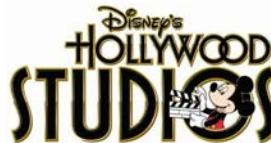


RIDGE POINT HIGH SCHOOL BAND & GUARD

WALT DISNEY WORLD

February 5-9, 2014



Preliminary Guidelines & General Information May 16, 2013

The Ridge Point High School Band & Guard have officially been invited to participate in a parade performance at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida! This opportunity gives instrumental marching groups a fun way to showcase their talents in front of an international audience – reinforcing the teamwork, discipline and artistic growth that they have been refining throughout the marching season – while representing their school and community.

There are many things that students and parents need to know about our trip and we hope that the details provided here answer many of your questions. **Participation in the Disney trip is optional and not a requirement to participate in the RPHS Band & Guard program.** Please review this document carefully – it outlines important guidelines, participation requirements, and specific trip details necessary to insure a fun, rewarding, and successful trip for everyone. We want to make sure that the RPHS Band & Guard's commitment to "Pride – Passion – Perseverance" is obvious at all times before, during and after the trip.

Information related to the trip will evolve as we continue to finalize plans. Ongoing trip information will be communicated through announcements, email to those registered, and the Band & Guest and Disney Trip websites. It is the student's and parent/guardian's responsibility to read and, when required, respond to all communications.

RPHS Band & Guard Website:
Disney Trip Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/ridgepointband/>
<http://rphsbanddisney.weebly.com>

TRIP PRICE & INCLUSIONS:

The estimated cost per student is \$1,200 and covers all expenses necessary to participate on the trip. We guarantee that the total cost will not exceed this amount. With a few focused fundraising events, planned specifically to offset the total cost of the trip, we believe that the final cost for everyone will be even less!! The trip package includes:

- Roundtrip airfare
- Ground transportation
- 4 nights hotel accommodations (quad occupancy for students; double occupancy for chaperones)
- 3-day Disney Park Hopper Pass – admission to Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom
- 1-day Universal Pass – admission to Islands of Adventure
- All meals – 4 breakfasts / 4 lunches / 5 dinners
- Trip T-shirt & String Bag

It does NOT include spending money for snacks, souvenirs, etc.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

The following schedule represents a tentative itinerary based on the details currently available to us. We have received confirmation from Disney that the RPHS Band & Guard will march in a regularly scheduled parade on Friday, February 7th – exact park and time to be confirmed by Disney in the coming weeks.

Wednesday – February 5, 2014

- Depart RPHS mid-day to Houston Hobby Airport
- Boxed meal on way to airport
- Southwest Airlines - Houston Hobby (HOU) to Orlando International (MCO)
- Magical Express - Orlando International to All Star Resort
- Hotel check-in – exact location TBD

Thursday – February 6, 2014

- “Brown Bag Breakfast” at hotel
- Morning/Early Afternoon – Animal Kingdom
- Lunch – Meal Ticket to be used in park
- Afternoon/Evening – Hollywood Studios
- Dinner – Meal Ticket to be used in park
- “Fantasmic!” fireworks and waterworks show

Friday – February 7, 2014

- “Brown Bag Breakfast” at hotel
- All Day – Magic Kingdom
- Lunch/Dinner – Meal tickets to be used in park
- “Wishes!” fireworks show

Saturday – February 8, 2014

- “Brown Bag Breakfast” at hotel
- All day – Universal Islands of Adventure
- Lunch/Dinner – “All-You-Can-Eat” Meal ticket to be used in park

Sunday – February 9, 2014

- “Brown Bag Breakfast” at hotel
- Morning/Early Afternoon – Epcot
- Lunch/Dinner – Meal tickets to be used in park
- Magical Express – All Star Resort to Orlando International
- Southwest Airlines – Orlando International to Houston Hobby

PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

The following are guidelines that must be met to be eligible to participate on the trip:

- Member of the 2013-2014 RPHS Band & Guard
- Current on all required RPHS Band & Guard fees
- Fulfill all practice and performance obligations for RPHS Band and Guard
- Academically eligible per UIL guidelines for the entire Fall 2013 semester
- Compliance with the FBISD Student Code of Conduct – ISS or greater is grounds for ineligibility
- Compliance with FBISD Extra-Curricular Activities Code of Conduct

The FBISD Student Code of Conduct and FBISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct will also be enforced throughout the trip. Any infraction will result in a student being sent home at the expense of the parent/legal guardian.

REGISTRATION - PAYMENT - CANCELLATION

Everyone participating on the trip is required to read and sign the PARTICIPATION CONTRACT, complete the TRIP REGISTRATION form to confirm your seat, and PAY for the deposit(s) according to scheduled. Parents must also sign the Participation Contract for RPHS Band & Guard Members.

We are offering three payment schedule options. The schedule has been timed so that we are able to cover the required deposits and final balance payments required for this trip. It is very important that we receive payments by the due date!!! Payments received beyond the scheduled due date risk seat cancellation.

Payment Option / Deadline / Amount			Details:	Cancellation Policy:
1 + Final	2 + Final	4 + Final		
June 1 \$1,000	June 1	June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirms your seat on the trip.After this date, space on the trip will be limited. Registering and paying your deposit on or before June 1st, and paying all remaining deposits on or before the scheduled due date, GUARANTEES your seat on the trip!!! Anyone joining the trip after this date will be confirmed on a space available basis.	Fully refundable – less credit card convenience fees
		July 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Due for anyone already confirmed on the trip.Anyone not yet confirmed, should submit the full \$500 due. Seat confirmation is on a space available basis.	Fully refundable – less credit card convenience fees
	August 15	August 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Due for anyone already confirmed on the trip.Anyone not yet confirmed, should submit the full \$750 due. Seat confirmation is on a space available basis.	Fully refundable – less credit card convenience fees
	\$500	September 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Due for anyone already confirmed on the trip.Anyone not yet confirmed, should submit the full \$1,000 due. Seat confirmation is on a space available basis	Fully refundable – less credit card convenience fees
October 1			FINAL DAY TO CANCEL WITHOUT PENALY!!!!	
November 15 \$200	November 15 \$200	November 15 \$200	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Due for everyone confirmed on the trip.Amount will be adjusted based on the final actual cost of the trip and will not exceed \$200.	Non-refundable.

Payments can be made by check - payable to Ridge Point Band Boosters – or credit card (processed through the RPBB Square account). Payments by check will receive the “cash discount” rate; **credit card payments will incur a convenience fee of \$1 per each \$25 (or increment thereof) charged.** For example, a \$250 deposit made by credit card will be charged an additional \$10 convenience fee.

The final day to cancel your participation in the trip is October 1st. **All cancellations must be confirmed in writing to Dr. Barnes (michael.barnes@fortbend.k12.tx.us) AND Christy Carroll (christy.carroll@entouch.net).** Cancellations made by the cut-off date will be fully refunded less any convenience fees incurred. Cancellations made for any reason – illness, participation ineligibility, unexpected personal obligation, etc. - after the cut-off date will be subject to the full trip cost, including the final payment due on November 15th.

HOW DO I PAY FOR THE TRIP?

We realize that the cost of this trip is not insubstantial. For that reason, the Boosters are planning fundraising opportunities specifically to off-set some of the Disney trip costs. Unfortunately, we won't know just how much this will affect the final cost until mid-November.

The cost of the trip is another reason that we are announcing the financial requirements before summer break. Over the summer months, students should be resourceful with their skills and abilities and turn those into hard-earned money! A few suggestions for students to earn trip money include babysitting, pet-sitting, yard work, an impromptu ensemble performance at a local business (with permission of course!), a self-organized small group car wash, etc. Be creative!

SCHOLARSHIPS

It is our goal to offer a limited number of scholarships to qualified students. The funding available and number of scholarships granted will be determined based on a variety of factors related to trip costs and fundraising efforts. Scholarship requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and eligible candidates will meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate financial need
- Have grades that meet UIL standards
- Commitment to continuing on in the band program

Additionally, scholarship recipients will be required to provide 10 hours of volunteer service to the Disney trip fundraising efforts. Priority will be given to Sophomore, Junior and Senior students; Freshman students will have the opportunity to participate on the trip during their Senior year and may be considered at that time.

All interested applicants should contact Dr. Barnes (michael.barnes@fortbend.k12.tx.us)

CHAPERONES

In accordance with FBISD recommended guidelines, we will have a minimum of 1 chaperone for every 10 students on the trip; this will include two FBISD representatives – Dr. Barnes plus a second band director or school administrator. Additional chaperones must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Be a parent/legal guardian of a student on the trip
- Cannot have any other child/student under their care and travelling with them
- Approved FBISD Criminal History Application

Within the group of chaperones, we would like to have a minimum of one medical professional, one photographer, and two people to drive the equipment truck (roundtrip from Houston to Orlando and back).

Chaperone responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, roll call at various designated times and locations through the trip, room checks, lights out/quiet enforcement, control the behavior of the group, remind students of meeting times/locations, facilitate emergency procedures according to the pre-determined plan of action, and ensure the general welfare and safety of all students on the trip.

The estimated guaranteed maximum trip cost for a chaperone is \$1,000 and includes everything in the student trip package. Chaperone hotel accommodations are double occupancy. Registration, payment and cancellation terms are the same as those outlined for students except that installments will be adjusted to reflect the chaperone cost.

For parents/legal guardians interested in chaperoning, as well as those interested in serving in the capacity of medical personal, photographer, or truck driver, please email Dr. Barnes (michael.barnes@fortbend.k12.tx.us).

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

For families wanting to take advantage of the great pricing negotiated for this trip, we are offering a la carte purchasing of hotel, meal vouchers and park tickets. Due to the logistics of airfare and ground transportation, we are not able to offer these as a la carte options. All items purchased must be used during the time period of this trip (per Disney guidelines) and cannot be used at a later date. A la carte pricing is as follows:

A la Carte Item:	Price:	Payment Terms:
Disney All Star Resort (Exact location TBD)	\$ 99.50/night	Paid-in-full by June 15 th
Disney World Meal Voucher (Includes entrée, side, beverage and dessert)	\$ 17.50/voucher	Paid-in-full by September 15 th
Disney World 3-day Park Hopper Ticket	\$ 168.50/ticket	Paid-in-full by September 15 th
Universal Islands of Adventure 1-day Ticket	Price to be released in July; expect \$65/ticket	Paid-in-full by September 15 th
Universal "All-You-Can-Eat Lunch & Dinner Voucher"	Price to be released in July; expect \$25/voucher	Paid-in-full by September 15 th

The final day to cancel an a la carte purchase is October 1st. **All cancellations must be confirmed in writing to Dr. Barnes (michael.barnes@fortbend.k12.tx.us) AND Christy Carroll (christy.carroll@entouch.net).** Cancellations made by the cut-off date will be fully refunded less any registration and convenience fees incurred. Cancellations made for any reason after the cut-off date will be subject to the full purchase cost.

HOW DO I SIGN UP & CONFIRM PARTICIPATION?

There are several things you need to do to confirm participation for the trip:

Students -

- 1) Read and sign the PARTICIPATION CONTRACT. Your parent/legal guardian must also sign this contract
- 2) Complete the TRIP REGISTRATION form to confirm your seat as a STUDENT PARTICIPANT
- 3) PAY the deposit

Chaperones -

- 1) Email Dr. Barnes to indicate your interest in serving as a chaperone
- 2) Upon receiving confirmation of chaperone duties, read and sign the PARTICIPATION CONTRACT
- 3) Complete the TRIP REGISTRATION form to confirm your seat as a CHAPERONE PARTICIPANT
- 4) PAY the deposit

Family Participants -

- 1) Read and sign the PARTICIPATION CONTRACT. Your parent/legal guardian must also sign this contract
- 2) Complete the TRIP REGISTRATION form to confirm your purchase as a FAMILY PARTICIPANT; indicate you're a la carte order selections
- 3) PAY the purchase charges

Required documentation and payments should be submitted to the secured lockbox in the RPHS Band Hall (not available during June/July) or by mail to Ridge Point Band Boosters, 9119 Highway 6, Suite 230, Box #131, Missouri City, TX 77459, ATTN: Disney Trip 2014.

Documents and payments are considered received as of the date they are submitted to the lockbox or the date of postmark.

FAQ

What exactly will my student do at Disney/Universal? First and foremost, they will march in a parade on February 7th!! Students will also enjoy the various theme parks – rides, show, attractions – under the indirect supervision of their assigned chaperone.

How much spending money will my student need? All necessary expenses are accounted for in the estimated trip cost. Students wanting to purchase snacks or souvenirs will need to bring additional money. The amount is up to each student and their parent/guardian. If you are concerned about sending cash, a prepaid credit card is a good option.

My student takes medicine/has a medical condition – will you be able to accommodate them? Yes, we will have at least one medical professional participating as a chaperone for the purpose of dispensing meds, taking care of students with medical needs and treating students in the event of illness during the trip.

Is my student responsible for transporting their own instrument and uniform to/from Orlando? At this time, we have budgeted for these items to be checked as luggage through the airline. However, we are also considering roundtrip truck rental to transport these items and better ensure their safety and arrival in Orlando. The cost for both options is about the same and therefore should not have a significant effect on the final trip cost. More specific details on this will be communicated in the future.

When will we know for certain that my student is eligible for the trip? Students are required to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this document. UIL eligibility requirements run through the end of the first semester; all other eligibility requirements run up to the day of departure. It is your responsibility to determine if your student is going to be able to continuously fulfill these requirements. Cancellations due to eligibility infractions after the cut-off date will not receive a refund.

I would like to chaperone trip. Can I bring my student's younger sibling to join in the fun? Chaperones are participating on this trip to ensure the appropriate behavior and safety of the RPHS Band & Guard Members. Therefore, chaperones are not allowed to have other children with them over the course of the trip as their attention needs to be fully devoted to the RPHS Band & Guard Members.

We have season passes to Disney/Universal. Can we get a credit for the ticket cost and use our passes instead? Disney requires every student performing in the parade to purchase a minimum 3-day park ticket. If we are able to negotiate "special clearance" from Disney to allow the use of annual passes, we will pass that cost savings along to you.

We have frequent flyer points. Can we use those for my student's flights? Unfortunately, no; Southwest requires everyone travelling with the group to be ticketed in the same manner. This also applies to chaperones.

Will there be additional information provided to students, parents, legal guardians, chaperones, families? Absolutely! The information contained here is to "get the ball rolling" on the trip. As we finalize all of the details – timing, location, cost, etc. – as well as clearly outline the rules and behavior expectations for the trip, more information will be communicated. We will also provide everyone with suggestions and advice for making the most of their time in the parks.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TRIP

For questions specific to trip plans, logistics, costs, etc., please contact Christy Carroll by phone (713.444.0725) or email (christy.carroll@entouch.net).

For all other questions, such as participation eligibility, chaperoning, and scholarships, please contact Dr. Barnes by email (michael.barnes@fortbend.k12.tx.us).