Trip Overview

Activity: Touring, Leadership development

Offered by the Garthwait Leadership Center (GLC), participants of this trip will study the history of the town, the Battle, and the College through visiting libraries and museums, watching film, touring the battlefield, interacting with historians and local community members, and much more. The group will participate in several individual and team-based development exercises that examine leadership through the context of Gettysburg’s history. Through this broad exploration of Gettysburg’s past and present, students will be able to learn more about the legacy of their home and their alma mater. Students will stay primarily in the residence halls but will also spend a night in Washington, D.C.

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 speech. 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 19**
- Move into your residence hall (no planned Ascent activities)

**Thursday, August 20**
- Ascent registration 9 am
- Family welcome luncheon from 11:00-12:30
- Farewell to families following lunch
- Workshops on campus and group Ascent dinner

**Friday, August 21**
- Breakfast in Gettysburg’s dining hall
- Explore the town, Visitor’s Center & Museum, Cemetery, & Battlefield
- Meet with local community leaders

**Saturday, August 22**
- Explore the College’s history in special collections
- Tour the campus
- Meet with College historians

**Sunday, August 23**
- Leave for Washington, D.C. to visit Ford’s Theatre, the Lincoln Memorial, and other historical sites
- Stay in a hotel in the city

**Monday, August 24**
- Explore Washington, D.C.
- Return to campus in the evening

**Tuesday, August 25**
- Wrap up discussions on campus
- Ascent celebration BBQ

**Wednesday, August 26**
- Gettysburg College First Year orientation begins
Group Size: The trip consists of two student staff members from the Garthwait Leadership Center 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 in the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, Sunday night in a Washington, D.C. hotel, and on Monday night you will stay in your residence hall.

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 in local restaurants. Once we return there will be a celebration barbecue on campus for all Ascent participants.

Weather/Clothing: The weather can be variable during this time of year but mostly hot. Bring comfortable walking shoes and a rain jacket.

Physical Preparations: None.

Communication & Emergencies: The staff will carry a cell phone at all times in the event of an emergency. All groups enter the field having completed emergency contact forms and knowing all necessary 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.