



REGISTRATION DETAILS:

Students wishing to enroll in the American Heritage Tour Program must attend a registration meeting with their parent or guardian and must bring a completed registration form with a nonrefundable deposit. Meeting dates and locations are on the registration form.

Tour payments are made monthly or bimonthly throughout the program. Tuition balances must be paid one month prior to tour departure. Tuition includes all expenses of the program and tour. Students are encouraged to earn a portion of their fee as part of the overall program since they benefit from the pride of knowing they have contributed to the cost of the trip. Therefore we ask parents not only to provide some of the funds, but also to support their children's efforts to earn a portion of the fees. Students are expected to bring their own spending money for souvenirs.

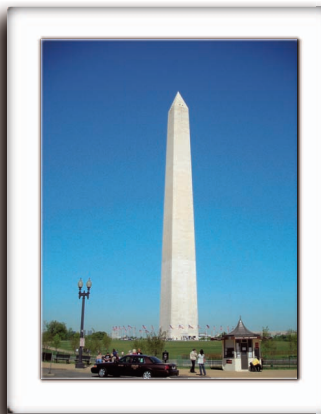
Families should not be discouraged from registering due to lack of funds. Please call the Community Programs Registrar for financial assistance guidelines.

Our Mission

To develop positive values that enrich the spirit, mind, and body by providing quality programming for all, with an emphasis on youth, in the Cheshire YMCA service area.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATIONS:

The tour covers 1500 miles over six days and five nights. Groups travel by chartered coaches and YMCA vans. Complete agendas and details for emergencies are provided to all parents. Accommodations are carefully selected, quality motels. Continental breakfasts are provided by the motels, make-your-own lunches and dinners are eaten in restaurants or food courts.



ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Historic Philadelphia
- ★ Gettysburg Battlefield Tour
- ★ Washington, D.C.
 - ★ Two Night Tours
 - ★ NH Senators & Representatives
 - ★ Monuments
 - ★ Arlington National Cemetery
 - ★ Smithsonian Museums
 - ★ Capitol Hill & White House
- ★ Evening Activities



Cheshire YMCA

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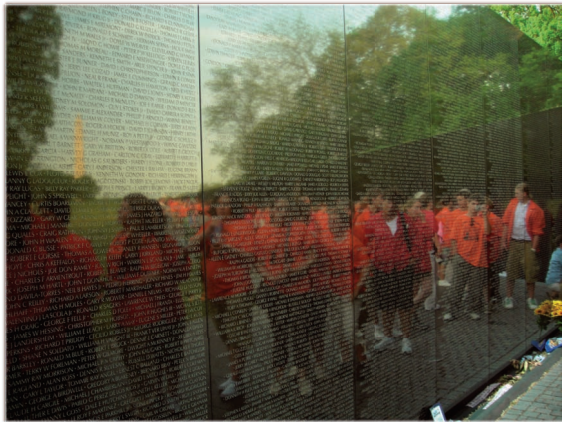


OVERVIEW:

For more than 55 years, the American Heritage Tour Program (AHT) has had an impact on the lives of thousands of young people in the Monadnock Region. Our single-van tour in 1974 has become a multi-bus travel-camping experience for as many as 200 people. Each program includes students from area middle schools and offers eighth-graders the opportunity to interact with other students in a fun learning environment.

The tour operates with school board approval on school time. Teachers are excused from classroom responsibilities to provide leadership and educational support. To avoid crowd lines, and family vacation times, we do not travel during traditional vacation weeks.

The students who participate come back both academically and personally enriched.



Our program begins seven to ten months prior to our dates. Monthly meetings at local schools help students learn responsibility and group work concepts while they learn American history. Students join "mixed school" study groups in which they complete a variety of activities, including:

- getting to know one another and becoming a working "family unit"
- planning and implementing a World Service Project (proceeds benefit international causes supported by the Cheshire YMCA)
- preparing for a short presentation on a topic relating to the tour

OUR OBJECTIVES ARE

- ★ to have fun, fellowship, and adventure
- ★ to foster maturity and teach responsibility
- ★ to instill work ethic principles and goal setting
- ★ to provide opportunities for individual growth and leadership development
- ★ to encourage teamwork and group support
- ★ to teach major concepts in American History in a hands-on fashion
- ★ to nurture the creation of friendships and lifelong memories

LEADERSHIP:

The American Heritage Tour is privileged to have dedicated program staff who possess a high degree of historical knowledge, travel experience, and devotion to the development of area youth. All volunteer their time, energy, and teaching skills for the success of the program. Our staff has a return rate of over 50% and includes some volunteers with more than twenty years of program participation.

Each study group is led by an adult. Group leaders may be parents of students involved in the current program, area teachers, or adults whose children traveled in past years and who now want to help other children enjoy the AHT experience.



Each group has an assigned bus that is supervised by a bus coordinator. Bus coordinators act as assistant tour directors and have proven leadership skills in group work, problem solving, and communication.

The AHT tour director is a program director of the Cheshire YMCA. The tour director administers the program, runs all monthly meetings, and travels with all tours.



An important aspect of our program is the development and implementation of our code of conduct. All participants are expected to act as positive, contributing members of the tour community. Standards are recognized through contracts developed by members of each tour. Individuals within the group strive to uphold the goals throughout the process. Important components of the contract, or "House Rules," are acceptance of responsibility, respect for one another, 100% effort and participation, and a commitment to program goals. All participants are required to follow a dress code while traveling, and to do daily chores which contribute to the success of the trip.