



# Wednesday Activity Guide

## 2018 NE MN Synod Journey

Bus groups have the choice of what activity they would like to do Wednesday, June 27, 2018. This will be your only opportunity to explore Galveston or Houston on your own. This guide is intended to help you plan your day.

### CHOOSING YOUR ACTIVITY:

- This needs to be a group decision, not a Bus Captain decision!
- We encourage you to be in conversation (phone or email) with adult leaders from your bus congregations to present options, and seek their input.
- Decide as a group of adult leaders how your group will choose their activity (vote - majority of people, each congregation gets a vote, etc., or other method). We would suggest narrowing options to 2 or 3 before presenting options to your youth.
- It would be most ideal if the decision could be made at a bus meeting, so you could discuss options as a whole group. If that is not possible, please make sure each congregation group discusses the options with their young people, then vote as you decide.
- **Please notify Catherine no later than March 28 with your group decision!** It is helpful if you contact me with your decision before booking your activity.

### LOGISTICS TO CONSIDER:

- Your entire bus group needs to do the same activity.
- Breakfast at Texas A&M-Galveston will be served 7am – 9:30am.
- You will want to be dropped off at NRG Stadium in Houston around 3:30pm in order to have time to find dinner and get your registration wristbands from our Synod Journey leadership. Anticipate getting stuck in traffic. Anticipate major delays if you arrive later than 4pm.
- You will want to allow time before you leave Galveston for a Walmart stop to purchase breakfast/snack supplies for Houston. Milk and perishables can be purchased near our hotel in Houston, so you don't need to be concerned about keeping food cold.
- It's HOT in Houston. Every person we talked to mentioned this when we asked what they would suggest. "They'll want to be inside." OR "They'll want to be somewhere they get wet."
- Keep in mind the different interests in your group. Some will love museums. Some will love action. You'll need to find something that will engage most. Remember, how you frame something will make all the difference!
- Again, this is really your only opportunity to take in local opportunities on your own. Many youth on the Synod Journey have never left Minnesota, or even their county – how can you use this opportunity to discover Texas and broaden their horizons?
- It is preferred that each Bus Captain make their own activity arrangements, since you will be the ones checking in for the activity that day. Catherine is happy to assist you as needed.

## **COSTS:**

- The cost for this activity is the responsibility of congregations/individuals...it is **NOT** covered by the Synod Journey.
- You **CAN** use any unused funds from your bus meeting allowance (the \$500) to offset expenses. Please be sure to plan your bus meetings first...we want to make sure those experiences happen well! Catherine will need receipts for any expenses.
- I am still hopeful that we may be able to kick in some budget money as well, but there are still too many variables in our budget to give you an answer at this point. I won't know until our Bus Captain meeting (June 5) if this will be possible or not, so plan for no...and be excited if we can kick in more!
- The synod has tax exempt status in Texas – so ask if we can apply that exemption to your fee. (Catherine will help you with the paperwork...it's different than in MN.)

## **SUGGESTED OPTIONS for JUNE 27:**

- **NASA Tours:** <https://spacecenter.org/field-trips/>  
We visited here the last site visit. It's *excellent*. You should be able to book as a field trip, which includes free parking and one free ticket for every 20 paid. Tickets are \$11 if paid in advance. The ticket includes museum exhibits and the tram tour (you get a tour of the NASA campus, including Mission Control. If you go here, make sure you show Apollo 13 on your bus ride down!).
- **Sea Star Base Galveston:** <https://www.ssbgalveston.org/>  
This is an amazing Boy Scout facility that is open to public charters of their Baysmart Express Boat, and teaches sailing on small and larger yachts. We looked into this as a large group event on Sunday, but they didn't have quite enough sailboats. They are open to putting together packages that fit your needs. If you call them to check it out, be sure to tell them you are a youth group doing service work in Galveston...that puts you in a different category than the ordinary community group.
- **Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Galveston:**  
<https://www.schlitterbahn.com/home/galveston-island/groups/group-tickets>  
This was closed when we drove by in November, but looks like all the fun they promote. It's about 15 minutes from our dorms. If you decide to go here, contact Catherine – one of our service partners in Galveston has a connection to the group sales guy. Website group tickets are \$38.
- **Galveston Beaches:** <https://www.galveston.com/beachparks/>  
We'll be going to Stewart Beach when we arrive on Sunday. But many of our young people have never seen the ocean. So if you're looking for a free option, there are other beaches to explore!

- A couple options we didn't visit, but came recommended:
  - **Houston Aquarium:** <http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumhouston/>
  - **Holocaust Museum:** <https://www.hmh.org/>
  - You may also have options you know of...you're not limited to this list! Just make sure it's youth appropriate. 😊
  
- **Don't recommend** (*pricey for what you get, not enough to do, or not age appropriate*):
  - Pleasure Pier on Galveston Island
  - Moody Gardens in Galveston
  - Natural Science Museum in Houston
  - Houston Zoo (I've heard it's a good zoo. But most exhibits are outside...again, Houston is hot.)

Call Catherine if you have any questions on any of the activity choices, or need help booking your group activity!