



Parent Meeting Script

The following script was developed to give you a better idea of what a successful parent meeting looks like and hopefully make yours a great one, as well! We've combined ideas from various Program Leaders and Account Managers to reflect years of experience and proven tactics. We recommend you read it carefully and use it as a guide for your own meeting. Although it is specific to a Washington, D.C. program, you can use it as a model for any one of our programs. Good luck!

<p>Welcome everyone!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Be excited, confident, and set expectations for a timeframe. ◆ Introduce yourself and briefly talk about why you are taking this trip. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Don't forget to invite past participants to attend your meeting!</p> </div>	<p>Good evening and welcome! I am so excited you could be here tonight. First, I want to thank you for coming. I know that you have very busy lives, and I appreciate your time and attention. Tonight's presentation will last about 30 minutes, and then there will be some time at the end when I will collect your registrations and field any questions you might have.</p> <p>I am _____, for those I have not had the privilege of meeting yet, and I teach American History to 8th graders here at _____. I have been taking students to Washington, D.C. for ____ years now and it is one of the most rewarding things I do as a teacher. I have found no better way to teach my students history than to take them to D.C. I have seen students stand in respect and awe at the Vietnam Memorial, shake hands with veterans at the WWII Memorial, and look in wonder at the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives. I work each day in the classroom to bring the lessons of our country's history to life, but there is nothing like discussing the issues facing our nation while standing on the steps of the Supreme Court, Capitol Building, or dozens of other inspiring places we will visit on our trip to Washington, D.C. I take your students so they can better understand what it means to be an American and a citizen living in this nation.</p>
<p>Introduce WorldStrides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Assure parents that their children are taken care of at every step. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Show parents the WorldStrides Identification Badge their child will wear throughout the program.</p> </div>	<p>The organization I have chosen to travel with is WorldStrides, the largest and most experienced student travel organization in this country. Nearly 50 years of experience and an outstanding safety record have built a solid foundation of trust for millions of parents just like you.</p> <p>In 1964, Phil Wendel, a middle school social studies teacher from Chicago discovered the incredible experience of traveling to Washington, D.C., with his students. He was so inspired by the transformative power of student travel, he went on to found WorldStrides. Since the first student trip in 1967, WorldStrides has consistently shown that they are a wonderful, helpful group of professionals.</p> <p>WorldStrides provides the peace of mind I need to assure all of you that your children will be taken care of every step of the way. There is at least one WorldStrides staff member with us 24 hours a day, and they have an entire team dedicated to serving us. While on tour, they provide us with the highest quality Course Leaders (tour guides) and Motorcoach Drivers. I will select chaperones from our community to ensure students' safety during our trip. Before traveling, your child is asked to sign a behavior contract and a medical release form which will help to establish expectations for respect and support between students and chaperones during the program, and provide us with emergency contact information. Additionally, each student receives a WorldStrides Name Tag that has all the emergency numbers they need in case they get separated from the group. One of those numbers is for WorldStrides' Tour Central, a 24-hour office staffed by WorldStrides professionals. They are equipped to handle all types of situations. At the hotel on East Coast history programs, WorldStrides will provide an On-site Coordinator that is at the hotel at all times. He or she is there to check in for us before we even arrive, make sure all the room keys work, and be available to help with any last-minute changes or in case of an emergency. Except on Costa Rica programs, WorldStrides will also provide</p>



WorldStrides®

Explore. Discover. Become.

	<p>Night Chaperones who will monitor every floor that students stay on from late evening until early morning hours to ensure that curfew is respected and in case any issues arise during the night. In case of an emergency, WorldStrides has a partnership with The George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine. This partnership gives us access to doctors who are available 24 hours a day to provide phone consultations for traveling students, parents, and teachers. The doctors will evaluate the situation, injury, or illness over the phone and make recommendations for treatment. The Doctors On Call Program also provides in-hotel care for students in the Washington, D.C. area, if necessary. As you can see, WorldStrides is extremely diligent about their safety measures, and I would not settle for anything less.</p>
<p>Showcase the program experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Share the travel dates and length of the program – refer to the student invitations. ◆ Share what you enjoy most about the program, including your favorite sites and how the students are affected. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Make sure you have the right equipment to present the video!</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Show the student video! ◆ Point out WorldStrides' focus on education: Discovery Journals, specially-trained Course Leaders, and high school credit opportunities. 	<p>The following details about the trip are also in your student invitation: As you can see, we depart on _____ and return on _____, spending ___ nights in Washington, D.C. Also, on the back of your trip letter, is a sample itinerary. While it isn't our final itinerary, it does give you an idea of the action-packed days we'll have and the sites we'll visit.</p> <p>Some of the highlights for the students and I include: seeing the beautiful memorials at night, standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, and watching the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While the things the students will see and learn are priceless, another thing I really enjoy about this trip is watching them grow socially. It is an opportunity for them to travel without mom and dad, but in a safe environment. They learn independence – whether it's budgeting their time and money, being responsible for themselves and their things, or riding on a plane or subway with their friends. In my experience, students grow and learn more on this trip than they do throughout the entire school year. It is truly amazing!</p> <p>Now, I will show you a short video that will help give you a better idea of how wonderful this experience is and just how much your children will see and learn.</p> <p>WorldStrides is a travel study school, accredited by multiple regional accrediting bodies across the nation. This means when you register your child for one of WorldStrides' programs, you enroll him or her in a program that meets the same academic standards that our school meets.</p> <p>WorldStrides offers multiple educational tools for your child to use before, during, and after a travel program. During the trip, our group will be led by a specially-trained WorldStrides Course Leader. Course Leaders are selected for their expertise and are trained by WorldStrides' Education Team to create the right balance of education and fun for students. All of WorldStrides' Course Leaders have four-year degrees, and most hold Masters degrees or higher. They excite and engage students by sharing their own diverse backgrounds and experiences as teachers, authors, journalists, naturalists, academics, and photographers, just to name a few.</p> <p>Students are also given WorldStrides Discovery Journals, which are filled with photos and descriptions of sites, trivia, fun facts, and space to record their thoughts throughout the trip.</p> <p>After we return home, your child will be eligible to complete online coursework and earn free high school credit through WorldStrides' Discovery for Credit program. More than 25,000 students have taken advantage of this program to help fulfill their graduation requirements, open up course schedules to make room for upper-level courses, and distinctively showcase themselves to colleges and universities. I encourage you to go to their website at worldstrides.com to find out more about this great opportunity.</p>



WorldStrides®

Explore. Discover. Become.

<p>Discuss program price and inclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pass around or show a sample trip letter with the Trip ID and other important information highlighted. ◆ Explain the Full Refund Program. ◆ Point out WorldStrides' fundraising and scholarship options. 	<p>So what does this program include? It includes EVERYTHING, except for individual baggage fees. The price of \$XXXX written on your trip letter includes: a Certified Course Leader, educational tools such as your Discovery Journal, an opportunity to earn high school credit through WorldStrides' unique Discovery for Credit Program, round-trip transportation, a motorcoach, hotel accommodations, three hot meals per day, all entrance fees, a WorldStrides On-site Coordinator (East Coast only), and company-hired Night Chaperones (except in Costa Rica). Additionally, WorldStrides offers insurance coverage up to \$7,500 for accident, \$1,500 for illness, and \$750 for accident-related dental. You will also be part of the \$1 million USTOA Travelers Assistance Program. This means that in the unlikely event of WorldStrides' insolvency, your investment is protected.</p> <p>While the price of the trip covers a vast majority of trip expenses, students should come to the airport prepared to pay any baggage fees upon check-in for both departing and returning flights (varies by airline). Once you register for the program, (I will collect these at the end of this meeting), you send your payments directly to WorldStrides, and they handle all your questions and concerns.</p> <p>Please note that when you register, you can choose whether or not you'd like to take advantage of the Full Refund Program, which guarantees you will get your money back (minus your deposit and fees) if you decide to cancel for any reason up until the day of the trip. For example, if your child gets sick and cannot travel, or if a family emergency arises at the last minute, you will be reimbursed by WorldStrides. The Full Refund Program is a good investment, and I strongly recommend it. This program costs an additional \$XXX. To opt out of the program, you may sign the appropriate line on the front of the Registration Form or click the appropriate check box during Online Registration.</p> <p>Be sure to visit WorldStrides' Fundraising and Scholarships website at www.worldstridesfundraising.com. Here, WorldStrides discusses a few of their most popular funding ideas for your child's trip, including FLAG financial assistance and Gift of Education opportunities.</p> <p>The FLAG financial assistance is available to families who are interested in receiving financial assistance for their child's educational travel program. One million dollars in FLAG funding is available this year!</p> <p>WorldStrides' Gift of Education Facebook share, e-cards, and letters are great ways for students to get fundraising help. The Facebook share option allows students to post requests directly to their Facebook page to ask friends and family for small donations to help fund their trip. E-cards and letters are simple templates your child can use to send to friends and family requesting direct donations to fund the cost of their trip. The average donation for a person receiving the Gift of Education E-card is more than \$260! Thousands of students have raised millions of dollars through the Gift the Education program, simply by sending a quick email from www.worldstridesfundraising.com! Donations can also be accepted online directly through Make a Payment on the fundraising site.</p>
<p>Encourage registrations and offer to collect them.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>If possible, make several computers available so that parents can register online at the meeting!</p> </div>	<p>If you would like to register for this program tonight, I have a sample form up here at the front of the room with all the school information already filled out. All you need to do tonight is fill out the form and make the \$99 deposit to secure your child's spot on the trip. I will be collecting registrations at the end of this meeting and will send them into WorldStrides for you.</p>



WorldStrides®

Explore. Discover. Become.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Show them the other ways to register. ◆ Explain payment options. ◆ Explain EZPay. ◆ Explain MyAccount and how to reach Customer Support. ◆ Point out the Standard Cancellation Policy. 	<p>While I encourage you to register tonight, you may also mail the form yourself, register online at worldstrides.com, or call Customer Service at 1-800-468-5899. This number is also on your trip letter.</p> <p>Once you pay your \$99 deposit, you will have the option to choose how you'd like to pay the rest of your trip cost. You can either pay the balance in full within 30 days, or you can spread out your trip payments by signing up for a simple payment plan.</p> <p>I encourage you to try WorldStrides' EZPay option, a simple, automatic withdrawal of funds from your bank account based on your payment plan. Simply register online and choose this option to eliminate handling fees and take the worry out of remembering when your next payment is due.</p> <p>Once you have registered, you can check your account balance 24 hours a day through the MyAccount section of MyTrip. Creating a MyTrip username and password is simple and only takes a few minutes. Because each registrant has a unique payment plan, I strongly recommend that you check your specific account details in MyAccount, as well. Once you have enrolled your child, you may also speak with WorldStrides' Customer Service department to discuss an individual payment plan. If you have any questions about registration, your payment, or anything else related to your child's program, please feel free to call the toll-free Customer Service line at 1-800-468-5899 Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern time (excluding holidays) or email WorldStrides at customerservice@worldstrides.org.</p> <p>Please make sure you read the Standard Cancellation Policy in the Terms and Conditions online at worldstrides.com/ms-terms-conditions, especially if you choose to decline the Full Refund Program.</p>
<p>Explain WorldStrides' Online Resources</p>	<p>If you would like to know more about WorldStrides and this trip, the Parent Section of WorldStrides' website is also a great resource. I think you will find that it will answer most of your questions. Additionally, I encourage you to visit MyTrip to explore information about your child's specific program. This website will include dates of travel, important announcements, contact details, destination photographs and information, and much more. There's a link to MyTrip at worldstrides.com or you can go directly to mytrip.worldstrides.org.</p> <p>In the FAQs section of worldstrides.com, you'll find answers to questions on everything from registration deadlines to payment plans to choosing roommates.</p> <p>Your child can explore WorldStrides' Student Center to view photo galleries, send e-postcards to friends and family, read about featured travelers, find special student FAQs, and much more.</p>
<p>Take questions and collect registrations.</p>	<p>As always, WorldStrides' Customer Service can also answer any trip-related questions you may have. If you have any questions for me now I am happy to address them.</p> <p>Does anyone have any questions?</p> <p>Thank you for coming, and I hope that all of your children will get to experience this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Please drop off your registrations with me and have a wonderful evening!</p>