



## 2023 PLD Band Washington DC Trip Information Sheet

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Band Program is excited to announce that we are taking a special trip to Washington DC April 19-23, 2023. It's been a tradition of the band to take a special trip every four years and we are excited to make this opportunity available to our students.

In choosing a big trip, it has always been important that we have a band performance and that we have fun. This is a chance for band members to travel and perform with their friends. (For school purposes, this will be an official field trip meaning that students will be able to make up missed assignments and tests for the days school is missed.)

**WHAT:** PLD Marching Band Trip to Washington, DC

**WHEN:** April 19-23, 2023

**WHO:** To be eligible for this trip you must be enrolled in band for the 2022-2023 school year. Parents are able to go on the trip as chaperones, but will be required to pay the full cost of the trip. Scholarships will only be provided to band students who need and request financial assistance.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation will be provided by Wise Transportation of Nashville.

**HOTEL:** We will be staying at the [Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel](#) located at 900 S. Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204. The phone number is 703-521-1900.

**TRIP COST:** The full cost of the trip is \$1,015 per student based on quad hotel room occupancy. (The price for chaperones will be higher if a single, double, or triple occupancy room is chosen).

**INCLUDES:** This includes hotel, all meals, entrance fees, and transportation. It does not include extra spending or souvenir money.

**ACTIVITIES PLANNED:** We believe this will be a special experience of making memories for our band students! The trip will involve performing as a band as well as sightseeing in DC. We are working with Taylor Tours on this trip and they have a great deal of experience in organizing trips such as this for band programs. Highlights of the trip are likely to include:

- Mt. Vernon
- Illumination Tour of Memorials
- Holocaust Museum
- Arlington Cemetery
- National Archives
- Dinner Dance Cruise
- Capitol Building and White House
- Smithsonian Museums
- Performance at either the Marine Museum and/or Lincoln Memorial

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** The band boosters want to make this trip available for all band students regardless of ability to pay. We anticipate that some band families will be able to pay the full cost of the trip while some families may need a **partial or full scholarship**. **Each band student will be required to complete a commitment form**, letting us know if you are able to pay or if you need to request a partial or full scholarship. You can find the [form here](#). It must be returned by **Friday, September 16**.

**FUNDRAISING:** This trip involves significant expenses. We'll need families who can contribute to the cost of the trip to do so and we'll also need to do some special fundraising to cover the band's overhead costs related to the trip. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help fundraise to make this trip possible for all our band students.

**CHAPERONES:** We will need a set of chaperones for the trip. Chaperones will be chosen closer to the trip based on the needs of the band and previous chaperone experience. Chaperones are required to cover the cost of the trip. Note that chaperone costs may be a bit higher given the type of room chosen (the base cost is based upon 4 people per room).

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** Families can pay in full or make partial payments according to the schedule and methods below. Because we are working with a tour company, it is imperative that all deadlines related to the trip are met. The band will be making a deposit and confirming details with the tour company. We can only do that if band families meet the deadlines for providing us information and payments.

*Deadlines:*

- Complete the [DC Trip Commitment Form](#) & pay the \$75 non-refundable deposit: September 16. **Form & deposit MUST BE RETURNED by September 16 in order to secure your spot on the trip.**
- Payment 1: October 31
- Payment 2: November 30
- Payment 3: January 15
- Payment 4: February 15

*Payment Methods:*

- **Venmo:** @pldband (last 4 digits of the phone # are 3925). (Note: there are no fees on Venmo payments).
- **Band Website:** The option to pay via the website will be available by August 5th. Check the website for payment options at that date. (Note: The band pays a fee on payments made through the website.)
- **Paypal:** @pldband (Paul Laurence Dunbar Band Parents' Association) (Note: The band pays a fee on payments made through Paypal).
- **Red Box:** place a check in the red box in the band room.
- **Mail:** mail a check to PLD Band, PO Box 910068, Lexington, KY 40591
- **In Person:** Email the treasurer at [pld.band.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:pld.band.treasurer@gmail.com) to make arrangements to pay in person.

*\*\* For any payment method, please include the student's name and "DC trip" and whether this is a partial or full payment.*

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** based on the tour company's cancellation policy

- The \$75 deposit is non-refundable.
- If you cancel 46 days or more prior to departure (before March 5), you can receive a full refund minus the \$75 deposit.
- If you cancel within 45 days of departure (on or after March 5), no refund is possible. This is because the band will have already paid the full expense and cannot be refunded by the tour company. It is your responsibility to find a replacement if possible.
- Tour company cancellation: When COVID hit, Taylor Tours did a good job of processing refunds for canceled trips and will do so in the event of another COVID-type cancellation. Furthermore, parents can purchase trip insurance if desired by going [to this website](#).

**BAND PARENT MEETINGS:** Band Parent Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the band room. We'll provide regular trip updates. Join us! There will also be a band trip meeting to cover details and review expectations a few weeks prior to departure.

**QUESTIONS:** If you have general questions about the trip, please reach out to the trip coordinator, Adrienne Hatton, at [pld.band.travelcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:pld.band.travelcoordinator@gmail.com). If you have questions about the trip cost, payment schedule, or scholarships, please contact our treasurer, Heather Mahoney, at [pld.band.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:pld.band.treasurer@gmail.com).