2014

2015

R & E Tours

Recreational & Educational Tours, Inc.

Company Brochure

Including:

Testimonials

Recommended Destinations

Sample Handouts

Sample Tour Materials

On the Journey To Learning
Since 1983

SYTA
The Voice of Student & Youth Travel

Positively Cleveland Member

DIRECTIONS BELOW

We Can Take You Anywhere

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R & E Tours, Inc.

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

R & E Music Tours

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

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

R&E tours 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 flexible with tour planning in between tour stops. The weather does not interfere 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 everything (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 12 - 15 of this Brochure!

R & E Music Tours

www.R-EMusicTours.com

Walt Disney World®

Disney Highlights

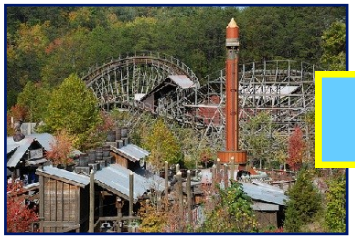
Perform!!!!	Magic Kingdom
Disney's Boardwalk	Downtown Disney
Hollywood Studios	ESPN Wide World of Sports
Disney Quest	Epcot Center
Blizzard Beach	Typhoon Lagoon

Nashville

Virginia Beach

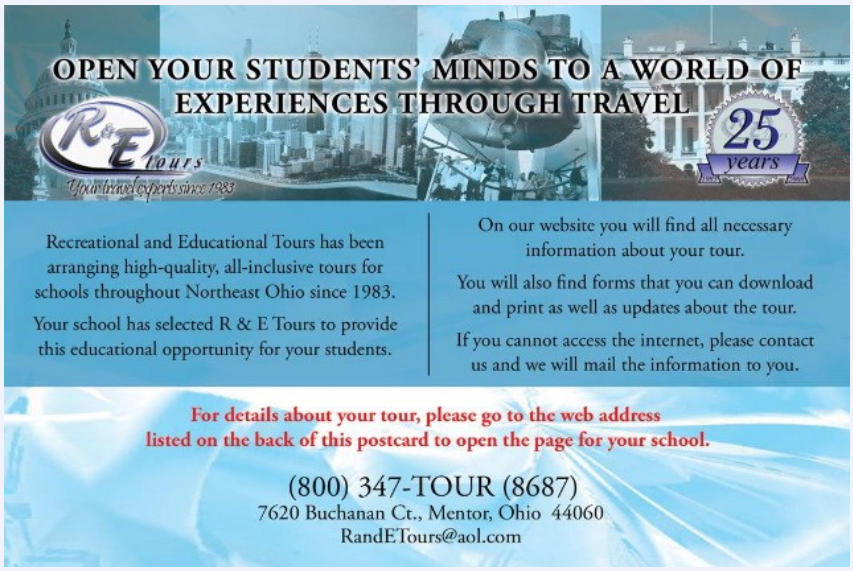
Myrtle Beach

Great Smoky Mtns.



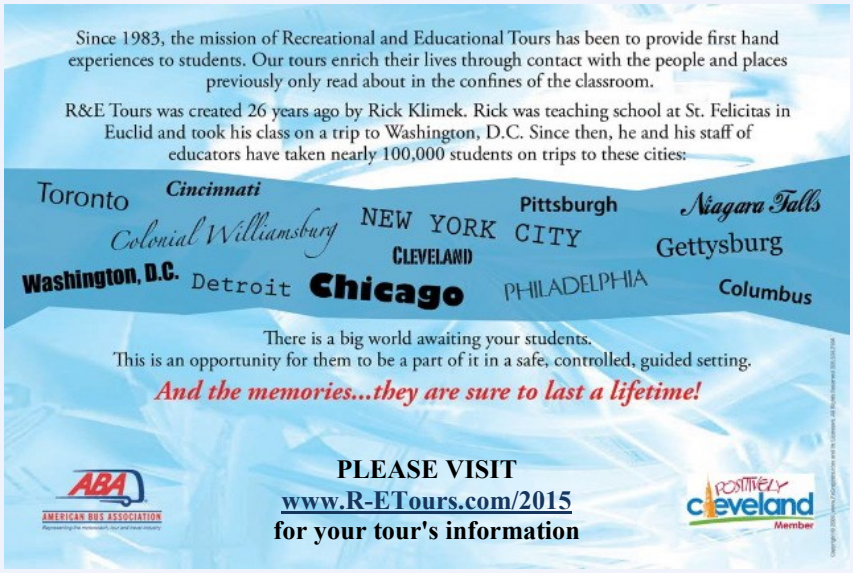
PROMOTIONAL POSTCARD

Front



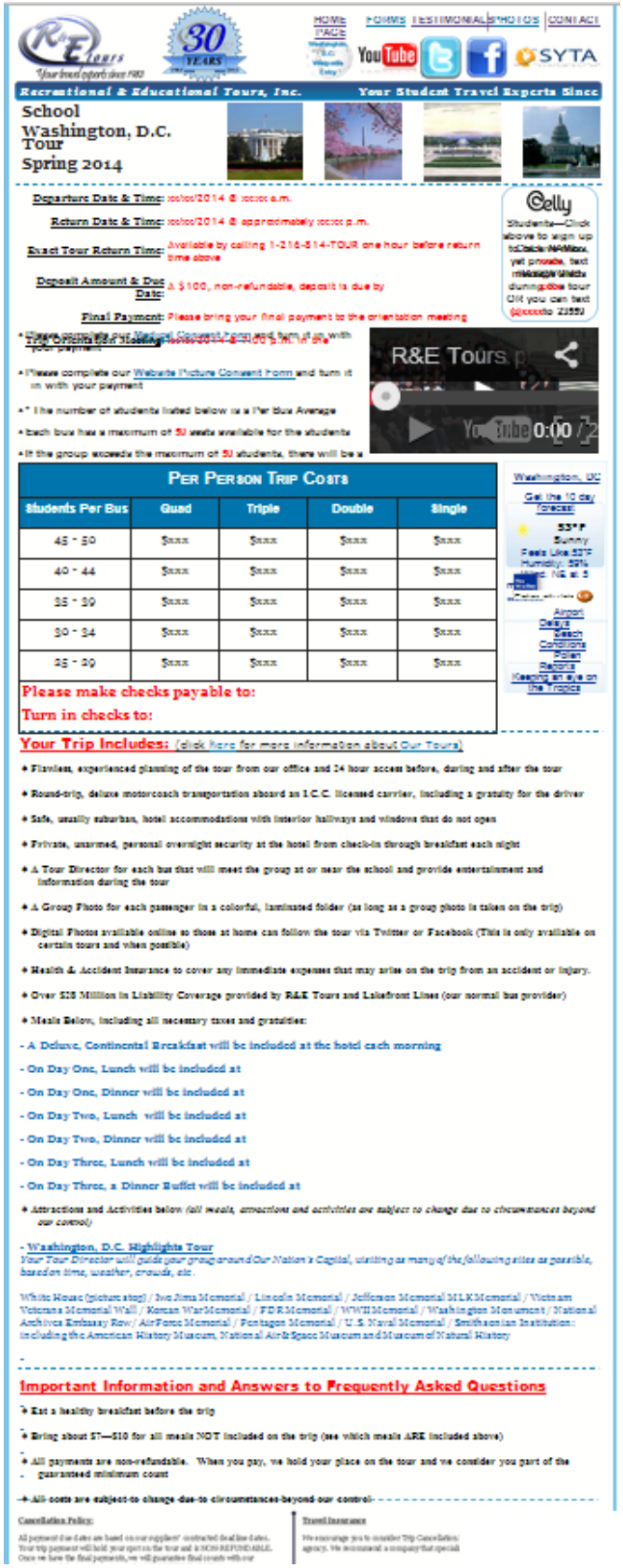
We are once again taking steps to make your life easier! This postcard can be used to announce your group's tour. On the back of the postcards, there is a web address listed that will direct parents and students to a webpage that is designed for your specific tour only! We will include all information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

Back



sample handouts

INFORMATIONAL WEBPAGE



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

School
Washington, D.C.
Tour
Spring 2014

Departure Date & Time: xx/xx/2014 @ xx:xx a.m.

Return Date & Time: xx/xx/2014 @ approximately xx:xx 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

- Please complete our Medical Consent form and turn it in with your payment
- Please complete our Website Picture Consent form and turn it in with your payment
- * The number of students listed below is a Per Bus Average
- Each bus has a maximum of 50 seats available for the students
- If the group exceeds the maximum of 50 students, there will be a

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

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 $25 Million in Liability Coverage provided by R&E Tours and Lakefront 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) / Iwo Jima Memorial / Lincoln Memorial / Jefferson Memorial MLK Memorial / Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall / Korean War Memorial / FDR 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 $7—$10 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:

Travel Insurance

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

←

sample handouts

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

MEETING BROCHURE

sample handouts - overnight tours

Front

FAQ

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!

R&E Tours
"Your travel experts since 1983"

Recreational & Educational Tours, Inc.

We can take you anywhere..

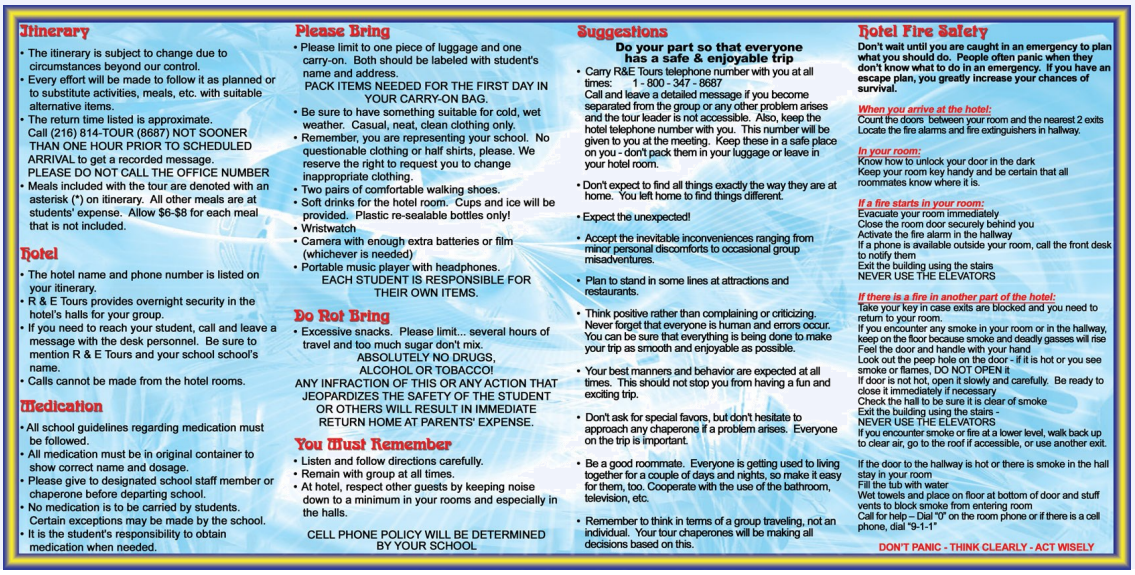
Washington, D.C.
Chicago
Philadelphia
Gettysburg
Colonial Williamsburg
New York City
Toronto
Niagara Falls
Columbus
Pittsburgh
Marietta
Put-in-Bay

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 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

GROUP AND ONLINE PHOTOS

sample handouts - overnight tours

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

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

R&E 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: A	Informative: A	Quality: A	Professionalism: A	Professionalism: A
Comfort: B	Time Spent: A	Quantity: A	Informative: A	Timeliness: A
Comments: very nice staff	Comments:	Atmosphere: A	Pleasant: A	Comments: Everyone at R+E is very polite + made planning easy!
		Comments:	Comments: great tour guides!!	

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not?
Absolutely! Great staff, very knowledgable

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 Knerr

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

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 10:00pm versus 11:00pm.

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 Tancuro

Destination: Pittsburgh *** Your Name (optional):**

HOTEL	ATTRACTIONS	MEALS	STAFF	PLANNING PROCESS (Tour Coordinators Only)
Cleanliness: /	Informative: A	Quality: A	Professionalism: A	Professionalism: A
Comfort: /	Time Spent: A	Quantity: A	Informative: A	Timeliness: A
Comments: /	Comments: The students really enjoyed the Ed-mine	Atmosphere: A	Pleasant: A	Comments: Thank you.
		Comments: Students said they had enough to eat. Would increase Science Center voucher a couple of dollars ($2)	Comments:	

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not?
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):** MARY MAXIMUS

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

Would you take another trip with R & E Tours? Why or why not?
Yes – Very well organized, easy to work with. Appreciated that Rick took care of things and took care of teachers! no gift shop / time etc

I felt that Rick and the understood that teach were importa and treated us as such

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 subs 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: A	Informative: A	Quality: A	Professionalism: A	Professionalism: A
Comfort: B	Time Spent: A	Quantity: S	Informative: A	Timeliness: A
Comments: Stairs could only be accessed by going outside	Comments:	Atmosphere:	Pleasant: A	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 Tidal Basin, 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 Przybojewski

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

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:

Thanks for everything

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 Spalvieri

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

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

** 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: 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: _____	Informative: B	Quality: B	Professionalism: A	Professionalism: A
Comfort: _____	Time Spent: A	Quantity: A	Informative: A	Timeliness: A
Comments: N/A	Comments: May want to eliminate Fort George.	Atmosphere: A Comments:	Pleasant: A Comments:	Comments:

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 Cave 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 transporation, meals, lodging, sightseeing 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 eigth-grader at St. Felicitas in the fall, also said he enjoyed the trip.

"You learn a lot of stuff about the nation's histroy 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 charters 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 though 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.

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