

# **CCGD Tour Parent Meeting Outline**

## **2020 Tour to Italy**

### **2020 TOUR**

- On June 20-27, we will be traveling to Italy. The tour will include Rome, Pisa, Lucca, Pompeii, Florence, Cinque Terre, and more. We won't receive the finalized itinerary until mid-April. We must have at least 90 singers participate. If not, the trip will be cancelled and your deposits will be refunded.

### **TOUR POLICY**

- Students in both youth choruses- Youth Chorus and Women's Youth Chorus- and Concert I are eligible to tour. In addition, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Concert II are eligible for tour.

### **TRAVELER CATEGORIES**

- We have three categories of travelers: singers, chaperones, and shadowers. We will now go over all of the details for each traveler category.

### **SINGERS**

- Overview:
  - Ms. Nott believes that busy children are happy children, and as such, we keep singers VERY busy on tour. We are only at the hotel long enough each day to sleep, bathe and eat breakfast. The rest of the time is spent at area attractions and performance locations.
- Expectations:
  - Singers going on tour commit to learning the tour music via an online audio file, which is separate from their normal season repertoire, and attending two Monday night rehearsals in June.
- Accommodations:
  - Singers sleep three-four to a room. Students have the opportunity to request specific roommates and we make every effort to pair everyone with at least one of their requested roommates.
- Supervision:
  - Three CCGD staff members attend tour- Ms. Nott, Ms. Henson, and Ms. Heber.
  - Singers will be placed in chaperone groups (typically 7-8 singers per chaperone). There will also be times when singers can be on their own in groups of 3 or more if staff deems the attraction/part of town to be safe.
  - While on tour, we do not want singers to be on their phones, as we want them building relationships with each other and getting the most out of each attraction. We will collect Con I and II singers phones each night – if you need to get in touch with your singer urgently during the night, you will have the cell phone numbers of CCGD staff.
- Performances:
  - In order to avoid having to deal with formal concert attire, we offer “pop-up” performances on tour, which are a bit less formal. This tour will feature 2-3 pop-up performances.

- Pricing:
  - Approximately \$3,900. Exact amount will be determined based on enrollment numbers. Land-only discount of \$1,400 bringing the total to \$2,500.

## CHAPERONES

- Overview:
  - We would not be able to tour without our wonderful chaperones!
- Expectations:
  - Chaperones are responsible for ensuring the safety of 7-8 singers. Your child will not be assigned to your group.
  - Since chaperones are responsible for a group of singers, there is not much free time during the trip. Chaperones do, however, get to enjoy all of the same attractions as the singers.
  - Chaperones are required to attend both tour rehearsals in June as well as a chaperone meeting, scheduled for June 7.
  - In order to be a chaperone, you must be on the same outgoing and returning flights as the group. You are free to book your own travel using miles if you'd like – you just must be on the same flights as the group. You must also remain with the tour at all times.
- Selection:
  - If you are interested in chaperoning, you must apply. Chaperones will be chosen by CCGD staff in early October. If you are not selected as a chaperone, you can choose to be added to the shadower waiting list (which we will discuss in a second), or to have your deposit returned to you.
  - In order to be a chaperone, you must successfully complete a background check.
- Accommodations:
  - Chaperones are paired with another chaperone in a room with two beds.
- Pricing:
  - Chaperones receive a discount on the trip price. Approximately \$3,125. Exact amount will be determined based on enrollment numbers. Land-only discount of \$1,400.  
**REMEMBER:** If you do land-only, you must book the same flights as CCGD.

## SHADOWERS

- Overview:
  - There are limited spots available for tour, with the available slots first going to singers and chaperones. Any remaining spots will be made available to what we call shadowers, which are family members of touring singers who go on tour in a non-chaperone capacity.
  - Shadower spots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
  - Shadowers get access to everything included with the trip, including roundtrip airfare, a spot on the tour bus, entrance to all tour attractions, and all meals. Most importantly, you provide us with a built-in audience at our performances!
- Expectations:
  - Please be advised that this is a trip that is planned with your singers in mind. As such, the itinerary is very busy with many different attractions planned each day. Therefore, you might not have as much time at each attraction as you would have if you were

- traveling with an all adult group. Most shadowers comment that they can't believe how many attractions we get to see on tour; be advised that the tour may be a faster pace than you are accustomed to.
- We organize these tours for the benefit of the singers as an opportunity for the singers to make new friends and have new experiences; they are not family trips. Families are not allowed to take their singer away from the tour at any time. This includes meals, shopping, attractions, etc. – all singers must remain with the group for the entirety of the trip. You can, however, stay with your child and the group. They just can't leave the group to go with you somewhere.
  - **Benefits:**
    - A benefit of being a shadower is that you can come and go from the tour as you please. If there is an attraction planned for the morning that you aren't interested in seeing, you are free to sleep in and meet up with the tour bus later in the day. It will be your responsibility to join up with the group, however, your singer must remain with the group and cannot go with you.
  - **Accommodations:**
    - Shadowers have the option to select the type of room they would like, be it single, double, triple, or quad occupancy. Obviously the price goes up per person for a room with fewer people in it.
  - **Pricing:**
    - Approximately \$3,900 for a quad; \$4,050 for a triple; \$4,125 for a double; \$4,350 for a single. Exact amount will be determined based on enrollment numbers. Land-only discount of \$1,400.

## **FINAL POINTS**

- **Pricing:**
  - The final trip price is dependent upon the number of people who enroll to go on tour. We anticipate the cost for singers and shadowers in quad rooms purchasing the full tour package to be approximately \$3,900. As a reminder, travelers selected to be chaperones will receive a discount.
  - Travelers may purchase a land-only package, which is the complete tour package minus the roundtrip airfare. This is a great option if you want to extend your trip or go early or if you want to use miles to purchase the flight. The discount for land-only packages is \$1,400.
- **Deposits and Next Steps:**
  - Tour paperwork and \$300 deposit per traveler is due by Monday, September 25.
  - We don't find out flight numbers until late November/early December. We have no control over airplane seat assignments made by the airline.