

Tours operated by



WASHINGTON, D.C., MERIT BADGE TOUR

Learn about the history of our country's founders and the role of present-day policymakers with visits to the most popular sites in our nation's capital. You'll learn and see a lot while you are exploring Washington, D.C.—and you'll have the chance to earn merit badges, too!



On this tour you will have the opportunity to complete the following:
5 of 8 requirements for Citizenship in the Nation
3+ of 6 requirements for American Heritage

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip transportation and motorcoach while on tour
- All overnight accommodations
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director
- Overnight security
- Educational materials developed by the Smithsonian
- Medical and accident coverage
- Travel ID Badges and Scout backpacks
- Smithsonian Membership
- Gratuities



A CUSTOMIZED TOUR FOR THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

SAMPLE ITINERARY

DAY 1 WELCOME TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Travel by airplane or motorcoach to Washington, D.C. Upon your arrival to our stately capital city, you are greeted by your Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director, who will accompany you throughout your stay.

Visit to the Smithsonian museums

Explore the world's largest museum and research complex, including the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of the American Indian.

Dinner at Union Station

Guided Night Sightseeing of Washington, D.C.

Experience the magic of seeing the capital's most impressive sights illuminated during your evening tour. You're assured a view of the Washington Monument from nearly every part of the city. Other points of interest on our tour include the Lincoln Memorial, the WWII Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Korean War Memorial.

DAY 2 WASHINGTON, D.C., AND MOUNT VERNON

Guided sightseeing of Washington, D.C.

A licensed guide introduces you to the must-see Washington, D.C., landmarks. See the United States Marine Corps War Memorial, which depicts U.S. Marines raising the American flag at Iwo Jima. On the grassy National Mall get a daytime view of the Washington Monument. Visit the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and finish your sightseeing with a photo stop at the White House, home of every U.S. president except George Washington.

Citizenship in the Nation Req. 7: Name the three branches of our federal government and explain to your counselor their functions. Explain how citizens are involved in each branch. For each branch of government, explain the importance of the system of checks and balances.

Citizenship in the Nation Req. 2d: Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent's permission) and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens.

Arlington National Cemetery

Tour the national burial ground that shelters veterans from every war involving our nation, as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Challenger memorial and the eternal flame at the grave site of John F. Kennedy.

Citizenship in the Nation Req. 1: Explain what citizenship in the nation means and what it takes to be a good citizen of this country. Discuss the rights, duties and obligations of a responsible and active American citizen.

Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington

Honor Americans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
wreath included

American Heritage Req. 4d: Take an active part in a program about an event or person in American history. Report to your counselor about the program, the part you took and the subject.

Excursion to Mount Vernon

Travel through the Virginia countryside to Mount Vernon, the lovely retreat overlooking the Potomac River where George and Martha Washington lived from 1754 to 1799.

American Heritage Req. 4b: Research an event of historical importance that took place in or near your area. If possible, visit the place. Tell your counselor about the event and how it affected local history. Describe how the area looked then and what it now looks like.

ITINERARY CONTINUED ON BACK

SAMPLE ITINERARY (CONTINUED)

Dave and Buster's

Tonight enjoy dinner at Dave and Buster's and test your skills as a secret agent in Dave and Buster's Mission Task Force.

DAY 3 NEWSEUM AND CAPITOL HILL

On your way to the Newseum, take the opportunity to work on your merit badges.

American Heritage Req. 5c: Listen to recordings of popular songs from various periods of American history. Share five of these songs with your counselor and describe how each song reflects the way people felt about the period in which it was popular. If a recording is not available, have a copy of the lyrics available.

The Newseum

This 250,000-square-foot museum offers visitors an experience that blends five centuries of news history with up-to-the-second technology and hands-on exhibits. Go behind the scenes to experience how and why news is made.

American Heritage Req. 3a: Select a topic that is currently in the news. Describe to your counselor what is happening. Explain how today's events are related to or affected by the events and values of America's past.

Visit to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

Among the more than 3 million artifacts collected and preserved by the museum are the Star-Spangled Banner, Abraham Lincoln's top hat and Dizzy Gillespie's angled trumpet. Discover this and much more as you learn about people and events that shaped America.

American Heritage Req. 3b: For each of the following, describe its adoption, tell about any changes since its adoption and explain how each one continues to influence Americans today: the flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, the seal, the motto and the national anthem.

National Archives

View priceless documents that shaped United States history, including the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

Citizenship in the Nation Req. 4: Discuss each of the following documents with your counselor. Tell your counselor how you feel life in the United States might be different without each one.

- Declaration of Independence
- Preamble to the Constitution
- The Constitution
- Bill of Rights
- Amendments to the Constitution

Citizenship in the Nation Req. 5: List the six functions of government as noted in the preamble to the Constitution. Discuss with your counselor how these functions affect your family and local community.

Capitol Hill

Experience the sites where national policies and political reputations are formed and re-formed daily. See the city's epicenter and the heart of the American legislature, the U.S. Capitol Building. Learn the history of the Library of Congress and how it serves Congress and the nation. And a visit to the Supreme Court building takes you to the halls where the highest court in the land decides landmark cases.

Citizenship in the Nation Req. 2b: Tour the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function and the history.

DAY 4 EMBASSY ROW

While headed to Embassy Row, take time to work on your merit badges.

American Heritage Req. 6: Discuss with your counselor the career opportunities in American heritage. Pick one that interests you and explain how to prepare for this career. Discuss what education and training are required for this career.

Embassy Row

Drive through one of Washington's most cosmopolitan neighborhoods. This area of grand houses and more than 130 foreign embassies boast a range of architecture as diverse as its international denizens.

DAY 5 DEPART FOR HOME

Smithsonian Student Travel staff will accompany you to the airport and assist with check-in for the return flight. Have a pleasant trip home!

PRE-TOUR REQUIREMENTS

Complete these requirements before your trip and when you return, you can simply turn in your blue card and receive your badge!



CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION

- 3** Watch the national evening news five days in a row OR read the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row. Discuss the national issues you learned about with your counselor. Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.
- 6** With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Find out about the author and tell your counselor about the person who gave the speech. Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given and tell how it applies to American citizens today. Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you and tell your counselor why.
- 8** Name your two senators and the member of Congress from your congressional district. Write a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her. Show your letter and any response you receive to your counselor.



AMERICAN HERITAGE

- 1** Read the Declaration of Independence. Pay close attention to the section that begins with "We hold these truths to be self-evident" and ends with "to provide new Guards for their future security." Rewrite that section in your own words, making it as easy to understand as possible. Then, share your writing with your merit badge counselor and discuss the importance of the Declaration to all Americans. Read the Declaration of Independence. Pay close attention to the section that begins with "We hold these truths to be self-evident" and ends with "to provide new Guards for their future security." Rewrite that section in your own words, making it as easy to understand as possible. Then, share your writing with your merit badge counselor and discuss the importance of the Declaration to all Americans.
- 3c** Research your family's history. Find out how various events and situations in American history affected your family. Share what you find with your counselor. Tell why your family came to America.