

2012 Pearce Orchestra Spring Trip

Basic Information

Location: San Antonio, Texas

Purpose of Travel: Competition

Cost: \$350 per student

Dates: March 29-April 1, 2012

Informational Meeting: March 20, 2012,

7:00pm in the orchestra room

Mode of Travel: District-approved charter bus
(Coach America)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is the purpose of the trip?

A: The primary purpose of the trip is to compete in the Alamo Showcase Music Festival. The secondary purpose (although students consider it primary) is to have fun as a group and create a necessary bonding experience needed in performing ensembles.

Q: Other than the performance, what will students be doing?

A: This year's activities include a trip to Six Flags Fiesta Texas, SeaWorld, Rivercenter Mall, San Antonio Riverwalk and free time to swim and socialize in the hotel. The tentative itinerary is available anytime upon request; the official itinerary will be available in March.

Q: Who attends the trip?

A: The spring trip is for all members of the Pearce Orchestra, grades 9-12. Orchestra directors, a school administrator and at least one parent chaperone per ten students will also attend to insure the safety of all those involved. **Please let a director know if you are interested in attending.**

Q: Why is it important that my child participate?

A: The purpose of the trip is so the orchestra can compete and we need every student to be successful. Perhaps more importantly, the spring trip provides an important bonding experience for our students and helps to create the familial atmosphere of the orchestra; it is one of many events that makes high school orchestra memorable.

Q: What does the cost of the trip include?

A: The trip cost includes entry to all of our activities, breakfast, lodging and transportation. Students will need money for lunch and dinner and may also bring optional money for souvenirs and shopping. A suggested amount will be provided at the informational meeting.

Q: How do I pay for the trip and what are the deadlines?

A: The total cost of the trip is actually \$450 but the PAOC has subsidized the amount—your cost is only \$350. A deposit of \$50 is due at the beginning of the year. Installments of \$75 are subsequently due in November, December, January and February.

Q: What if I'm not sure I can pay for it?

A: **ALL** amounts may be fundraised by students (highly encouraged) although parents/student who do

not wish to participate in fundraising may pay the cost directly. In addition, PAOC will offer ten (10) half-scholarships to qualified students. Applications will be available in December.

Q: What does my child need to bring on the trip?

A: A full packing list will be provided at the parent meeting.

Q: What about my child's absence from school during the trip?

A: The one-day absence from school is coded as a "school-related field trip" and does not count towards exemptions etc; all work may be made up for full credit. Most students are able to complete the majority of their missed work on the trip. In addition, band, choir, and orchestra spring trips are on the same dates this year so most teachers are well aware that half their classes will be missing and will plan accordingly.

Q: Where do they stay/what are the sleeping arrangements?

A: Students stay in a hotel with evening security. Boys and girls are housed in same-sex rooms of four and students pick their own roommates. In addition, boys and girls rooms are located on separate floors; students of the opposite sex may only socialize in common areas outside their rooms.

Q: How are students kept safe overnight?

A: Chaperones and directors will check each room every night at curfew and students may not leave until the following morning. Doors are "sealed" with masking tape and chaperones make periodic checks of the hallways throughout the evening.

Q: What is done in case of illness or accident?

A: All students must have a valid medical release and trip release form on file to attend. In case of accident or illness, we would seek appropriate medical attention and contact you if necessary.

Q: How will behavior problems/rule violations be addressed during the trip?

A: In order to insure student safety, the behavior of students while on the trip is taken very seriously by the directors and the administration. A school administrator will be in attendance to deal with any major infractions and in extreme cases students may be sent home early.

Q: What do students do that are not on the trip?

A: Any student who does not attend the trip will attend their regularly scheduled classes and will have a substitute during their orchestra period.