Discovering Gettysburg’s Leadership Legacy

August 17-22, 2017
$500.00

Included in price: Ascent group reading and gift; meals, lodging and transportation for duration of trip.

Trip Overview
Activity: Touring & Leadership Development

Participants will develop new friendships while examining leadership through the context of the town, the Battle, and the College. The experience includes museums, films, a tour of the battlefield, interactions with historians and local community members, a trip to Washington D.C. and much more. Through this broad exploration of Gettysburg’s past and present, students will learn more about the legacy of their new “home” and alma mater.

Founded in 1786, Gettysburg, PA is most widely known as the location of one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War and for President Abraham Lincoln’s world-renowned Address. Named after Samuel Gettys, an early settler and tavern owner, the home of our College and the county seat of Adams County welcomes more than a million visitors each year. Gettysburg’s past and its connection to the 16th President offers enduring lessons in leadership that can help students explore the values, knowledge, and skills necessary for recognizing and developing their leadership potential for today and the future.

General Schedule:

Wednesday, August 16
- Move into your residence hall (no planned Ascent activities)

Thursday, August 17
- Registration 10 a.m. in the CUB Ballroom
- Family welcome luncheon from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Farewell to families following lunch
- Break out into individual trips for the afternoon
- Dinner together as a full Ascent group

Friday-Saturday, August 18-19
- Get to know the group and ourselves as we explore Gettysburg’s campus, town, battlefield, museums, visitor center

Sunday-Monday, August 20-21
- Leave for Washington, D.C.; stay overnight at a hotel in the city
- Enjoy, discuss, and reflect on museums, public exhibits, and historical sights
- Take a beautiful urban hike on the way back to campus

Tuesday, August 22
- Final day and wrap up on campus
- Celebratory BBQ with all pre-orientation groups on campus

Wednesday, August 23
- Gettysburg College First Year Orientation begins
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Group Size: The trip consists of two student staff members from the Office of Experiential Education, and 6-8 first-year participants.

Accommodations: You will move into your residence hall on Wednesday, and can either spend the night in your room or with your parents. You will sleep in your new residence hall on Thursday after your family leaves campus. You will spend Friday and Saturday nights together as a group in the common room of Huber Hall, Sunday night in a Washington, D.C. hotel, and return to campus on Monday night.

Meals: Before trips depart, all participants will enjoy a family reception luncheon on Thursday, a group dinner on Thursday night, and breakfast in Gettysburg College’s dining hall Friday morning. Meals for the duration of the trip will be a combination of group prepared meals and eating at local restaurants. Once we return there will be a celebration barbecue on campus for all Ascent participants.

Weather/Clothing: The weather can vary during this time of year but expect it to be mostly hot. Bring comfortable walking shoes, a water bottle, small backpack and a rain jacket.

Physical Preparations: Be prepared to walk a few miles each day.

Communication & Emergencies: The staff will carry a cell phone at all times in the event of an emergency. All groups traveling have completed emergency contact forms and know all necessary emergency response information should the need arise. For participants, although we permit students to carry personal cell phones, most choose to leave technology turned off or behind to more fully immerse themselves in the experience.

Health and Medical & Release of Liability: Each participant is asked to fill out a Health and Medical form for this trip. We request that you are truthful with your medical information and speak with your staff facilitator about any concerns or pre-existing conditions. In addition, we want to inform you that you will be asked to sign our indemnity form, and that you are aware that all Gettysburg College policies and procedures apply to this trip.

Medical Kit and Medicine: It is our top priority to mitigate risk on these experiences, but we need your assistance to inform us about your background so we can properly prepare together. While in the field, we carry basic medical equipment. We ask that you have with you your prescription medicine that you need on a daily/weekly basis, and that you transport it in its original container/bottle with your name and dosage. It is your responsibility to manage your own medication. For those with strong allergies that require medication, it is very important that you bring extra epinephrine or necessary medication in the event that yours becomes lost or broken.