



PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE FORM CAREFULLY.

Our fourth grade field trip to Austin is fast approaching. This note is an attempt to answer many of the questions you may have about our trip. As you may know, our trip will be on Tuesday, April 23rd. **Please send the completed permission form by April 12th. Please keep all other portions of this packet for future reference.**

Parents Who Will Be Joining Us:

Parents attending the field trip must notify me by April 18th. This is due to security rules at the capitol building. I am required to give an exact count on that date. Parents may still attend if they decide to go after the 18th, but I can not guarantee you will be allowed to tour with our group. We will be touring the Capitol Building, Visitors Center, and Bob Bullock Museum. The Bob Bullock Museum requires you to buy tickets either online or at the door. The school will be paying for your child's ticket. You need only purchase an adult ticket for yourself. I highly recommend you purchase the ticket online as soon as possible. The Bullock often sells out well in advance. If you wait to buy tickets at the door, you may not get a seat during our show. To purchase tickets online, go to <https://17235.blackbaudhosting.com/17235/page.aspx?pid=196&tab=0> choose tickets for The Star of Destiny, April 23rd, at 1:00 p.m. You must bring your printed receipt that day to receive your chaperone ticket. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults. There is a \$2.00 processing fee making the total chaperone ticket \$8.00 when you purchase it online.

Parents should keep in mind that the teacher is ultimately responsible for the children on the trip. Please make sure that you and your child do not leave the group without talking to the teacher first. Students need to walk in line with their class, not with parents. **Important:** We walk about a mile that day and there are many stairs in each building. Parents should wear good walking shoes. Please consult your child's schedule and the attached map. Parents who would like their child to ride home with them need to sign the student out with the teacher before doing so. Also, only fourth grade students, teachers, and guardians are allowed to be with our group. Please do not bring other children. All bags are subject to search in all buildings we enter. Food, gum and beverages are not allowed. Every bag will be searched. **Every parent must show a driver's license or state issued photo ID.** They will ask you to silence your cell phones. If your child is not riding home with you, you might want to bring a packed lunch for yourself on the ride home. If you try to stop and get food on the way home, it is likely that you will be late to pick up your child.

Departure Time:

We will be leaving school at 7:45 on the morning of the trip. It is very important that you have your child at school **no later than 7:30** so that we will have time to load the buses. There will not be time for anyone to eat breakfast in the cafeteria. If your child misses the bus, they will not be allowed to tour with our group. Parents who are going must provide their own transportation. The drop off door by the gym will be open at 7:20 for fourth grade students only. Students should not go to the gym or cafeteria at this time. They should head directly to the hallway by Mrs. room and sit in their assigned spot until departure.

Arriving Home:

We estimate our return time to be around 4:00. However, traffic is unpredictable. We could be earlier or later. We will send updates via our fourth grade Remind account. All children must be picked up at the cafeteria door (early morning drop off area). Please make sure that you are at the school by 3:55 to await our arrival. Please park in the parking lot and walk to the door for pick up. Don't block or park in the morning drop off lane. Once we return, please

make sure you come get your child from your child's homeroom teacher. You must make contact with the teacher before your child can be released. If the person listed on the permission form is unable to pick your child up that day, please send a note with the person who will pick them up. There will be no buses available to take anyone home. Every parent must make arrangements for pick up. If you are unable to pick your child up at the 4:15 time, your child may stay with after school care (for a fee) or ACE if they are in the ACE program.

Food:

Your child will also need to bring a lunch and a snack (no gum please). We will ask students to refrain from drinking too much on the way since there will be only one bathroom stop until we arrive in Austin. You might want to send more than one drink with them so that they can have a drink on the way home. Please send drinks with a lid. If possible, we recommend that your child bring a small personal cooler or insulated lunch box with their food and drinks in it so they won't get too hot on the bus. Since we will be eating lunch on the bus, students riding home with parents after the trip do not have to bring a lunch, but they should bring a snack and drink for the bus on the way to Austin.

Health Issues:

If your child has any food allergies or gets carsick often, please let the homeroom teacher know as soon as possible. Also, please let us know if your child needs to carry an EpiPen that day due to an allergy to bees/wasps or needs to carry an inhaler or special medication. We will take bathroom breaks as often as possible, but be aware that we will not be able to take breaks as often as at school. If this poses an issue for your child, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. Also, let the teacher know if your child is frequently car sick. If your child is feeling unwell the morning of the trip, please do not send them to school. If they have a fever or are throwing up, they should not go on the field trip.

Clothes:

We will be doing a lot of walking so comfortable tennis shoes are a must. Please do not allow your child to wear flip-flops or sandals. Hats and sunglasses are not allowed in the buildings we will attend, so please leave those at home. We also recommend that your child wear sunscreen. Please watch the weather and make sure children are dressed appropriately for the day. If it looks like rain, please send an umbrella or poncho for your child. All clothing must meet school dress code.

Belongings from home:

It is a long ride to Austin. Your child may want to bring a small pillow if they like to sleep on a long trip. Inexpensive hand-held games, books, etc. are allowed. However, please understand that all of our belongings must be left on the bus due to security measures (students are not allowed to bring any bags inside the buildings). Students are not allowed to hand items to parents as they leave the bus. We don't recommend sending your child with anything expensive or that would be difficult to replace. We are not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Cameras are not allowed in the Visitors Center or the museum. Therefore, please do not allow your child to bring them. Parents are welcome to bring cameras to both places, but please realize that only the capitol building itself will allow you to take pictures inside. Children do not need to bring any money on this trip. We will not have time for the gift shop. Children are not allowed to bring cell phones on the bus due to school policy. **If you plan to let your child ride home with you, please plan on waiting for the bus to pick us up at the museum to retrieve belongings before you leave.**

Parking:

Attached is a map of the capitol area. You should try to arrive in Austin before the bus does to find a place to park. Some of the parking places still use parking meters so you might bring change. Others will take your credit card. You can also park in the Visitors Center parking garage. Parking is currently free for the first two hours with a dollar charge for each additional half hour (\$12 maximum). Parking is not guaranteed at the garage. You can also rent a parking meter for \$15 online if you want guaranteed parking. You can view more information about parking and an interactive maps at <http://www.tspb.texas.gov/plan/parking/parking.html> There is also a parking garage at the Bullock. The maximum charge for the day there is \$10.