



To: Secondary Parents

From: Julia Reed, Events Coordinator

Date: July 14, 2009

Subject: Secondary Family Field Trip, Charlottesville, Virginia on November 4th-8th

It is a pleasure for me to announce our upcoming family field trip to Charlottesville, Virginia on November 4th - 8th. This trip will be the first time we have visited Charlottesville and you will not want to miss it! We moved the dates back a bit from previous years to avoid the congestion that comes along with the University of Virginia's Football schedule. The historic town of Charlottesville has much to offer and enjoy. We will have the special opportunity to visit Montpelier, the home of James Madison, and attend their 75th annual hunt races. We will also be enjoying the following:

- Visit to the newly restored Monticello, the home of President Thomas Jefferson
- Tour and Lunch at Michie's Tavern
- Visit Ash Lawn-Highland, the home of President James Monroe
- Tour of the University of Virginia Rotunda, Gardens and Art Museum
- Historic walking tour of downtown Charlottesville
- Optional Wine Trail tour including a vineyard called "Veritas"
- First Friday Art walk in beautiful downtown
- 75th Annual Hunt Race at Montpelier—a great opportunity to pull out your best hat and tweed!
- Optional tour of Walton's mountain
- Optional tour of Oak Ridge Estate, the home of Thomas Fortune Ryan, one of the ten richest men on the USA during the twentieth century.

The Family Field Trip is different from most school field trips in that it involves considerable travel and several nights away. Consequently, it is a requirement that parents accompany their children on the trip. The only exception is when a child wishes to come but the parents have extenuating circumstances that prohibit their attendance. Such parents may make arrangements with other parents who will take *complete* responsibility for the child as if he/she is their own. Registration for such "adopted" students should be on the same form as the family taking them.

Parents should also be aware that the level of participation is geared toward secondary students. So, while younger siblings will certainly enjoy visiting all of the places on our itinerary, the tour guides talks and our activities are planned with secondary students in mind.

Hotels in Charlottesville stay very busy all year round due to both tourism and the university. We are delighted that we have been able to secure a room rate of \$89.99 a night (two double beds or a king and a pull-out couch) at the English Inn of Charlottesville (www.englishinncharlottesville.com). The room rate includes a full breakfast as well as an informal afternoon tea. The hotel is equipped with a large indoor



July 14th Memo
Julia Reed – 2009 Charlottesville, VA Family Field Trip

pool and each room has a small refrigerator. There is a suite available as well and those interested should inquire directly with the hotel. Families will need to call and book their rooms individually, at 1-800-768-5400. Mention you are with Veritas Academy to receive our group rate. The booking is fully refundable up until 30 days prior to arrival. The English Inn has agreed to work with us if extenuating circumstances require us to cancel some rooms at a later date. The rooms will only be held until **August 30th** at which time they will be released for general booking. I am asking families to please book their rooms as soon as possible, this will ensure we can all lodge together and you will be able to cancel your rooms later if needed.

Travel for the trip is on your own, however, we encourage you to caravan with other families. Additionally, this year we would like to offer the opportunity to travel together in 15 passenger vans. Good to U Auto Rental has quoted us a rate of \$260.00 a van for the trip. This is an exceptional price and includes the mileage. The school will facilitate families in organizing transportation, please indicate on your registration form or contact me if you are interested. The vans will be rented directly to the families (you will arrange pickup and drop off, etc.).

In order for us to secure reservations we will need a 20% deposit by August 1st, turned into the school office. Attached you will find a complete itinerary along with a registration form. If there is some circumstance that prohibits you registering by August 1st please contact me in advance so we can try and make arrangements.

If you have any questions that are not answered in this information packet, please do not hesitate to email jreed@veritasacademy.com or call me at the school office 556-0690.

Attachments:
Registration Form
Itinerary