



October 26, 2009

Dear Parents,

Your daughter has expressed an interest in going on the Minimester trip, "Road Rules Arizona". We are sending this letter to you with some important information to help with the decision to send your daughter on this adventure with us. The objective of this trip is to give the girls a chance to experience many new things, including but not limited to; traveling and living in close quarters with a group, meeting new people, observing the different cultures found in the U.S., exposure to the varied geographical features of the U.S. specifically the state of Arizona.

The girls will be expected to contribute to the daily chores of their RV; this will include cleaning, cooking, navigating, and posting to the trip blog. We will maintain a blog for those at home to keep up with our travels and to comment on the many pictures and highlights as we ride the roads. The students on the trip will be expected to read a book related to our adventures before and during the trip. They will also keep a journal with daily postings that will be turned in at the end of the trip as part of their grade.

We are going to fly from Richmond, Virginia, on Feb, 22nd to Las Vegas, Nevada. Upon arrival in Las Vegas we will pick up our RV's and head to the store to stock up for the first week of the trip. Once we have laid in provisions we will leave Las Vegas behind and head east over the Hoover Dam towards the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. We will spend 11 days and 10 nights traveling the Blue Highways of Arizona. We will hike trails, ride horses, participate in community service projects, and experience up close the dwellings of the Indian tribes found through out Arizona. Ending with London Bridge we will visit the National Parks of Arizona. Our last night in Las Vegas will reconnect us with the "real world", and Friday, March 5th, we will leave early in the morning to return to Richmond.

The trip will cost \$1700.00, which includes airfare, transportation, RV's, meals on the road (except 3 nights that we will eat in restaurants) park entrance fees, RV park fees and any fees associated with activities we participate in on the trip. The girls will be expected to have their own spending money for souvenirs and extras. **A non-refundable deposit of \$500.00 is due on Monday, November 9, 2009. This is to secure a spot in an RV and an airline ticket, checks should be made payable to SMS.** Along with the deposit each student must complete the application form. I have included a copy with this letter. The application may also be obtained on the SMS intranet or by seeing Mrs. Dickinson or Mrs. Haney. **A second installment of \$500.00 is due on return from Thanksgiving break, Monday, November 30th. The final payment of \$700.00 will be due upon return from Christmas vacation, Monday, January 4, 2010.**

We looked forward to the opportunity of traveling with your daughters.

Happy Trails,
Copper Dickinson and Sue Haney
Contact info:
cdickins@sms.org
shaney@sms.org