

Guidance for Mission Tour Guests

It's deeply inspiring to watch students catch a vision for ministry through music and serve each year. They, and the adults who come alongside them as sponsors, quickly come to realize that this is not a vacation, but intentional endeavor crafted to widen their spiritual view and serve the global church.

In general, if you choose to drop by at some point, it will be important to simply **observe, not add or subtract**. Below are some guidelines to help you do just that, supporting the goals and function of Mission Tour while prioritizing an equitable experience of the entire student group and the people we seek to serve.

Reserve space in advance for the Senior Banquet. Parents of seniors who wish to attend the Senior Banquet are welcome to do so as venue capacity allows. To secure your spot, please reserve it by emailing John Woods at jwoods@dawsonchurch.org no later than June 1. Because of the nature of the event, siblings who are not participating in the Mission Tour, as well as additional friends and family members, are not invited to join us. It's helpful if parents attending the banquet will be responsible for the cost of their meal.

Leave your student with their group. Mission Tour provides students with valuable opportunities for growth, learning, and engagement within our group. Meaningful conversations, questions, and sharing of God-moments often take place during meals and what might appear as unused free time. We encourage you to value these conversations and give priority to the relationships and experiences your child is having. Guests are not permitted to remove a student from the group, provide private travel for the student, or separate the student from the group experience.

Observe only public events. Parents are welcome to observe public events such as concerts in cathedrals or other open venues. However, please be aware that some events may be private, such as block parties or school visits. Sometimes, even churches would prefer to only have our group attend. We kindly ask you to respect these occasions. Our local partners set the guidelines for us.

Visit briefly. To ensure a focused and cohesive experience for all participants, we request that guests limit their visits during the Mission Tour. While we understand the desire to spend time with your child, it is crucial to prioritize the students' overall service and mission experience as well as the communities they are serving. Much like student camp or a similar event, the intensity of the experience is a part of its impact.

Lodge and travel separately. If you are staying in the area in which we are serving, we ask that you not book lodging at the same location as Chapel Choir. Doing so may create confusion for hotel staff and Mission Tour participants regarding responsibilities and expectations. This may also make it difficult for us to follow through on our commitment to our Child Protection Policy, which we take very seriously. Guests are responsible for making their own travel arrangements, and are not permitted to travel with the group.

Dine separately. While we encourage you to make the most of your visit, guests are not permitted to join group meals. This policy ensures that the group can function effectively and maintain a sense of unity. Guests are requested to make their own dining arrangements and not add additional, unplanned strain to our selected restaurants and vendors.

Save special privileges for home. Guests are not permitted to bring gifts for their student or a select group of students. It is important to maintain fairness and equity among all participants, as some do not have the means to make special trips to visit Mission Tour. Our sponsors have agreed to do that same, even for their own children.

Value the investment of the sponsors. Students who have non-family adults speaking faith into their lives are more likely to stick with that faith long-term. We celebrate the volunteers who fill this role on Mission Tour, because they have agreed to invest in all students with us, not just their own. Because parents of the participants on Mission Tour have granted permission, with the commitment of their child, to be under the supervision of Dawson staff and adults who have completed background checks, Children Protection training, and extensive trip-specific training, we limit the amount of non-participant interaction on Mission Tour.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can ensure a positive, equitable and enriching experience for all participants involved in the Mission Tour. We appreciate your understanding and support in creating an environment that prioritizes the students' growth, service, and the communities they have come to serve. Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to a successful Mission Tour!

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to reach out.

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