

Mike Ma
Honolulu, HI
chinaintl.com

Hawaii Summer Tour Group Inc.

Peter Wang
Honolulu, HI

MC&A Inc./JTB Global Travel Service

Hidehiko Hayashi
Honolulu, HI
jtb-gts.com

Pan Pacific Enterprises Group Inc.

Kate Cui
Honolulu, HI
ppeg.net

Polynesian Adventure Tours

Terry Fischer
Honolulu, HI
polyad.com

ILLINOIS

Accenting Chicago Events & Tours Inc.

John Kvedaras
Chicago, IL
accentingchicago.com

Bob Rogers Travel

Todd Rogers
Naperville, IL
bobrogerstravel.com

Hemisphere Educational Travel—Division of Hemisphere Travel

Brad Rosenbaum
Schaumburg, IL
hemispheretravel.com

Mag Vacations International

Tao Wang
Chicago, IL
magvacations.net

Nexus Holidays Group

Eric Mok
Chicago, IL
nexus holidays.com

R&J Brothers International Culture Exchange Inc.

Jeff Qiu
Westmont, IL

Reformation Tours

Rowena Drinkhouse
Belleville, IL
reformationtours.com

INDIANA

500 Tours Inc.

Phil Campbell
Greenwood, IN
500tours.com

Good News Travels

Troy Orwig
Sullivan, IN
goodnewstravels-in.com

Grueninger Travel Group/ Ambassador

Michael Grueninger
Indianapolis, IN
ambassadorair.com

Music Travel Consultants

Mark Harting
Indianapolis, IN
musictravel.com

Taylor Tours

Bryan Gentry
Tell City, IN
taylortourtravel.com

IOWA

Cedar Valley World Travel

Angela Decker
Cedar Rapids, IA
cedarvalleyworld.travel

Group Dynamic

Alan Feirer
Winterset, IA

Legacy Tour & Travel

Steve Tjossem
Decorah, IA
legacytourtravel.com

Star Destinations Inc.

Cathy Greteman
Carroll, IA
stardestinations.com

KENTUCKY

Blue Grass Tours Inc.

Pam Upton
Lexington, KY
bluegrasstours.com

LOUISIANA

A Joy Tour LLC

Susan Yuan
Baton Rouge, LA
joyintour.com

MAINE

The Maine Tour Connection

Donna Hanson
South Portland, ME
mainetour.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Bloom's Bus Lines Inc.

Gerald Santos
Taunton, MA
bloombus.com

Boston Duck Tours

Bob Schwartz
Boston, MA
bostonducktours.com

Capital Tours Inc.

Ronald Cormier
Haverhill, MA

Carousel Student Tours Inc.

Joanne Van Meter
Pocasset, MA

Dista Group LLC

Tianyu Qin
Boston, MA
distagroup.com

First Choice Tours Inc.

Maria Manouvelos-Baker
South Deerfield, MA
fctours.com

Hawthorne Tours

Helen Medler
Danvers, MA
hawthornetours.com

Landmark Tours & Cruises Inc.

Bob Marx
Southwick, MA

Northeast Unlimited Tours

Michelle Pino
Sandwich, MA
northeastunlimitedtours.com

Student Tours Inc.

Sally Hammett
Oak Bluffs, MA
studenttoursinc.com

Sunshine Travel

Lorraine Tse
Boston, MA
sunshineboston.com

Wolfe Adventures & Tours LLC

Taunya Wolfe Finn
Newburyport, MA
wolfetours.com

MICHIGAN

Explorer Tours

Mark Dickson
Battle Creek, MI
explortours.net

Witte Travel & Tours

Kaitlyn Dunneback
Grand Rapids, MI
wittetravel.com/tours

See Sponsoring Tour Operator listings on pages 40–41.

MINNESOTA

C.I.A.C. Travel

Melody Zhou
Minneapolis, MN
bestchinaholidays.com

Ed-Ventures

Paul Larsen
Rochester, MN
ed-ventures.com

See Sponsoring Tour Operator listings on pages 40–41.

Group Travel Planners Inc.

Amber Anderson
Burnsville, MN
grouptravelplanners.com

JayBee Travel

Susan Beck
Virginia, MN

Rustad Tours Inc.

Charles Rustad
Kerkhoven, MN

Southwest Tours

Connie VanderPoel
Marshall, MN
swtourandtravel.com

Sunshine Travel Co.

Dawn Krosnowski
Burnsville, MN
sunshinetravelco.com

MISSISSIPPI

Barkley Travel Service Inc.

Camille Barkley
New Albany, MS
barkleytravel.com

MISSOURI

Adventure Student Travel/ Exploring America Inc.

Kara Mihalevich
Kirksville, MO
exploringamerica.com

Ozarks Kirkwood Tour & Travel

Angie Greeno
Branson, MO
ozarkskirkwood.com

NEBRASKA

Allied Tour Inc.

Susan Busskohl
Norfolk, NE
alliedtt.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Milne Travel

Emily Martel
W. Lebanon, NH
milnetravel.com

See Sponsoring Tour Operator listings on pages 40–41.

NEW JERSEY

All Aboard Tours & Travel LLC

Wayne Weinzoff
Upper Saddle River, NJ
allaboardtours.com

CIE Tours International

Kelly Hyde
Morristown, NJ
cietours.com

Educational Travel Adventures

Michael Holzer
Freehold, NJ
etadventures.com

Good Time Tours Inc.

Trish Johnson
Hightstown, NJ

Group Tours & Travel LLC

Phil Azzolino
Kinelon, NJ
grouptoursandtravel.com

Junior Tours Inc.

Richard Abrams
Matawan, NJ
juniotours.com

Short Hills Tours

Greg Dennis
Short Hills, NJ
shorthillstours.com

Zag Sports Inc.

Jeremy Meccage
Pennington, NJ
zagtours.com

NEW YORK

Academic Expeditions Inc.

Andrew Selinka
New York, NY
academicexpeditions.com

Amazing Destinations Ltd.

Steven Meyerson
Bohemia, NY
amazingdestinationsltd.com

American Trails West/Rein Teen Tours

Howard Fox
Great Neck, NY
americantrailswest.com

Auri International Consulting Enterprise Inc.

Xiuli Wang
Flushing, NY
aurinewyork.com

Bob Mann Tours Inc.

Bob Mann
New Hempstead, NY
bobmannstours.com

Century Travel International Inc.

Dongqiao Zheng
Flushing, NY

China Silk Tours

Elsa Lo
New York, NY
chinasilktours.com

Cinderella Travel

Natalie Azarov
Rego Park, NY
cinderellajourneys.com

Citi Travel Inc.

David Lin
Flushing, NY
nycititravel.com

Cloud Tours Inc.

Cally Papas
Astoria, NY
cloutours.com

EDU Trips

Kate Coffey
Orangeburg, NY
edutrips.com

Four Winds Tour and Travel

Veena Vohra
Jericho, NY

Gerber Tours Inc.

Marvin Gerber
Woodbury, NY
gerbertours.com

Happy Vacations Inc. (NY)

Mike Chen
New York, NY
happyvacationsusa.com

Jupiter Legend Corporation

Maple Hou
Flushing, NY
uvbookings.net

Laurent Tours

Laurent Nahon
New York, NY
laurenttours.com

SGS Travelscope

Lou Adler
Brooklyn, NY
sgstravelscope.com

STC-Skylon Travel Corp.

Sisi Zhao
Fresh Meadows, NY

Teamamerica Inc.

Pasquina DeCarlo
New York, NY
teamamericany.com

Tri-State Tours Inc.

Larry McCleary
Garden City Park, NY
tristatetoursnyc.com

Twin Travel Concepts

Nicholas Calderazzo
Kinderhook, NY
twintravelconcepts.com

Westcoast Connection/360° Student Travel

Jason Tanner
Mamaroneck, NY
westcoastconnection.com

See Sponsoring Tour Operator listings on pages 40–41.

NORTH CAROLINA

Educational Travel Consultants

Howard Clemens
Hendersonville, NC
educationaltravelconsultants.com

Student Tour Operator Guide

Rail Source International Inc.

Carmen Metcalf
Olin, NC
rsiworld.com

Scholastic Journeys

Brenda Steele
Cary, NC
scholasticjourneys.com

OHIO

20th Century Tours Inc.

David Baker
Youngstown, OH
20thcenturytours.com

Great Day Tours & Charter Bus Service

Allen Kinney
Cleveland, OH
greatdaytours.com

NuVu Traveler

Don Coffee
Hudson, OH
nuvutraveler.com

Ohio Travel Treasures LLC

Diane Sphar
Cincinnati, OH
ohiotraveltreasures.com

Prime Tours

Lisa Busch
Dublin, OH
goprimetours.com

OREGON

America's Hub World Tours

David Penilton
Portland, OR
americashubworldtours.com

Columbia Crossroads Tours Inc.

Cynthia Billette
Beaverton, OR
columbia-crossroads.com

Educational Travel Services Inc.

Judi Tichenor
Milwaukee, WI
etsi.ws

PENNSYLVANIA

AAA East Central

Michael Coumos
Pittsburgh, PA
aaa.com

Culture Tour

Barbara Corson
Holland, PA
culturetourphiladelphia.com

David Tours & Travel

David Benedict
Philadelphia, PA
davidtours.travel

EPN Travel Service

Jamie Davidson
Douglassville, PA
epntravel.com

See Sponsoring Tour Operator listings on pages 40–41.

Gate 1 Travel

Robin Dean
Fort Washington, PA
gate1travel.com

Hagey Tours Inc.

Shannon Bauman
Souderton, PA
hagey.com

New York City Vacation Packages

Joel Cohen
Kingston, PA
nyctrip.com

OExplora

Shannon Fissel
Stewartstown, PA
oexplora.com

Pilgrim Tours & Travel Inc.

David Nyce
Morgantown, PA
pilgrimtours.com

Scholastica Travel Inc.

Ann Prinkey
Greensburg, PA
scholasticatravel.com

White Star Tours Inc.

Pat Donahue
Reading, PA
whitestartours.com

RHODE ISLAND

Suburban Tours

Judith Gervais
Providence, RI
suburbantours.com

SOUTH CAROLINA

Good News Travels Inc.

John Tribble
Easley, SC
goodnewstravels.com

SOUTH DAKOTA

Omanson Tour & Travel Inc.

Darrell Omanson
Sioux Falls, SD
omansontour.com

TENNESSEE

Knoxville Tours Inc.

Shirley Metcalf
Knoxville, TN
knoxvilletours.com

Sweet Magnolia Tours

Dawn Evans
Nashville, TN
sweetmagnoliatours.com

Tennessee Express Tours LLC

Bill Oliver
Sevierville, TN
tnexpresstours.com

TEXAS

The German American Connection

Jo Ann Wolf
Brenham, TX
thegermanamericanconnection.com

Majestic Vacations

Keng Hsueh
Plano, TX
majestic-vacations.com

OK Tours

Ana Sarmiento
San Antonio, TX
oktours.com

Rockport Tours Inc.

Mike Kohleffel
Corpus Christi, TX
rockporttours.com

Sarah Qey Travel Inc.

Sarah Qeyros
Houston, TX
sarahqeytravel.com

School Tours of America LLC

Arthur Read
Houston, TX
schooltoursofamerica.com

Tempest Tours Inc.

Martin Lisius
Arlington, TX
tempesttours.com

UTAH

Eastern Travel Inc.

Brian Mei
Salt Lake City, UT
easterntravel.com

Educational Tours and Travel Corporation

Todd Jones
Saint George, UT
ettours.com

Southwest Adventure Tours LLC

Jason Murray
Cedar City, UT
southwestadventuretours.com

Western Leisure Inc.

Michele Michalewicz
Salt Lake City, UT
westernleisure.com

VIRGINIA

Julian Tours

Randy Julian
Alexandria, VA
juliantours.com

Mana International Inc.

Zheng Cai
Fairfax, VA
manacoaches.com

Mid-Atlantic Receptive Services

Mark Franchi
Stephens City, VA
takeafuntrip.com

Nations Classroom

Jay Bloxson
Richmond, VA
nationsclassroom.com

SignaTours Ltd.

David Davenport
North Chesterfield, VA
travelsignatours.com

Spectrum of Richmond Inc.

Betsy Crowell
Henrico, VA
spectrumofrichmond.org

TRIPOTOUR LLC.

Mete Gurel
Alexandria, VA
tripotour.com

US Bridge Group

Lily Chai
Ashburn, VA

WorldStrides

Tim Sweeny
Charlottesville, VA
worldstrides.com

VERMONT

Sugar Tours Inc.

Chris Donnelly
West Dover, VT
sugartours.com

WASHINGTON

American Student Tours

Paul Monahan
Bothell, WA
americanstudenttours.com

WISCONSIN

American Christian Tours Inc.

Sabrina Carlson
Rice Lake, WI
acts-tours.com

Lamers Tour & Travel

Kory Neuzerling
Milwaukee, WI
golamers.com

Milwaukee Food & City Tours

Theresa Nemetz
Wauwatosa, WI
milwaukeefoodtours.com

Students On Tour Inc.

Marge Moullette
Rice Lake, WI
2tourdc.com

U.S. TERRITORIES

GUAM

H.I.S. Guam Inc.

Alvin Pangelinan
Tamuning, Guam
his-guam.com

PUERTO RICO

Vámonos Tours Inc.

Jorge Pardo
San Juan, Puerto Rico
vamonostours.com

ZAMBIA

Zamag Tours & Safaris

Daphne Lindsay
Lusaka, Zambia
zamagsafaris.com

Meet the Members

Bob Rogers Travel

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

NTA contact: Todd Rogers, co-CEO

Office phone: 800.373.1423

Website: bobrogerstravel.com

NTA member since: 2002

What are some services you offer in planning student group trips?

At Bob Rogers Travel, there's no such thing as an "off the shelf" tour. Everything we do is customized; we start with the needs and goals of our educators and their students, and we build the experience from there. We also offer our clients a suite of technology tools, including an online payment system, a mobile app, and an online portal called "MyTour," where clients can see all their trip details.

What makes your company unique?

BRT was founded by my father, a former music educator himself, in 1981. He knew that performance groups had unique needs that most other travel companies weren't able to meet. Today, our team of 50 professionals has hundreds of years of combined experience, both in the classroom and in performance group travel. We apply that experience to make every trip seamless, unique, and memorable. We know that performance travel can be life-changing, so organizing



every trip is an honor, a privilege, and a responsibility that we don't take lightly.

Where would you like to travel to someday?

I always enjoy spending time with my family on the beach, and I would love to one day visit the Maldives.

What music group/singer would you love to see live?

I'm a lifelong Eddie Vedder fan and would love to see Pearl Jam in concert.

What's your all-time favorite movie?

My favorite classic movie is "Shawshank Redemption," and my favorite recent release is "Bohemian Rhapsody."

For more information, contact Rogers at todd@bobrogerstravel.com. ☎

NEW MEMBERS

The following list shows organizations that joined NTA recently. Companies that also joined the Faith Travel Association have an FTA logo by their name. To access complete information on each of these new members, log on to NTAonline.com and go to the member searches.

TOUR OPERATORS

ADAA Tour and Travel Agent PLC
Dechasa Tola
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
adaatour.com



Atlantivacations Tours Inc.
Tara Pacheco
Bristol, RI 02809 USA
atlantivacations.com



Hellenic Travel Network
Nicos Georgakopoulos
Athens, 10551 Greece
hellenictravel.net



TOUR SUPPLIERS

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Suites Pittsburgh Downtown
Chad Giger
Pittsburgh, PA 15219 USA
doubletreepitttdowntown.com

DoubleTree by Hilton Santa Monica
Gaby Flores
Santa Monica, CA 90401 USA
santamonicasuites.doubletree.com

DoubleTree Pittsburgh Airport
Amberly Nichelle
Moon Township, PA 15108 USA
pittsburghairport.doubletree.com

Northern Vision Development
Tanya Boone
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2B1 Canada
yukonhotels.com

Smokey Glen Farm
Rochelle Coslow-Robinson
Gaithersburg, MD 20878 USA
smokeyglenfarm.com



Stewart Hotel
Venci Petkova
New York, NY 10001 USA
stewarthotelnyc.com

The STRAT Hotel, Casino & Skypod
Bob Clift
Las Vegas, NV 89104-2507 USA
thestrat.com

US Ghost Adventures
Josef Kruger
Williamsburg, VA 23185 USA
usghostadventures.com

ASSOCIATE

Mary Kenealy Events LLC
Mary Kenealy
Sarasota, FL 34236 USA
marykenealevents.com

That first trip

BY BOB ROUSE

JUST AS TEACHERS or doctors might choose their career because of a meaningful experience as a youngster, many travel professionals fall in love with the experience on their first school trip. These tourism pros look back with pleasure on a meaningful journey they took with peers, and—lucky for us—some still have the photos.



Julie Kozikowski
Destinations Unlimited
Plymouth, Connecticut

"I went to France with my high school language program. We had a few hours on our own in Paris, and I convinced three friends and a teacher to get on the metro and go see Napoleon's tomb. The tour guide in me was born."

Mark Hoffmann, CTP
Sports Leisure Vacations
Sacramento, California

"The Fulton-El Camino Parks & Rec in Sacramento took a busload of us third and fourth graders to a San Francisco Giants baseball game in 1963. At day games during the week, the team let kids sit in the upper deck for free. It was my first baseball game ever, and I remember thinking 35 cents was an awful lot of money to pay for a hot dog."

Holly Rogers
Explore St. Louis

"I went to France with my high school French class, and we were there for about 10 days. At 15, I was the first person in my family to travel out of the country. I'd seen photos of some of the beautiful places we visited, but physically being somewhere new was an eye-opening experience. It sparked something in me as a teenager that has yet to burn out—there is still so much to see out there!"

Kaitlyn Dunneback
Witte Travel & Tours
Grand Rapids, Michigan

"As a junior at Grand Valley State University, I participated in a study abroad semester at the International College of Management Sydney (a hospitality school) in beautiful Manly Beach, Australia. It was the first time I had traveled internationally, and it made me realize how much value there is in experiencing places and perspectives outside of your own."



Misha Jovanovic
Misha Tours
San Diego, California

"As a college student in Skopje, Yugoslavia (now North Macedonia), I traveled to England in the summers. I worked in an international farm camp in East Anglia near Norwich and earned enough money picking fruit to support myself in college. After about three summers, I got the idea to bring students from Yugoslavia to this camp. As group leader I was given free accommodation, and that meant I could earn more money."

"I organized my first group in 1974 and led them on a 36-hour journey to

England on a train that went through Italy, Switzerland, and France. The picture was taken during a long layover in Paris. (I am on the far left in the front row—with lots of good black hair.)

"It was not an easy job, but I didn't lose anybody on this long journey. This is how I got the idea to be in the travel business."



Mike Jensen
North Dakota Tourism
Bismarck, North Dakota

"During my senior year, my high school band did a tour of Washington, New York City, and Philadelphia. For a kid that had never been anywhere beyond his home state, it was eye-opening to say the least. We went inside the Statue of Liberty, went to several Broadway plays, ventured to the top of the Empire State Building, saw the workings of government in the U.S. Capitol Building, felt the spray of Niagara Falls on our faces, and stood in the spot where Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention in Independence Hall. This trip made things I thought existed only on television or in books real, and it ignited a curiosity about other places I had to see and experience." 📍



RON JON
SURF SHOP
"ONE OF A KIND"
Cocoa Beach, Fla.

REGISTER YOUR GROUPS ONLINE!!

or for more information email grpsales@rjss.com



**FREE Bus Parking • FREE Admission • FREE Performance Venue
Group Tour Incentives • Discount Cards for Pre-registered Groups**

Located on the corner of 520 & A1A in Cocoa Beach • www.RonJonSurfShop.com • 321.799.8888



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

WHERE EDUCATION TAKES FLIGHT

Guided Student Tours



Explore the Museum and hear stories about our collection with a free docent-led tour.

STEAM Labs



Enjoy a hands-on STEAM lab in one of the Udvar-Hazy Center's classrooms.

Scavenger Hunts



Take a mission-based adventure through the Museum with the free GooseChase app.

- Group guided tours, STEAM labs, and scavenger hunts are free, but require advanced reservations. Reserve at airandspacereservation.si.edu.
- Group rates are available for our fee-based activities:
 - Self-guided audio tours
 - IMAX® movies
 - Simulator rides and virtual reality experiences
 - DiningDetails and booking at si.edu/groupsales.
- Free motorcoach parking is available at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center.

On the National Mall
Jefferson Dr., between 4th St. and 7th St., SW
Washington, DC

Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy.
Chantilly, VA



@airandspace



airandspace



airandspacemuseum

#IdeasThatDefy | airandspace.si.edu