

2013

2014



R & E Tours

Recreational & Educational Tours, Inc.

Company Brochure

Including:

One Day Tours
Current Pricing
Sample Handouts

Overnight Tours
R & E Music Tours
Publications

Testimonials
Sample Tour Materials
Cleveland Rendezvous

*On the Journey To Learning
Since 1983*

DIRECTIONS BELOW



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Take You
Anywhere

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R & E TOURS, INC.

R & E MUSIC TOURS

Address: 7620 Buchanan Ct.

Mentor, OH 44060

Toll Free: 800-347-TOUR (8687)

Local: 440-953-TOUR (8687)

Fax: 440-953-8707

E-Mail: Tours@R-ETours.com



our pictures available on Twitter:
www.Twitter.com/RandETours



ollow your tour on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/RandETours



IS THE BEST BECAUSE WE...

... care.

“Rick, Aaron:
THE BEST—Genuine
care for the students’
well being and
experience.”

... adapt.

“R&E Tours are very flexi-
ble with tour planning in
between tour stops. The
weather does not inter-
fere with the students’
experience in D.C. for the
tour director always finds
another attraction for
them to visit.”

- Chris Cleary, St. Francis de Sales

... go the distance.

“R&E Tours is the way to go when planning a school
trip. Besides the fact that R&E takes care of every-
thing (itinerary, meals, tours, etc.) this
company ensures that the trip will be fun and
educational—which it is” - St. Ambrose—Brunswick

... cater.

“I recommend R+E Tours for any
school trip. The organization, quality, and value
are outstanding. I felt worry free and well taken
care of from start to finish”

- Mary Beth Adams, Eastlake North High School

... entertain.

“Well worth having
them plan the trip.
Tour guides
entertain the kids”

... Wow.

“This was my first time
on a class trip and it
was fantastic. Rick
made it unbelievable.
The whole crew was
wonderful.”

... engage.

“R&E Tours ensures a good quality trip that
is both fun and educational. The tour guide
does a wonderful job building rapport with
the students and making the trip memorable for students,
chaperones, and teachers—well done!”

For more testimonials, reviews and photos visit us at
www.Facebook.com/RandETours

Past Tour Evaluations are also available on Pages 26-30 of this Brochure!



R & E MUSIC TOURS

www.R-EMusicTours.com



Disney Highlights

Perform!!!!

Magic Kingdom

Disney's
Boardwalk

Downtown
Disney

Hollywood
Studios

ESPN Wide World
of Sports

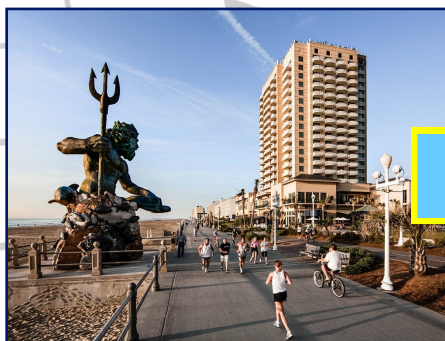
Disney Quest

Epcot Center

Blizzard Beach

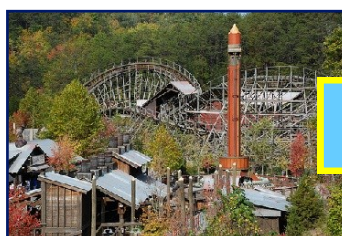
Typhoon Lagoon

NASHVILLE



Virginia Beach

Myrtle Beach



Great SMOKY MTNS.

WASHINGTON, D.C. *Our Nation's Capital*



D.C. Tour Highlights

The following stops can be included on all tours, based on the group's interests

White House	Jefferson Memorial	MLK Memorial
U.S. Capitol	WWII Memorial	FDR Memorial
Embassy Row	Iwo Jima Memorial	National Archives
Korean War Memorial	Washington Monument	US Naval Memorial
Air Force Memorial	Pentagon Memorial	Flight 93 Memorial
Arlington National Cemetery	US Holocaust Memorial Museum	Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

Smithsonian Institute, including the following museums:
American History, Air & Space, Natural History,
American Indian & American Art

3 Day / 2 Night Pricing:

WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR GROUP!

Starting below \$275:

Select from certain dates, including most in the fall, and we will include breakfast at the hotel, dinner and night activity each day

Popular Dates starting at \$305:

Many schools travel in the Spring so call us today to reserve your preferred dates! We can include better meals and activities like Dave & Buster's & Buca di Beppo.

Premium options starting at \$365:

We can include anything that you would like, starting with all meals and a show at the Kennedy Center or Medieval Times

2 Complimentary Adult Trips for every 20 paying passengers



1-800-347-TOUR
www.R-ETours.com



Gettysburg
Baltimore
Shanksville
Mt. Vernon Estate

CHICAGO

The Jewel of the Midwest



Chicago Tour Highlights

Millennium Park

Willis Tower

Art Institute of Chicago

Grant Park

Chicago Board of Trade

The Magnificent Mile

Buckingham Fountain

Museum of Science
& Industry

Lincoln Park Zoo

Navy Pier

Field Museum,
Shedd Aquarium and/or
Adler Planetarium

Wrigley Field,
United Center
U.S. Cellular Field or
Soldier Field

3 Day / 2 Night Pricing:

WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR GROUP!

Starting below \$299:

Select from certain dates, including most in the fall, and we will include breakfast at the hotel, dinner and night activity each day.

Popular Dates starting at \$345:

Many schools travel in the Spring so call us today to reserve your preferred dates! We can include better meals and activities like Medieval Times or Broadway in Chicago.

Premium options starting at \$375:

We can include anything that you would like, starting with all meals and a show at Medieval Times and Blue Man Group

*2 Complimentary Adult Trips for
every 20 paying passengers*



1-800-347-TOUR

www.R-ETours.com



**Cedar Point
Pilsen & La Villita
U. of Notre Dame**

NEW YORK CITY

The Big Apple



N.Y.C. Tour Highlights

United Nations

Statue of Liberty

Freedom Memorial

Chinatown

Times Square

Central Park

Little Italy

Broadway Theater

Empire State Building

NBC Studios

Guggenheim,
Metropolitan Museum of Art
or
Museum of Modern Art

American Museum of
Natural History,
Intrepid Museum or
Madame Tussaud's

4 Day / 3 Night Pricing:

WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR GROUP!

Starting below: \$499:

Select from certain dates, including most in the fall, and we will include breakfast at the hotel, dinner and night activity each day

Popular Dates starting at \$599:

Many schools travel in the Spring so call us today to reserve your preferred dates! We can include better meals, Medieval Times and either Blue Man or a Broadway Show.

Premium options starting at \$799:

We can include anything that you would like, starting with all meals, Medieval Times, Blue Man Group and a Broadway Show!!

2 Complimentary Adult Trips for every 20 paying passengers



1-800-347-TOUR

www.R-ETours.com

Great For The Arts:

Carnegie Hall

Broadway Classes

Veteran's Day Parade

BOSTON

The Cradle of Modern America



Boston Tour Highlights

Freedom Trail

Cambridge

USS Constitution

Boston Common

Beacon Hill

Salem

Marblehead

Faneuil Hall

MIT

House of 7 Gables

Bearskin Neck

Gloucester House

Old North Church

Quincy Market

Castle Rock

Paul Revere's
House

Plimoth Plantation
& Mayflower II

Harvard
University

5 Day / 4 Night Pricing:

WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR GROUP!

Starting below: \$499:

Select from certain dates, including most in the fall, and we will include breakfast at the hotel, dinner and night activity each day

Popular Dates starting at \$639:

Many schools travel in the Spring so call us today to reserve your preferred dates! We can include Blue Man Group or the hilarious whodunit Shear Madness.

Premium options starting at \$719:

We can include anything that you would like, starting with all meals and all shows. Include Whale Watching, Witch Hunting and a Lobster bake to your experience!

2 Complimentary Adult Trips for every 20 paying passengers



1-800-347-TOUR



Whale Watching

Concord & Lexington

Cape Cod & The Islands

PHILADELPHIA

Birthplace of America



Philadelphia Tour Highlights

Liberty Bell	Independence Hall	Congress Hall
Constitution Center	Valley Forge	Elfreth's Alley
JFK Plaza	"Rocky Steps"	President's House
Carpenter's Hall	Boathouse Row	Franklin Court
Second Bank of the US	Battleship New Jersey	Adventure Aquarium
Eastern State Penitentiary	Reading Terminal Market	Independence Historic Park

3 Day / 2 Night Pricing:

WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR GROUP!

Starting below \$359:

Select from certain dates, including most in the fall, and we will include breakfast at the hotel, dinner and night activity each day

Popular Dates starting at \$409:

Many schools travel in the Spring so call us today to reserve your preferred dates! We can include better meals and activities like Dave & Buster's & Hard Rock Cafe.

Premium options starting at \$479:

We can include anything that you would like, starting with all meals and a dinner cruise on the Spirit of Philadelphia

2 Complimentary Adult Trips for every 20 paying passengers



1-800-347-TOUR

www.R-ETours.com



**Gettysburg
Hershey
Lancaster
Valley Forge**

TORONTO

Canada's Largest City



T.O. Tour Highlights

CN Tower

Rogers Centre

Ontario Science Centre

Chinatown

Casa Loma

Royal Ontario Museum

Art Gallery of Ontario

Mariposa Boat Cruise

Eaton Centre

Ontario Parliament

Niagara Falls -
One of the World's
Seven Natural Wonders

Clifton Hill
Maid of the Mist or
Journey Behind the Falls

3 Day / 2 Night Pricing:

WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR GROUP!

Starting below: \$375:

Select from certain dates, including most in the fall, and we will include breakfast at the hotel, dinner and night activity each day

Popular Dates starting at \$425:

Many schools travel in the Spring so call us today to reserve your preferred dates! We can include playcards at the Playdium Arcade and Medieval Times.

Premium options starting at \$499:

We can include anything that you would like, starting with all meals and see why Toronto is known as Broadway North by reserving tickets for a top rated show.

2 Complimentary Adult Trips for every 20 paying passengers



1-800-347-TOUR

www.R-ETours.com

NOTE:

Students **DO NOT** need passports for Canadian travel



Niagara Falls

2 Day Trips

COLUMBUS, Dayton & Cincinnati



These trips will satisfy your appetite for travel. Two days will give you a full portion of these wonderful destinations, instead of the normal one day appetizer

Detroit & The Henry Ford



Have you every heard your students say, *"I'll believe it when I see it"?*

NOW IS THAT TIME!

1-800-347-TOUR
www.R-ETours.com



BOSTON

AMERICAN History

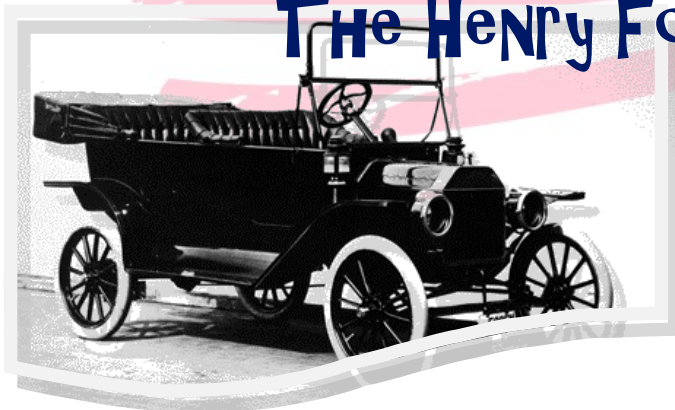
WILLIAMSBURG



Call us today and let us plan your group's trip to see the history of our country right before your students' eyes.

Tell us your budget and what is in your curriculum and we will put together the perfect tour, mixing in some fun and games along the way!

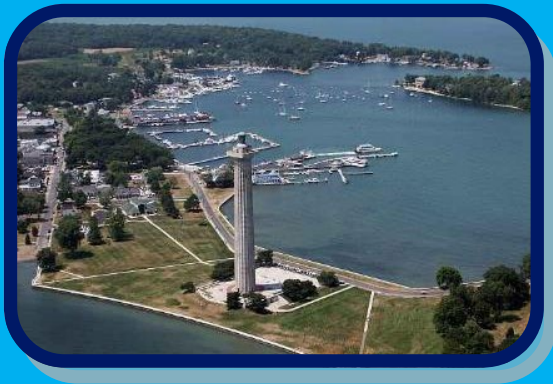
THE HENRY FORD



Have you every heard your students say,
"I'll believe it when I see it"?

NOW IS THAT TIME!

1-800-347-TOUR
www.R-ETours.com



Put-in-Bay

OHio HiStory

Marietta



Spend a day learning about the Battle of Lake Erie, travel south to the first settlement outside of the original Colonies or visit the Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum!

Tell us your budget and what is in your curriculum and we will put together the perfect tour, mixing in some fun and games along the way!

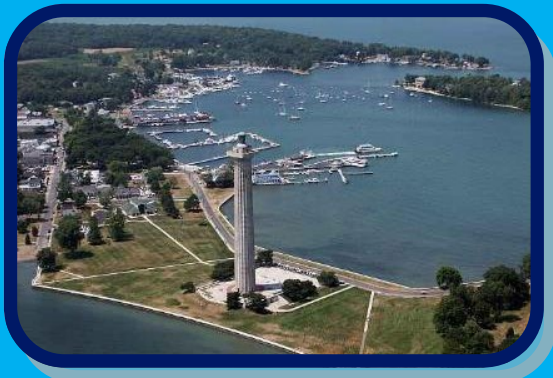
Dayton



Have you every heard your students say,
"I'll believe it when I see it"?

NOW IS THAT TIME!

1-800-347-TOUR
www.R-ETours.com



**Put-in-Bay &
Cedar Point**

Science Trips

**CHALLENGER Learning
Center**



**Carnegie
Science Center**



Combine the two for a
great day trip.

Reservations for the
Challenger Learning Center
at Wheeling Jesuit University
can fill up to 18 months in
advance so call us today to
reserve your preferred date!

Have you every heard your
students say,
"I'll believe it when I see it"?

NOW IS THAT TIME!

1-800-347-TOUR
www.R-ETours.com

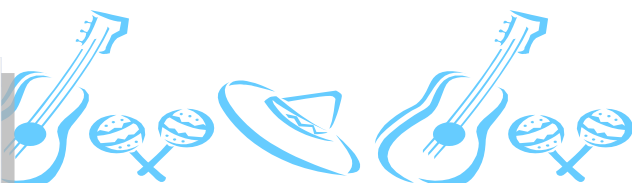


New York City

Viages de eStudios



Chicago



Take your Spanish students to Chicago for a one-of-a-kind heritage experience.

R&E Tours can customize a tour tailored to your needs, featuring events such as Latin Street Dancing, native cuisines, Mexican Museum of Art and guided tours of Pilsen y La Villita

Have you every heard your students say,
"I'll believe it when I see it"?

NOW IS THAT TIME!

1-800-347-TOUR



La Villita

Best Park 2012



AMUSEMENT Park 101

Learn what it takes to run the business of FUN at the World's Best Amusement Park! Bring your group of 15 or more students to hear about how we do business in Accounting, Finance, Hotels, Foods, Retail, Human Resources, Marketing and Park Operations. Meet for an exclusive, 1-on-1 session with the speakers and have specific questions answered.

Math and Science Week

Math and Science Week promises to be bigger and better than ever this year! Students (grades K-12) can learn about the science behind their favorite thrill rides as they make their way through the new Math and Science Zone on the Main Midway. Educational partners for Math and Science Week will include NASA, COSI Columbus, the Detroit Science Center and more.



MUSIC in the Park

Gather your school band or choir of 15 or more students and perform on stage or down the midway at the World's Best Amusement Park!

CLEVELAND RENDEZVOUS

Receptive Services

RATES
ARE
AVAILABLE
ONLINE

a division of
Recreational & Educational Tours



**Serving Northeast Ohio
Since 1983**

Step-on Guides
Meet and Greet
Student Tours
Conventions

**Complete
Itineraries
Available**



1-800-347-TOUR
www.R-ETours.com



Cleveland Rendezvous can handle all of your group tour needs during your visit to America's North Coast. We can provide knowledgeable (and local) step-on guides or we can plan every detail of your tour (attraction reservations, meals, hotel accommodations). 1, 2 & 3 Day Itineraries are available for Cleveland, not to mention other attractions that are available in Sandusky, Akron, Canton & Lake & Geauga Counties.

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

Playhouse Square

G. C. Aquarium

Great Lakes Science Center

Cleveland Museum of Art

CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO & RAINFOREST

**Night
Activities**

- The Corner Alley
- Playhouse Square
- Nautica Queen
- Dave & Buster's
- Swings 'n' Things
- Cleveland Indians Game
- Kalahari Indoor Waterpark

Educational Themes -

American History
Science / Biology
The Arts
Performance Tours
Food Tours

www.ClevelandRendezvous.com

CLEVELAND RENDEZVOUS

Receptive Services

DON'T SKIP A BEAT!

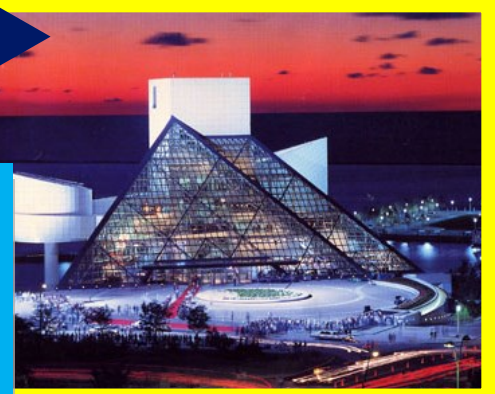
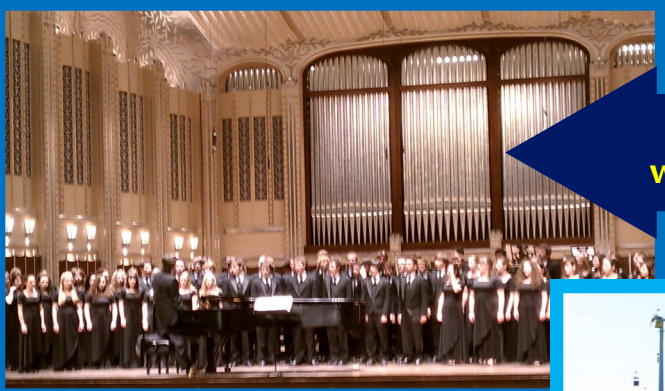
CALL US NOW TO RESERVE YOUR
CLEVELAND MUSIC TOUR TODAY!



You can teach your students music like this...



Or you can live it
with them like this!



We are continuing our efforts to make your life easier. With our specifically designed Music Curriculum Tours, we'll

“conduct” everything, with the exception of your groups musical performance, should you choose to, at one of the city’s many group venues.

But the fun won't stop there! You can see great shows all around town from Blossom Music Center to the world famous House of Blues, perhaps even catch some musical theatre at Playhouse Square... or you can create your own show at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame! Expand the knowledge of your group by attending the awesome attractions Cleveland has to offer and let us set up an educational program at the Rock Hall or the Cleveland Institute of Music at Case Western Reserve University.

Group Performance Opportunities include:

- Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
- Cedar Point
- Playhouse Square
- Cleveland Aquarium
- Wildwater Kingdom

FUNDRAISING



1-800-347-TOUR

www.R-ETours.com

◆ Target Grants ◆

◆ ESSay CONteSts ◆

◆ Free INFO Kits ◆

Call Us Today For More Information



Learning opportunities extend far beyond the classroom but schools are finding it more and more difficult to take their students to the museums, historical sites and cultural organizations which are meant to educate the public. Field Trip Grants help give children these unique, first-hand learning experiences.

Since launching their program in 2007, Target has awarded more than \$16 million in grants — providing 2 million students in all 50 states with the opportunity to enhance their studies in the arts, math, science and social studies.

The Capitol Square Foundation has created a transportation grant program with generous gifts from the Honda of America Mfg., Inc. and Wal-Mart. The program is designed to help schools defray bus transportation expenses to the Ohio Statehouse Museum Education Center. The grants are based on one-way mileage from your school to Columbus.

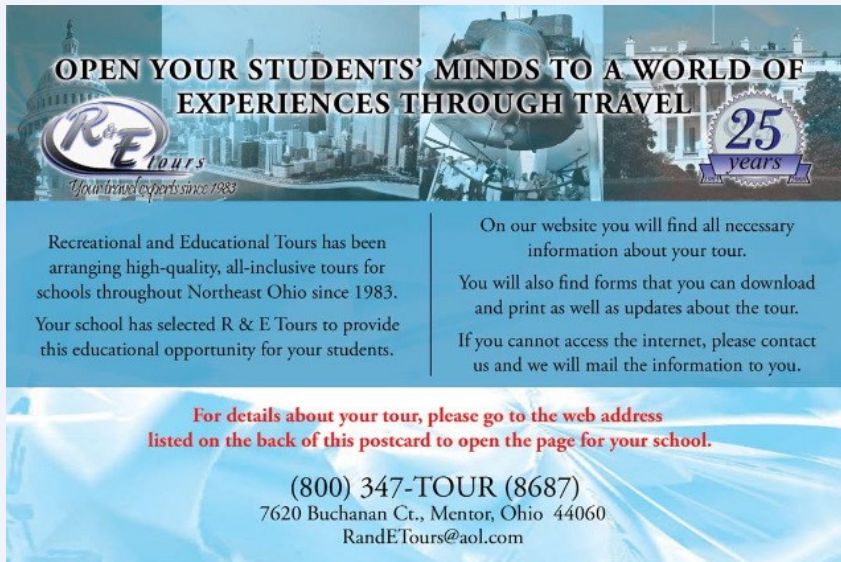
POPCORN

DISCOUNT CARDS

SWEETS

PROMOTIONAL POSTCARD

Front



OPEN YOUR STUDENTS' MINDS TO A WORLD OF EXPERIENCES THROUGH TRAVEL

R & E TOURS
Your travel experts since 1983

25 years
of experience

Recreational and Educational Tours has been arranging high-quality, all-inclusive tours for schools throughout Northeast Ohio since 1983. Your school has selected R & E Tours to provide this educational opportunity for your students.

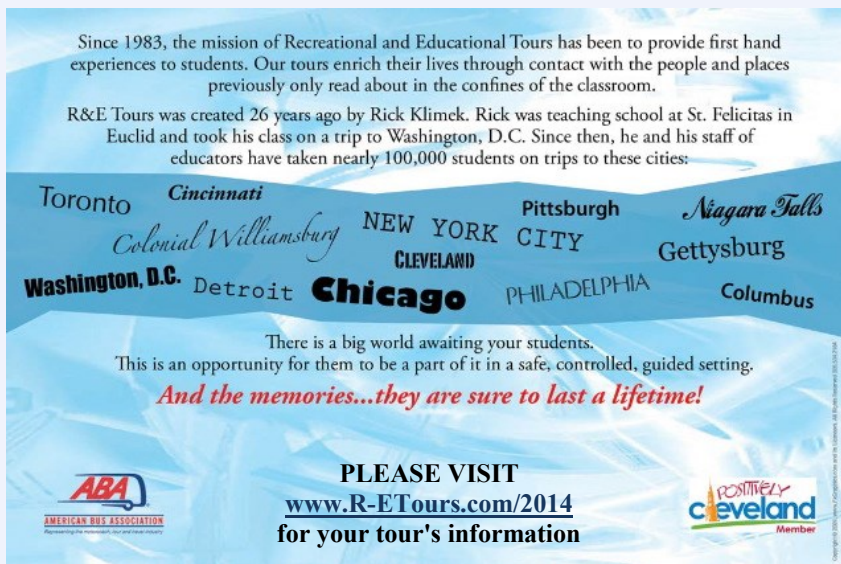
On our website you will find all necessary information about your tour.
You will also find forms that you can download and print as well as updates about the tour.
If you cannot access the internet, please contact us and we will mail the information to you.

For details about your tour, please go to the web address listed on the back of this postcard to open the page for your school.

(800) 347-TOUR (8687)
7620 Buchanan Ct., Mentor, Ohio 44060
RandETours@aol.com

We are once again taking steps to make your life easier! This postcard can be used to announce your group's tour. On the back of the postcards, there is a web address listed that will direct parents and students to a webpage that is designed for your specific tour only! We will include all information about the tour and we can include any information that you would like to include in order to complete the page.

Back



Since 1983, the mission of Recreational and Educational Tours has been to provide first hand experiences to students. Our tours enrich their lives through contact with the people and places previously only read about in the confines of the classroom.

R&E Tours was created 26 years ago by Rick Klimek. Rick was teaching school at St. Felicitas in Euclid and took his class on a trip to Washington, D.C. Since then, he and his staff of educators have taken nearly 100,000 students on trips to these cities:

Toronto Cincinnati
Colonial Williamsburg NEW YORK CITY
CLEVELAND Pittsburgh
Washington, D.C. Detroit **Chicago** PHILADELPHIA
Gettysburg Columbus

There is a big world awaiting your students.
This is an opportunity for them to be a part of it in a safe, controlled, guided setting.
And the memories...they are sure to last a lifetime!

PLEASE VISIT
www.R-ETours.com/2014
for your tour's information

ABA
AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION
Representing the interests of bus and travel industry

POSITIVELY
cleveland
Member

sample handouts

INFORMATIONAL WEBPAGE

The webpage listed on the promotional postcard will direct everyone to a page that looks like this



sample handouts

30 YEARS
Your best option since 1987

HOME PAGE
Testimonials
About Us
Contact Us

YouTube Twitter Facebook SYTA

Recreational & Educational Tours, Inc. Your Student Travel Experts Since 1987

School
Washington, D.C.
Tour
Spring 2014

Departure Date & Time: 03/01/2014 @ 08:00 a.m.

Return Date & Time: 03/02/2014 @ approximately 08:00 p.m.

Exact Tour Return Time: Available by calling 1-216-514-TOUR one hour before return time above

Deposit Amount & Due Date: A \$100, non-refundable, deposit is due by

Final Payment: Please bring your final payment to the orientation meeting

Cellly
Students—Click above to sign up for school Webelos, yet private, text messages while on the tour. Old you can text 603000 23550

PER PERSON TRIP COSTS

Students Per Bus	Quad	Triple	Double	Single
45 - 50	\$XXX	\$XXX	\$XXX	\$XXX
40 - 44	\$XXX	\$XXX	\$XXX	\$XXX
35 - 39	\$XXX	\$XXX	\$XXX	\$XXX
30 - 34	\$XXX	\$XXX	\$XXX	\$XXX
25 - 29	\$XXX	\$XXX	\$XXX	\$XXX

Washington, DC
Get the 10 day forecast
53°F Sunny
Feels Like 52°F Humidity: 50%
Wind: 10 to 15 mph

Airport
Check
Conditions
Police
Parking
Keep on the move

Please make checks payable to:
Turn in checks to:

Your Trip Includes: (click here for more information about Our Tours)

- Flawless, experienced planning of the tour from our office and 24 hour access before, during and after the tour
- Round-trip, deluxe motorcoach transportation aboard an I.C.C. licensed carrier, including a gratuity for the driver
- Safe, usually suburban, hotel accommodations with interior hallways and windows that do not open
- Private, unarmed, personal overnight security at the hotel from check-in through breakfast each night
- A Tour Director for each bus that will meet the group at or near the school and provide entertainment and information during the tour
- A Group Photo for each passenger in a colorful, laminated folder (as long as a group photo is taken on the trip)
- Digital Photos available online so those at home can follow the tour via Twitter or Facebook (This is only available on certain tours and when possible)
- Health & Accident Insurance to cover any immediate expenses that may arise on the trip from an accident or injury.
- Over \$10 Million in Liability Coverage provided by R&E Tours and Lakeshore Lines (our normal bus provider)
- Meals Below, including all necessary taxes and gratuities:

- A Deluxe, Continental Breakfast will be included at the hotel each morning
- On Day One, Lunch will be included at
- On Day One, Dinner will be included at
- On Day Two, Lunch will be included at
- On Day Two, Dinner will be included at
- On Day Three, Lunch will be included at
- On Day Three, a Dinner Buffet will be included at

• Attractions and Activities below (all meals, attractions and activities are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control)

- **Washington, D.C. Highlights Tour**
Your Tour Director will guide your group around Our Nation's Capital, visiting as many of the following sites as possible, based on time, weather, crowds, etc.

White House (picture stop) / Two Jims Memorial / Lincoln Memorial / Jefferson Memorial MLK Memorial / Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall / Korean War Memorial / Ford Memorial / WWII Memorial / Washington Monument / National Archives Embassy Row / Air Force Memorial / Pentagon Memorial / U.S. Naval Memorial / Smithsonian Institution including the American History Museum, National Air & Space Museum and Museum of Natural History

Important Information and Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

- Eat a healthy breakfast before the trip
- Bring about \$15-\$20 for all meals NOT included on the trip (see which meals ARE included above)
- All payments are non-refundable. When you pay, we hold your place on the tour and we consider you part of the guaranteed minimum count
- All costs are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Cancellation Policy:
All payment due dates are based on our supplier's contracted deal for dates. Your trip payment will hold your spot on the tour and is NON-REFUNDABLE. Once we have the final payments, we will guarantee final costs with our

Travel Insurance:
We encourage you to consider Trip Cancellation agency. We recommend a company that special

LUGGAGE TAG

Front



School travel is meant to provide experiences for students in a controlled, educational environment. That includes everything from watching Congress in session to packing your bags correctly! Every overnight trip is the same in that the group will need to stay at a hotel. During the trip, students will learn the importance of handling things without their parents, including their belongings!

Back

sample handouts - overnight tours

MEETING BROCHURE

Front

F&Q

Q: How will we know what time the bus will return so we won't have to wait in the parking lot?
A: Call (216) 814-8687 to get a recorded message for your trip's return time

PLEASE WAIT UNTIL ONE HOUR PRIOR TO SCHEDULED RETURN TIME BEFORE CALLING. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER.

Q: What teachers and school staff will be on trip?
A: All participating adults from your school will be announced at the orientation meeting.

Q: When will we know who our children are rooming with?
A: Announcements or rooming lists will be made by the school. Each school determines the appropriate time to make that announcement.

Q: Can we make changes to the rooming arrangements?
A: Early postings often lead to numerous requests for changes. Once these arrangements are made, they are forwarded to the hotel for entry into their system. Changes cannot be made for safety reasons. The hotel and trip staff must always be aware of each student's room location and therefore changes to rooming are not permitted by the hotels once the list is entered.

Q: How much spending money should my son or daughter take on the trip?
A: Please allow approximately \$6 - \$8 per meal that is not included on the tour (see itinerary). Additionally, students may want some souvenir money. This is an individual family decision based on your circumstances. We strongly advise not taking a large amount of money.

More info can be found on our website: www.R-ETours.com

Our Mission

Since 1983, the mission of Recreational and Educational Tours, Inc. has been to provide first hand experiences to students. Our tours enrich their lives through contact with the people and places previously only read about in the confines of the classroom.

There is a big world awaiting them and this is an opportunity for them to be a part of it in a safe, controlled, guided setting.

And the memories..... they are sure to last a lifetime!





Recreational & Educational Tours, Inc.

We can take you anywhere...

Washington, D.C.
Chicago
Philadelphia
Gettysburg
Colonial Williamsburg
New York City
Toronto
Niagara Falls
Columbus
Pittsburgh
Marietta
Put-in-Bay

www.R-ETours.com
(440) 953-TOUR (8687) • (800) 347-TOUR (8687)
7620 Buchanan Ct. Mentor, OH 44060

**Trip Return Time Info: (216) 814-TOUR
Main Office Line: (800) 347-TOUR (8687)**
www.R-ETours.com

For every overnight trip, we will schedule an orientation meeting. We encourage all participants on the trip and, at least, one parent/guardian for each student to attend. We will send a representative from R&E Tours to conduct the meeting. They will pass out a meeting brochure to each person with a current itinerary, luggage tag and other necessary handouts. Our meeting speaker will review everything on this brochure and will be able to answer any questions that the group may have.

Back

Itinerary

- The itinerary is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.
- Every effort will be made to follow it as planned or to substitute activities, meals, etc. with suitable alternative items.
- The return time listed is approximate. Call (216) 814-TOUR (8687) NOT SOONER THAN ONE HOUR PRIOR TO SCHEDULED ARRIVAL to get a recorded message. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE NUMBER**
- Meals included with the tour are denoted with an asterisk (*) on itinerary. All other meals are at students' expense. Allow \$6-\$8 for each meal that is not included.

Hotel

- The hotel name and phone number is listed on your itinerary.
- R & E Tours provides overnight security in the hotel's halls for your group.
- If you need to reach your student, call and leave a message with the desk personnel. Be sure to mention R & E Tours and your school's name.
- Calls cannot be made from the hotel rooms.

Medication

- All school guidelines regarding medication must be followed.
- All medication must be in original container to show correct name and dosage.
- Please give to designated school staff member or chaperone before departing school.
- No medication is to be carried by students. Certain exceptions may be made by the school.
- It is the student's responsibility to obtain medication when needed.

Please Bring

- Please limit to one piece of luggage and one carry-on. Both should be labeled with student's name and address.
- PACK ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FIRST DAY IN YOUR CARRY-ON BAG.**
- Be sure to have something suitable for cold, wet weather. Casual, neat, clean clothing only.
- Remember, you are representing your school. No questionable clothing or half shirts, please. We reserve the right to request you to change inappropriate clothing.
- Two pairs of comfortable walking shoes.
- Soft drinks for the hotel room. Cups and ice will be provided. Plastic re-sealable bottles only!
- Wristwatch
- Camera with enough extra batteries or film (whichever is needed)
- Portable music player with headphones.
- EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN ITEMS.**

Do Not Bring

- Excessive snacks. Please limit... several hours of travel and too much sugar don't mix.
- ABSOLUTELY NO DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO!**
- ANY INFRACTION OF THIS OR ANY ACTION THAT JEOPARDIZES THE SAFETY OF THE STUDENT OR OTHERS WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE RETURN HOME AT PARENTS' EXPENSE.**

You Must Remember

- Listen and follow directions carefully.
- Remain with group at all times.
- At hotel, respect other guests by keeping noise down to a minimum in your rooms and especially in the halls.

CELL PHONE POLICY WILL BE DETERMINED BY YOUR SCHOOL

Suggestions

Do your part so that everyone has a safe & enjoyable trip

- Carry R&E Tours telephone number with you at all times: 1-800-347-8687
- Call and leave a detailed message if you become separated from the group or any other problem arises and the tour leader is not accessible. Also, keep the hotel telephone number with you. This number will be given to you at the meeting. Keep these in a safe place on you - don't pack them in your luggage or leave in your hotel room.
- Don't expect to find all things exactly the way they are at home. You left home to find things different.
- Expect the unexpected!
- Accept the inevitable inconveniences ranging from minor personal discomforts to occasional group misadventures.
- Plan to stand in some lines at attractions and restaurants.
- Think positive rather than complaining or criticizing. Never forget that everyone is human and errors occur. You can be sure that everything is being done to make your trip as smooth and enjoyable as possible.
- Your best manners and behavior are expected at all times. This should not stop you from having a fun and exciting trip.
- Don't ask for special favors, but don't hesitate to approach any chaperone if a problem arises. Everyone on the trip is important.
- Be a good roommate. Everyone is getting used to living together for a couple of days and nights, so make it easy for them, too. Cooperate with the use of the bathroom, television, etc.
- Remember to think in terms of a group traveling, not an individual. Your tour chaperones will be making all decisions based on this.

Hotel Fire Safety

Don't wait until you are caught in an emergency to plan what you should do. People often panic when they don't know what to do in an emergency. If you have an escape plan, you greatly increase your chances of survival.

When you arrive at the hotel:
Count the doors between your room and the nearest 2 exits. Locate the fire alarms and fire extinguishers in hallway.

In your room:
Know how to unlock your door in the dark. Keep your room key handy and be certain that all roommates know where it is.

If a fire starts in your room:
Evacuate your room immediately. Close the room door securely behind you. Activate the fire alarm in the hallway. If a phone is available outside your room, call the front desk to notify them. Exit the building using the stairs. NEVER USE THE ELEVATORS.

If there is a fire in another part of the hotel:
Take your key in case exits are blocked and you need to return to your room. If you encounter any smoke in your room or in the hallway, keep on the floor because smoke and deadly gasses will rise. Feel the door and handle with your hand. Look out the peep hole on the door - if it is hot or you see smoke or flames, DO NOT OPEN it. If door is not hot, open it slowly and carefully. Be ready to close it immediately if necessary. Check the hall to be sure it is clear of smoke. Exit the building using the stairs. NEVER USE THE ELEVATORS. If you encounter smoke or fire at a lower level, walk back up to clear air, go to the roof if accessible, or use another exit.

If the door to the hallway is hot or there is smoke in the hall stay in your room. Fill the tub with water. Wet towels and place on floor at bottom of door and stuff vents to block smoke from entering room. Call for help - Dial "0" on the room phone or if there is a cell phone, dial "9-1-1"

DON'T PANIC - THINK CLEARLY - ACT WISELY

sample handouts - overnight tours

GROUP AND ONLINE PHOTOS

Outside



On every overnight trip, the Tour Director will take a group photo at the best location possible. Overnight, our staff will print the pictures at the hotel and place each in the folder on this page. The Tour Director will also ask if any student would like to take pictures throughout the trip, with our provided camera. If so, our staff will also be able to upload those photos overnight to Facebook. And, yet another way for families at home to experience the trip is to follow the tour on Twitter.

On many tours, we are also able to upload a few photos to our Twitter feed instantly.



Inside



sample handouts - overnight tours

ID TAGS

Students'



On every overnight tour, the Tour Director will distribute an ID Tag and a break-a-way lanyard to each passenger for easy identification throughout the trip. This is a safety measure in many ways. It also gives each person an easy way to carry our toll-free number at all times. Someone is available 24/7 to answer the phone. Safety is our number one priority. It always has been and it always will be. We have never experienced a problem on a tour as a direct result of a safety concern that we did not handle. We use hotels with indoor corridors and windows that lock and we have implemented dozens of other procedures to keep the group as safe as possible.

Adults'



sample handouts - overnight tours



Your travel experts since 1983

SEE HOW WE HAVE EARNED OUR GOLD STARS



**Read what those who have traveled
with us said about their experiences
on the next 4 pages**

**We couldn't have said it
better ourselves!**

**R & E TOURS HOPES THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED YOUR TRIP WITH US AS MUCH AS WE ENJOYED HAVING YOU ALONG!
PLEASE HELP US MAKE FUTURE TRIPS EVEN BETTER BY FILLING OUT THE FOLLOWING REPORT CARD:**

Please grade the below trip components based on the following scale:

A = Excellent; B = Above Average; C = Average; D = Below Average; F = Failed to meet expectations

Group Name: Streetsboro Middle School

Tour Escort on your bus: FRANK J.

Destination: Washington D.C.

* Your Name (optional): Traci Andrews

HOTEL	ATTRACTIONS	MEALS	STAFF	PLANNING PROCESS (Tour Coordinators Only)
Cleanliness: <u>A</u> Comfort: <u>B</u> Comments: <u>very nice staff</u>	Informative: <u>A</u> Time Spent: <u>A</u> Comments:	Quality: <u>A</u> Quantity: <u>A</u> Atmosphere: <u>A</u> Comments:	Professionalism: <u>A</u> Informative: <u>A</u> Pleasant: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>great tour guides!!</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u> Timeliness: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>Everyone at R+E is very polite + made planning easy!</u>

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not?

Absolutely! Great staff, very knowledgeable

What things would you change about the trip?

N/A

How would you describe your experiences with R & E Tours, i.e. our service, organization, value, quality, etc. to a teacher at another school?

R+E made my first time coordinating the trip an enjoyable, not stressful, experience!

* Your comments may be used in future promotional material to other schools

PLEASE HELP US MAKE FUTURE TRIPS EVEN BETTER BY FILLING OUT THE FOLLOWING REPORT CARD:

Please grade the below trip components based on the following scale:

A = Excellent; B = Above Average; C = Average; D = Below Average; F = Failed to meet expectations

Group Name: St. Mary

Tour Escort on your bus: Rick Klima

Destination: Philadelphia

* Your Name (optional): Joan Kneer

HOTEL	ATTRACTIONS	MEALS	STAFF	PLANNING PROCESS (Tour Coordinators Only)
Cleanliness: <u>A</u> Comfort: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>Very pleased with accommodations - Great Breakfast</u>	Informative: <u>A</u> Time Spent: <u>B</u> Comments: <u>Thanks for adding fountains for kids</u>	Quality: <u>A</u> Quantity: <u>A</u> Atmosphere: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>Loved trying original Philly food</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u> Informative: <u>A</u> Pleasant: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>Each staff member (incl driver) very nice professional</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u> Timeliness: <u>A</u> Comments:

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not?

Definitely - a very fun adventure!

What things would you change about the trip?

Possibly getting back to hotel by 10:00 pm versus 11:00 pm.

How would you describe your experiences with R & E Tours, i.e. our service, organization, value, quality, etc. to a teacher at another school?

I would highly recommend RE to any school. Appreciate the firmness with the students along with the respect shown to them. Great Balance + excellent service.

* Your comments may be used in future promotional material to other schools

**R & E TOURS HOPES THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED YOUR TRIP WITH US AS MUCH AS WE ENJOYED HAVING YOU ALONG!
PLEASE HELP US MAKE FUTURE TRIPS EVEN BETTER BY FILLING OUT THE FOLLOWING REPORT CARD:**

Please grade the below trip components based on the following scale:

A = Excellent; B = Above Average; C = Average; D = Below Average; F = Failed to meet expectations

Group Name: St Rita Tour Escort on your bus: Charles Jancuro
Destination: Pittsburgh * Your Name (optional): _____

<u>HOTEL</u>	<u>ATTRACTIONS</u>	<u>MEALS</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>PLANNING PROCESS</u> (Tour Coordinators Only)
Cleanliness: <u>/</u> Comfort: <u>/</u> Comments: <u>/</u>	Informative: <u>A</u> Time Spent: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>The students really enjoyed the Ed-mare</u>	Quality: <u>A</u> Quantity: <u>A</u> Atmosphere: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>Students said they had enough to eat. Would increase service later would be a good idea</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u> Informative: <u>A</u> Pleasant: <u>A</u> Comments: _____	Professionalism: <u>A</u> Timeliness: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>Thank you.</u>

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not? dollars (\$2)

Yes, we didn't have to worry about arriving at destinations on time. Itinerary kept our students busy.

What things would you change about the trip?

Take 1/2 or so from the science center and put it towards Heinz field so students can see press box or club section.

How would you describe your experiences with R & E Tours, i.e. our service, organization, value, quality, etc. to a teacher at another school?

* Your comments may be used in future promotional material to other schools.

**R & E TOURS HOPES THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED YOUR TRIP WITH US AS MUCH AS WE ENJOYED HAVING YOU ALONG!
PLEASE HELP US MAKE FUTURE TRIPS EVEN BETTER BY FILLING OUT THE FOLLOWING REPORT CARD:**

Please grade the below trip components based on the following scale:

A = Excellent; B = Above Average; C = Average; D = Below Average; F = Failed to meet expectations

Group Name: HARDING MIDDLE SCHOOL Tour Escort on your bus: RICK
Destination: WASHINGTON DC * Your Name (optional): Mare Maxtime

<u>HOTEL</u>	<u>ATTRACTIONS</u>	<u>MEALS</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>PLANNING PROCESS</u> (Tour Coordinators Only)
Cleanliness: <u>A</u> Comfort: _____ Comments: _____	Informative: <u>A</u> Time Spent: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>Good at asking teachers about what to do, but guiding as well</u>	Quality: <u>A</u> Quantity: <u>A</u> Atmosphere: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>buck is crowded with 130 8th graders!!</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u> Informative: <u>A</u> Pleasant: <u>A</u> Comments: <u>Make sure all tour guides know details of stop...</u>	Professionalism: _____ Timeliness: _____ Comments: _____

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not? no gift shop / time etc.

Yes - Very well organized, easy to work with. Appreciated that Rick took care of things and took care of teachers!

What things would you change about the trip?

Just make sure that all tour guides know what is going on. Some kids went in gift shop while others told not to. with 8th graders this creates a scene. (It's not fair!)

How would you describe your experiences with R & E Tours, i.e. our service, organization, value, quality, etc. to a teacher at another school?

It was an awesome trip!! They take the "worries" out of the trip so teachers can focus on kids and gifts to enhance kids experience. They appreciate and take care of the teachers and make you feel ->

* Your comments may be used in future promotional material to other schools.

**R & E TOURS HOPES THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED YOUR TRIP WITH US AS MUCH AS WE ENJOYED HAVING YOU ALONG!
PLEASE HELP US MAKE FUTURE TRIPS EVEN BETTER BY FILLING OUT THE FOLLOWING REPORT CARD:**

Please grade the below trip components based on the following scale:

A = Excellent; B = Above Average; C = Average; D = Below Average; F = Failed to meet expectations

Group Name: ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL Tour Escort on your bus: RICK
Destination: WASHINGTON, D.C. * Your Name (optional): JACKIE AURAND

HOTEL	ATTRACTIONS	MEALS	STAFF	PLANNING PROCESS (Tour Coordinators Only)
Cleanliness: <u>A</u>	Informative: <u>A</u>	Quality: <u>A</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u>
Comfort: <u>B</u>	Time Spent: <u>A</u>	Quantity: <u>5</u>	Informative: <u>A</u>	Timeliness: <u>A</u>
Comments: <u>Stairs could only be accessed by going outside</u>	Comments:	Atmosphere:	Pleasant: <u>A</u>	Comments:
		Comments:	Comments:	

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not? Absolutely - it is stress free for me!

What things would you change about the trip? I would be open to having students do more walking (ie - Capitol to Supreme Court, or White House to Jefferson & FDR)

How would you describe your experiences with R & E Tours, i.e. our service, organization, value, quality, etc. to a teacher at another school? Safety is No. 1 - education is woven into the fun

* Your comments may be used in future promotional material to other schools.

PLEASE HELP US MAKE FUTURE TRIPS EVEN BETTER BY FILLING OUT THE FOLLOWING REPORT CARD:

Please grade the below trip components based on the following scale:

A = Excellent; B = Above Average; C = Average; D = Below Average; F = Failed to meet expectations

Group Name: St. Monica School Gr. 8 Tour Escort on your bus: Rick K.
Destination: Detroit (Ford Museum) * Your Name (optional): Donna Przybojewsk

HOTEL	ATTRACTIONS	MEALS	STAFF	PLANNING PROCESS (Tour Coordinators Only)
Cleanliness: <u>N/A</u>	Informative: <u>A</u>	Quality: <u>A</u>	Professionalism: <u>A++</u>	Professionalism: <u>+++</u>
Comfort: <u>N/A</u>	Time Spent: <u>6 hrs +</u>	Quantity: <u>A</u>	Informative: <u>+++</u>	Timeliness: <u>+++</u>
Comments: <u>N/A</u>	Comments: <u>Great + Educational</u>	Atmosphere: <u>A</u>	Pleasant: <u>+++</u>	Comments: <u>I appreciate</u>
		Comments: <u>Students were well fed</u>	Comments: <u>Rick is Awesome!</u>	

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not?

Absolutely! I wouldn't even consider another tour company.

What things would you change about the trip? Nothing!

How would you describe your experiences with R & E Tours, i.e. our service, organization, value, quality, etc. to a teacher at another school?

R+E tours provides the best educational travel experience for the money. The trips are well planned, fun, and educational.

* Your comments may be used in future promotional material to other schools.

**R & E TOURS HOPES THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED YOUR TRIP WITH US AS MUCH AS WE ENJOYED HAVING YOU ALONG!
PLEASE HELP US MAKE FUTURE TRIPS EVEN BETTER BY FILLING OUT THE FOLLOWING REPORT CARD:**

Please grade the below trip components based on the following scale:

A = Excellent; B = Above Average; C = Average; D = Below Average; F = Failed to meet expectations

Group Name: Ss. Mary and Joseph / St. Patrick Tour Escort on your bus: Rick

Destination: Chicago

* Your Name (optional): Jeannine Spalvier

HOTEL	ATTRACTIONS	MEALS	STAFF	PLANNING PROCESS (Tour Coordinators Only)
Cleanliness: <u>A</u>	Informative: <u>A</u>	Quality: <u>A</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u>
Comfort: <u>A</u>	Time Spent: <u>A</u>	Quantity: <u>A</u>	Informative: <u>A</u>	Timeliness: <u>A</u>
Comments: <u>Very comfortable. I like having all students on the same floor - Boys on one side, girls on the other.</u>	Comments: <u>We got to see so much!</u>	Comments: <u>It was great to have so many choices.</u>	Comments: <u>Rick is always so much fun. Dan was really nice.</u>	Comments: <u></u>

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not?

Absolutely! Everything is always so well organized, and runs so smoothly. I always feel confident about the plan + the directions to the kids.

What things would you change about the trip?

Nothing

How would you describe your experiences with R & E Tours, i.e. our service, organization, value, quality, etc. to a teacher at another school?

I've been on many trips with junior high students and the Tours with R+E have always been the best. There are so many ways it is better - the timing + amount of attractions and the overall entertainment is great. I really like how things are taken care of in the hotel so we don't have to worry.

**R & E TOURS HOPES THAT YOU HAVE ENJOYED YOUR TRIP WITH US AS MUCH AS WE ENJOYED HAVING YOU ALONG!
PLEASE HELP US MAKE FUTURE TRIPS EVEN BETTER BY FILLING OUT THE FOLLOWING REPORT CARD:**

Please grade the below trip components based on the following scale:

A = Excellent; B = Above Average; C = Average; D = Below Average; F = Failed to meet expectations

Group Name: Madison Middle School Tour Escort on your bus: Frank

Destination: Niagara Falls, Canada

* Your Name (optional): Art Zentgraf

HOTEL	ATTRACTIONS	MEALS	STAFF	PLANNING PROCESS (Tour Coordinators Only)
Cleanliness: <u></u>	Informative: <u>B</u>	Quality: <u>B</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u>	Professionalism: <u>A</u>
Comfort: <u></u>	Time Spent: <u>A</u>	Quantity: <u>A</u>	Informative: <u>A</u>	Timeliness: <u>A</u>
Comments: <u>N/A</u>	Comments: <u>May want to eliminate Fort George.</u>	Comments: <u></u>	Comments: <u></u>	Comments: <u></u>

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not?

YES, we appreciate your professionalism and quality attractions.

What things would you change about the trip?

Fort George to possibly Care of the Winds or Journey Behind the Falls (over)

How would you describe your experiences with R & E Tours, i.e. our service, organization, value, quality, etc. to a teacher at another school?

Excellent, Accomodating, and Very professional!
A great experience every year for our Kids.

* Your comments may be used in future promotional material to other schools.

BUSINESS

Educator merges entrepreneurship and teaching Assembling learning tours for schools keeps him running

By **MARY ELLEN CROWLEY**
STAFF WRITER

Schoolteachers traditionally are among the lowest-paid of professionals, but one local educator has found a way to combine his teaching experience and his entrepreneurial spirit to form a healthy business enterprise.

Rick Klimek, a sixth-grade teacher at St. Felicitas Parish School in Euclid, two years ago hatched the idea of offering educational tours to schools lacking the resources to put them together. Since he incorporated Recreational & Educational Tours in June 1983, he has taken groups from 16 schools to Philadelphia, Toronto and Washington D.C.

"Our purpose is to offer a trip to a school that would never have the staff or the time to put something together like this alone," Klimek said. "We do everything, and that's our purpose."

The trips cost \$118 to \$128 per student, depending on the city. The fee covers charter bus transportation, meals, lodging, sight-seeing and a T-shirt. The buses leave after school on Friday and return on Sunday night. Saturday nights include a pizza party and swimming fest for the students, who range from sixth-graders to seniors in high school.

Klimek said his marketing strategy right now is low-key.

"We contact schools and, with their approval, provide literature about our trips that the schools distribute for us," he said. "Everything else, including the tour staffing, is done through us."

"Right now, we're relying mostly on word of mouth for two reasons. One is that you can't ask for a more genuine source. And two, it allows you to build up gradually and to provide quality in what you do."

Klimek's business, however, has not exactly been building up gradually.

Before becoming a teacher, Klimek organized contests and trips for newspaper carriers in Lake County. He spent several years as a part-time bus driver for Trailways Lakefront Bus Line, where he says he learned the basics of the tourism industry.

"I started doing this because it combined everything I had learned," he said. "I had experience organizing trips. I knew kids through teaching and I had learned the touring business from driving, so I organized a company to do that. Now, I'm trying to offer that to as many schools as possible."

He said he enjoys seeing the reactions of students visiting cities for the first time.

"We're very commonly asked if we don't get bored, but with each group seeing the reaction of the students when they see the changing of the guard at the the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, or when they first see the Capitol, never allows me to get bored," he said.

Mickey Hubeny, a counselor at Willowick Middle School who serves as a chaperone and tour guide on most R&E trips, said she enjoys the weekends largely because her charges always behave well.

"I get so touched every time the kids see the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier --- they're good as gold. Not a pin drops. There has never been a time when they haven't shown perfect respect. We've seen other groups that don't know how to behave, but I've always been proud of the groups we've taken."

This respectful behavior does not come automatically, though. Klimek and his staff, all educators, carefully instruct the students

in the background and significance of each place to be visited. Parents are required to attend an orientation meeting where the activities of the trip are explained.

Although the trips are educational in nature, the students say they have a great time.

"It was a real blast," said Jeff Radachy, who will be a sophomore at Benedictine High School in the fall. "It was especially fun when we left a wake-up call for Rick for 4 a.m."

Mark Bouffard, who will be an eighth-grader at St. Felicitas in the fall, also said he enjoyed the trip.

"You learn a lot of stuff about the nation's history and about the presidents," he said. "You also get to do a lot of things with your friends. We went swimming and had a fun time in our room, and we found a new way to call from room to room. We did lots of things together; it was different from being with your parents."

Klimek has signed a contract with the city of Willowick to sponsor tours to Toronto and Washington for residents, and he said he plans to let parents take part in a tour to New York City next summer.

"Parents are always saying, 'When are we going to get to go? So next year, they'll be able to go,'" he said.

Klimek said he constantly looks for ways to improve and expand the business. While he has dealt with public schools in the city's east and west suburbs, he said he plans to concentrate on expanding within the nearly 175 schools of Cleveland's Catholic Diocese.

WORKPLACE

'Sit down in back of bus' is music to his ears

By Sigmund J. Milkolajczyk

To some people, a worst-case scenario for a nightmare would include being with a bus-load of rambunctious adolescents (is that redundant?) for an entire weekend.

Or how about taking them to another city to try to show the sights?

Rick Klimek does that practically every weekend in the spring and fall. He hasn't lost a student yet. And, he enjoys the experience.

Klimek, 30, a former diocesan teacher - he taught sixth grade for three years at St. Felicitas School - has parlayed his teaching experience, along with some keen entrepreneurial savvy, into a tour business that puts educational fun first.

He incorporated his company, Recreational & Educational Tours (R & E) in June, 1983, and has taken almost 50 tour groups on visits to Philadelphia, Toronto and Washington, D.C.

He learned the basics working part-time as a bus driver for Lakefront Trailways Bus Line, owned by a family from St. Bridget Parish. He has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Cleveland State University.

Acting as tour guides and chaperones with Klimek are Paul Deitrick, former diocesan CYO director who teaches eighth-grade classes in St. Pius X School, Bedford, and drives part-time with Trailways, and Mickey Hubeny, a guidance counselor for Willowick Middle School.

Some companies will make some arrangements for a trip, conduct the tour, but meet the students and chaperones in the destination city, Klimek said, and leave it up to the school to book the bus, staff it, and handle some of the other details. The popularity of R & E Tours has grown, he said, because "Paul, Mickey and I are all teachers, and have been in education. We're familiar with how to handle students, discipline them, and relate to them."

"We don't act as robots, spouting off useless tour information that we know students could care less about.

"Our philosophy is that we're providing something for a school, and the teachers there who don't necessarily have the experience, time, or know-how to go about doing a tour."

Klimek handles all the arrangements. He charts the bus (the bus company provides the driver), acts

as tour guide, enlists the help of assistants including about eight chaperones who are generally students' parents and teachers, and provides an overnight security person, who keeps an eye on the students once they are situated in a hotel.

Klimek said "the main purpose of our security is to make sure our students remain quiet, and don't disturb other guests...Our teaching experience, and the overnight security aspect are two of our company's best selling points to schools and parents."

The educational aspects of Klimek's service continually crop up in his conversation. "I never want to come across as just another businessman, or tour promoter," he said. "I want to be viewed as an educator presenting a different avenue to education, and I feel the same way about our pricing. "I want to make our tours as affordable as possible to schools."

The price of a trip to Washington or Philadelphia is \$135 per student - it's a little less to Toronto because of the exchange rate - and includes transportation, hotel accommodations, all meals, staff, admissions, insurance, and each student gets a souvenir blue windbreaker. The windbreaker helps group leaders keep track of the students.

Klimek prides himself on the time he spends with parents, teachers and students at a pre-departure meeting. "I caution students, for example, about souvenir stops during the trip, and tell them they shouldn't go crazy and buy everything in sight, but to use good judgment."

On the tours, Klimek and his assistant try to answer all the usual student questions about tourist traps. "And, if we don't know the answer, we'll make up a good one," he said with a chuckle.

Peak tour time for Klimek is late September through mid-November, then again mid-March through June. During the winter he substitute teaches, and also meets with schools interested in booking tours.

Most of his tours are Catholic elementary schools, though he has led tours for a number of public schools, as well as some diocesan high schools. Last fall he also began booking adult tours.

As the company has grown, so too have Klimek's and his assistants' stories of being "on the road." He began to laugh when he recalled one tour he had

led. "In the hotel, when you've got a room full of guys, there must be some kind of stigma attached to the first person to fall asleep. Well, in this case, after this particular pupil fell asleep, his buddies turned on all the lights, and got him up, telling him they had already received their wake up call. The young man showered, got dressed, and was in the hall ready for the tour when the security guard told him it was only 1 a.m.

Just as flight attendants on airlines give passengers a briefing on safety procedures, Klimek does the same, outlining some with tongue planted firmly in cheek. "We always go over emergency procedures on the bus," he said, "and I always end my talk by warning that if pressure suddenly drops in the bus, oxygen masks will drop. I then hold up a mask, like they do on planes. It's amazing how many kids - and parents - look up and try to figure out where the masks are hidden."

On one trip he recalled, as the bus was going through the mountains of Pennsylvania, a girl said she felt a little light-headed, Klimek pulled out his phony oxygen mask, which was not connected to anything, and told the student to breathe deeply. "After a couple minutes she told me she'd had enough oxygen," Klimek said. "Sure enough, she said she felt better."

Rewards from his job are plenty, he said. "When kids see the Capitol for the first time, you can see how impressed they really are. That's a great feeling; because it seems like so few things impress kids nowadays."

The unavoidable question of tedium - going on the same bus rides and seeing the same sights over and over - barged its way into the conversation like a run-away Greyhound, and Klimek admitted that the bus rides get quite tiring. "But we conduct games and contests to help us and the students pass the time. Actually, meeting new students all the time helps rejuvenate us. We've been taking some of the same classes year after year, so we've also been able to build up a rapport with them."

Klimek wants to keep a good control on his business. "I've already turned away schools when I felt I couldn't handle the volume of tours adequately," he said.

Travel Brings Classroom Lesson Alive for Middle School Students



Seton Catholic Middle School students stop for the traditional photo in front of the White House during their Washington, D.C., visit. Seton Middle School photo.

There's no greater feeling for an educator than seeing a student become excited about knowledge. As adults, we experience that feeling each year when we take our eighth graders on a four-day educational trip to Washington, D.C.

We have seen that field trips and extended trips such as the one to the national capital bring classroom lessons alive for our students and truly become part of a complete education in our evolving society. We live in a time when many educators are concerned primarily with meeting standards in the classroom and with safety—certainly important issues.

However, the true value of educational travel for us at Seton Catholic

Middle School in Menasha, Wisconsin, is demonstrated by two or three students each year for whom the Washington experience actually makes a difference in their lives. Coming from a small community of 25,000 people, many of our students aren't aware of all they can achieve as adults. If we are able to open their eyes to new possibilities as middle-school students, they will consider choices in high school and beyond that will open more doors for their future. For example, one student who went on the Washington trip will be the first in her family to graduate from high school. Seeing a metropolitan area such as Washington, D.C., with governmental operations and economic development, opened her eyes to new possibilities for her future.

Trips Can be Close to Home

While the Washington trip is the highlight of travel opportunities for our eighth graders, students also ex-

If we overlook educational travel opportunities for young people, we are not providing all the benefits our students can receive from education

Tom Kropidlowski

perience field trips within Wisconsin, where classroom lessons are reinforced and become more meaningful to students. Among these are visiting a synagogue in Milwaukee, where they learn about another religion; seeing a professionally produced play; and visiting a nuclear power plant to learn about conservation and energy use. Some of these trips raise topics that may be considered controversial, but they are ideas students will have to confront at some time. When those ideas are introduced on a school trip, we have a chance to discuss their merits and students are challenged to stretch their thinking.

Educational travel should be considered an essential part of the instructional experience. My belief is that if teachers can't relate what goes on in the classroom to the broader world outside of it, students are justified in questioning why their lessons are important. Knowing that my students will be visiting Washington allows me to direct my curriculum

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Additional Resources

Student & Youth Travel Association

The Student & Youth Travel Association (SYTA) offers a number of resources on its Web site: www.syta.org.

A "Trip Planning Guide" pamphlet outlines how to find the right tour operator and provides checklists on knowing what you're paying for, working with reputable travel providers and resources for evaluating providers.

"Travel Safety Tips: For Students, Youth and College Age Travelers" is a brochure geared to the needs and challenges faced by young people traveling in groups or on their own. A special section, Questions Parents Should Ask, advises parents on what to discuss with the travel provider before their students depart.

The SYTA Youth Foundation, Inc. provides "Road" scholarships five times a year for students who need financial assistance to participate in school trips. Teachers, principals and other adult youth leaders can

submit nominations. Complete information, specific deadlines and nomination forms can be found online at www.sytayouthfoundation.org.

The SYTA Web site also provides advice on avoiding travel problems, a list of professional travel planners and links to other travel resources. This information is available to students, teachers and parents and can be used by educators to teach travel skills and prepare youngsters for a trip. Information on any of these services also is available by phoning (800) 509-7982.

Educators Eligible for \$800,000 in Field Trip Funding

Target is furthering its support of teachers and classrooms with the fall launch of the Target Field Trip Grants Program. The initiative, designed to help teachers bring learning to life for students, will distribute 800 grants up to \$1,000 to education professionals throughout the United States.

Applications for the grants program are available online at www.Target.com/teachers through Nov. 1. Recipients will be notified

in January 2007. Criteria for the selection of grant recipients include: the description of the field trip and its objectives, benefits to students, tie-in to the school curriculum, number of students who will be involved and proposed use of funds. Funds may be used to cover transportation costs, entry fees, supplies and equipment and resource materials.

"With our nation's schools facing increasing budget shortages each year, field trips are often one of the first elements eliminated from the curriculum," said Laysha Ward, vice president of community relations for Target. "It is our hope that the Target Field Trip Grants Program will help fill this gap so that teachers may continue using the valuable experiential learning gained from field trips to enhance students' classroom studies."

The Target Field Trip Grants Program is open to educators, teachers, principals, para-professionals or classified staff employed by a K-12 public, private or charter school in the U.S. having a 501(c)(3) or 509(a)(1) tax-exempt status. Only one submission per applicant will be accepted. Field trips must take place during the 2007 calendar school year.

throughout the year to concepts they will see firsthand on the trip. We talk about the surrender of Cornwallis as an important historical event, but when they see the painting of his surrender in the rotunda of the Capitol, it brings history to life.

We also study the Holocaust as part of our social studies curriculum. While we can read about it and see videos in school, that doesn't compare to seeing firsthand what is in the Holocaust Museum. Students meet relatives of survivors at the museum and observe the impact it has on them. They are able to touch the gate of a concentration camp and experience it tactically. It's no longer just an idea; now it's an historical object. When you can see and touch history, that's ideal education. Our students always call visiting the Holocaust Museum one of the most moving experiences they have ever had.

Similarly, in our classroom we teach about the wars the United States has fought. However, the human impact of conflict is difficult to impart to students through lectures, textbooks or videos. Each year we have been able to have four of our students lay a

wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. To be part of this ceremony and see the solitude and respect people show is a powerful education for young people. It teaches them a sense of respect and appreciation for our freedoms and that "freedom is not free."

More Instructional than a Family Vacation

While some young people are able to visit such sites on family vacations, others are not and miss out on these valuable learning opportunities. When these trips are taken as part of the school program, they can be more instructional than a family vacation. When they are with their friends, students become more excited about learning. They discover a fact and immediately want to share it with each other. When they take that ownership of information, they are much more likely to remember it for years.

While it's important that students have the firsthand learning opportunities to reinforce what we teach in the classroom, they also are learning "life lessons" that are impossible

to understand in our small, white, upper middle-class community. The Washington trip exposes many of our students to diversity for the first time in their lives.

Before traveling to Washington, we review social rules and laws they will need to understand. For example, we tell them not to stare at or take photographs of homeless people. The vast majority of our students haven't seen people going through garbage in search of food. By the end of the trip they begin to understand diversity and develop a sense of tolerance. These are essential lessons they will need as adults.

At Seton Catholic School we know educational travel makes a complete education. It's something that all adolescents should experience. If concerns about budgets and safety are raising doubts in your mind as an educator, find ways to overcome these challenges. Organizations such as the Student & Youth Travel Association (see sidebar) provide scholarships and useful advice on planning safe trips. Use these resources, rather than shortchange students of this essential learning opportunity. ■

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