

October 25th, 2017

Dear Parents and Eighth Grade Students,

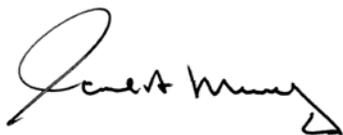
The Bath Area Family YMCA is excited to once again welcome the Mt Ararat Middle School in participating in the *"The Freedom Tour"* program for this year's 8th grade class.

This constantly evolving program is a unique combination of fun and learning on a seven-day trip to major east coast cities. We learn how our history has influenced many of today's behaviors; we celebrate differences and experience other cultures. These opportunities simply do not exist for many youth. The *"The Freedom Tour"* grew out of these beliefs.

Over the last eleven years over 1,200 students and parent team leaders have participated in this program specially designed around key building blocks young people need to grow up to be caring, competent and productive.

We presented the program to the 8th Grade Class on Wednesday October 25th. This will be followed by a parent meeting on Monday evening, November 20th – 6:00 pm at the Orion Theater; an informative orientation of the Freedom Tour. We'll share a video, tell you all about what we do and where we go, and most important why we designed this terrific experience.

I'm excited to meet you and hope you can attend this orientation.



Joel Merry
Bath Area Family YMCA

"Freedom Tour 2018"

ORIENTATION and REGISTRATION

For Students & Parents

MONDAY November 20 6:00PM
Orion Theater
Mt Ararat Middle School

Fast Facts

Program Fee is \$995.00.
Enrollment Fee is **\$100.00**. This fee is non-refundable fee and is not part of the program fee.

Parents serve as Team Leaders.
Team Leader Fee \$500.00

Six prep meetings January – April.

New York City – Philadelphia – Lancaster
Country – Gettysburg – Washington DC

Check Our Freedom Tour Blogs & Photos
www.bathymca.org

TRIP DATES: April 13– April 19, 2018

BUS SEATS ARE LIMITED SO REGISTER NOW



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Our Goals:

Appreciate and understand our historic, political, geographic, cultural and ethnic heritage.

Accept responsibility for decisions and actions gained through individual/cooperative thinking and problem solving.

Providing a foundation for students to form parallels between history and the meaning of independence, diversity and conflict of today.

Foster a greater understanding of diversity through the music, photography, food and writing of other cultures.

Gain additional knowledge via visual and experiential images and activities.

Develop leadership and conflict resolution skills.

Enhance character through the awareness of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

Build Self-Esteem

From a Student ...

A long ride back to Maine gave me time to contemplate all the fantastic things that I had seen the past seven days. Everything from TV stars to American politics, to urban city life, we had experienced it all.. I learned lessons that stick with me now and will probably stick with me forever: how to cope with other people, how to find unique beauty in other lives, how to recognize true heroes and what it meant to be an American. I guess this sums it up best: the Freedom Tour wasn't just about the freedom of my country; it was about the freedom of myself and everyone around me.

Your Questions Answered:

WHAT IS "THE FREEDOM TOUR"? It's a constantly evolving educational journey for middle school students designed as an integrated approach to teaching history and contributing effectively as citizens. The planning, group work, and tour itinerary are designed to enhance citizenship, and provide a wonderful opportunity to share a vision with our middle schools.

HOW DO THE STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE TRIP? Students meet together to learn about the places they will visit and how the history and culture of that place or time impacts our world today. Groups will participate in a vision process, learn conflict resolution skills, and discuss expectations and consequences / rewards for individual and group behavior. Local resources such as scholars, experts and middle school teachers provide interesting programs. Parents are encouraged to attend.

WHO IS THE LEADERSHIP? Direct leadership of the program is Phil Krummel (phil@bathymca.org), a retired YMCA director with over 40 years of experience and Joel Merry (joel@bathymca.org), Sagadahoc County Sheriff, former Community Outreach Director at the Y and leader of numerous youth groups and programs. Together they have over 80 such trips of experience. In addition, volunteer nurses, schoolteachers and parent team leaders provide the supervision. Adult to student ratio is one to four. The YMCA does leadership training in conflict resolution, value clashes, group work, adolescent development and emergency procedures with the Team Leaders. Adults, who wish to be team leaders complete an interest form, spend time with YMCA staff and sign off for a SBI Background check.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS? The Tour fee includes all prep meetings and materials, transportation by motor coach, meals, hotels, entrance fees and a travel pack. **The program fee is \$995.00 per person.** In addition, there is an enrollment fee of \$100 due at time of registration. The \$995 balance should be spread out over the meetings, we recommend \$200 a meeting. All balances must be paid by **March 6, 2018, six weeks before the trip leaves.**

IS FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE? You can request a financial aid application when completing the registration application. Limited funds are available through our United Way allocation and the YMCA Annual Giving Youth Scholarship fund. Grants will be based on individual need, up to approximately half of the program fee.

Where We Go

New York City Neighborhoods...Central Park ... Statue of Liberty... Ellis Island ... 9/11 Memorial ... Little Italy ... Chinatown... Wall St... Philadelphia ... Gettysburg... Lancaster County...Amish Farms ... Lincoln, Washington, Roosevelt Presidential Memorials and Monuments ...Vietnam, Korean, WW II, and Iwo Jima War Memorials...The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum...US Capitol...Air and Space Museum... Smithsonian...Changing of the Guard and Arlington National Cemetery...Supreme Court... 5th Ave... Times Square... Rockefeller Center...Top of The Rock...Hard Rock Café...NBC Today Show



Mt. Ararat Middle School
Registration 8th Grade "Freedom Tour" 2018
April 13-19, 2018

Student Name: Student's Date of Birth:

Mailing Address: Town: Zip

Legal Guardian(s) Name and BEST Phone #:

Legal Guardian(s) Name and BEST Phone #:

BEST Email(s) for Freedom Tour Correspondence

Allergies:

We want to create an environment within which CARING, HONESTY, RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY are promoted. Unacceptable behavior will be confronted and treated in a fair and consistent manner by all trip leaders and team leaders.

The use of illegal substances, alcohol, drugs, tobacco or weapons are forbidden and may result in serious consequences as governed by the laws of each state. Consequences as a result of inappropriate behavior regarding hotel, bus and event etiquette will be discussed. Treated on an individual basis, consequences will pertain to the behavior.

As representatives of our family, school, the YMCA, and our community, adherence to this policy will insure a successful experience for all involved. I, along with my parent(s) and leaders understand and agree to the principles of good behavior, and fair and consistent discipline.

We have read this flyer and understand the information. We understand that additional material will be sent home regarding dates, meetings, behavior expectations, medical information and activities relating to the Bath Area Family YMCA "Freedom Tour".
- We acknowledge that participating in this program requires attending scheduled meetings. I allow my child to participate and will attend parent meetings as scheduled.
- We agree to abide by the YMCA policies regarding dress code and cell phone/electronic device policy.
- I give my permission for the YMCA to use, display, and publish etc. photographs in print and as part of the Bath Area Family YMCA internet project.
- I give permission for emergency medical treatment and understand that all medical expenses are the responsibility of our family.

Participation in the Freedom Tour is by invitation, after a review and acceptance of your application and your attendance at tour planning and educational meetings. The Bath Area Family YMCA reserves the right, at any time, to refuse to grant any application, or to rescind any accepted application, for failure to comply with the prerequisites to Tour participation, or for behavior which may be deemed detrimental to the trip in any way.

Signature of parent or caregiver

Signature of Student

All people are welcome to the YMCA without regard to race, creed, religion, sex or ability to pay.

Please send us an application for financial aid.

CHECK HERE

Empty square box for checking financial aid application.

Cost – Fees – Payment Schedule

Freedom Tour 2018 fee includes all prep meetings and materials, transportation by motor coach, hotels, entrance fees, and most meals. Each student will also receive a drawstring backpack and name tags for luggage.

The program fee is \$995.00 per person.

A \$100 enrollment fee is due at the time of registration.

(This fee is non-refundable and does not go toward the cost of the trip.)

- *The program fee may be spread out over the course of the meetings. We recommend \$200.00 per meeting.*
- *All balances must be paid by March 6, 2018, 6 weeks before the trip leaves.*
- *Payments can be made at meetings or at the Bath Area Family YMCA. Credit cards are accepted (at the Y) but we prefer cash or checks.*
- *Checks can be made payable to: Bath YMCA Freedom Tour*

Financial Aid is available based on need. Limited funds are offered through the Bath Area Family YMCA Annual Campaign. Eligibility will be determined through an application process.

Grants will be based on individual need, up to approximately half of the program fee.

\$100.00 enrollment fee due at time of registration

Trip Leaders:

Joel Merry – joel@bathymca.org

Phil Krummel – phil@bathymca.org

Questions or Concerns – freedomtour@bathymca.org