



Southmoore Instrument Arts Program Introductory London Trip Meeting May 17, 2022

Tonight's Meeting Goals

- A general overview of the trip
- Want more details - visit southmooreband.com – London 2020

When is this shindig?

- December 27 or 28, 2023 through January 3 or 4, 2024

Okay, Be Real, How Much???

- 2015-16 Cost: \$3500
- 2019-20 Cost: \$3750
- Potential Cost for 2023-24: \$4100 (this is a Mewhorter guesstimate)
- When will we know the final cost?
- Your big \$\$\$ very likely includes:
 - roundtrip airfare
 - first class hotel accommodations,
 - most meals (all breakfasts, some lunch and dinner vouchers)
 - all tours
 - all coach transportation
 - A £20ish tube voucher in London
 - Tickets to all performances
 - Another “big-ticket” item TBD (the last two times we attended a West End Musical)
 - Trip Insurance
- Does not include
 - Souvenirs
 - A few meals
- Potential Payment Schedule:
 - Payment #1: November 1, 2022 - \$300 (non-refundable deposit)
 - Payment #2: January 15, 2023 - \$700 (refundable until April 15, 2022)
 - Payment #3: March 15, 2023 - \$700 (refundable until April 15, 2019)
 - Payment #4: May 15, 2023 - \$800
 - Payment #5: August 15, 2023 - \$800
 - Payment #6: October 15, 2023 - \$800
 - Please note that payment #6, the final payment, may vary slightly, due to any variation in airline, airport, government taxes fees charges and surcharges, currency exchange rates, etc.
 - Fundraising
 - Subscribe to the band parents band app page.
 - Band Fees Must be up to date
 - Charms Account

Here is what we did last time:

- Three Hour City Bus Tour with drop offs at cool places
- Concert and Jazz Performance
- Visited Oxford or Hampton Court Palace
- Visited Windsor castle
- National TV Appearance
- New Year's Eve Mixer
- Marched the Parade
- Thames Riverboat Ride
- Visited Greenwich (GMT)



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- Visited the Tower of London
- Saw a West End (Broadway) Show
- Opportunities to explore on your own (with adult supervision and suggestions from the parade organizers)
- The London Eye (Big Ferris Wheel)

Details

- Currency
- Electricity
- Supervision
- Weather
- Equipment shipping
- Etc.

Any Trip Hiccups?

- Flying in December
- Food?
- Time Travel
- Terrorism & War
- Currently no restrictions in the UK for Covid-19, but...
- Drinking Age

Should Adults Go?

- Yes
 - Group Travel
 - This is a high school trip scheduled for high school kids
 - Stairs
 - Background Check
 - Chaperoned by all attending adults

Next Steps

- Fall 2022 Trip Meeting coordinated around first deposit
- Get a Passport
- Save that fat cash

London Coordinator



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Why Should you go on this trip?

"I am going because Sydney and Dusty won't shut up about how much fun they had. Seriously, it was so fun hearing about how much fun they had. They loved the people of London and the memories made with friends." ~ Melissa Borchardt, Parent, 2020 Trip

"It was a cool trip, and all of my friends were there, few high schoolers will ever be able to have such a fun opportunity!! -Outside of it being a super cool trip I was able to speak to my experience being a representative of my school and country which helped propel me into a great college band program and multiple competitive scholarships and jobs-have fun!! Maybe I'll make the trip across the pond to support 😊". ~ Jasmine Johnson, Guard/Tuba, Class of 2020

"The reason you should go to London is.... the experience. You get to experience new things like food and drinks (kid friendly of course) trust me if you like American Dr. Pepper wait till you try British Dr. pepper. Another big reason is the unique experience of traveling to a new country with you best friends and getting to take cool pictures!" ~ Dyson Blankenship, Drum Major/Trumpet, Class of 2020

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! And it's not just the parade...it's the sightseeing you will get to do and the additional performances. You will never forget it!!!" ~ Michael Lane, Parent 2020 Trip

"It was a wonderful trip which afforded a different look at life. People need to travel to see that people from everywhere are the same...we eat, sleep, work, love our families, etc. Great opportunity to see historical sites and just 'get away from it all' with family and friends." ~ Rhonda Morgan-Jacks, Parent, 2016 Trip

"Makenzee talks about this trip all the time and how it was so incredible to travel and play while there. The band is family, so this is like a giant family vacation and the memories are endless! Every kid should have a high school experience like this!" ~ Erica Edwards, Parent, 2020 Trip

"I enjoyed all the extra stuff we did like going to west-minister or seeing Wicked! Being in the parade alone was an amazing experience!" ~ Jasmine Singleton, Guard/Flute, Class of 2016

"As a parent who went, it was so amazing to hang out with the kids and directors. All of the activities were so fun, and the free time allowed us to explore with small groups. I really enjoyed every part. And the food was actually pretty good!!!" ~ Stacie Hanes, Parent 2020 Trip

"Going to London meant everything to me. From walking on Abbey Road to face planting right after our performance and breaking my horn. It was all amazing. The scenery is amazing and there's so much history there. Since my freshman year that's all I talked about wanting to do and senior year rolled around, and the time came. It became unreal how much fun London was. Getting out of Oklahoma and seeing something other than dirt roads and 19th street was one of the best things to happen to me. Plus, the food is really good (make sure to try the Apple juice)" ~ Hannah Parker, Euphonium, Class of 2020

"It's a great experience for any kid. You get to see a lot of history and culture. It's jammed packed with opportunities to bond with their band mates as well." Brad Griffin, Parent 2020 Trip

"It was probably one of the most memorable trips we've ever had as a family. The kids stay busy, but there is lots of time to sightsee as well." ~ Erik Bowen, Parent 2016 Trip

"As a parent that never had less than 6 kids with me, except for New Year's Eve, it was a once in a lifetime experience. The trip can be a once in a lifetime trip for many, but the experience is truly once in a lifetime. Seeing Ms. Kaitlynn Carter and Mr. Ronny Davenport do dueling hand stands on the Grand Meridian or watching a couple dozen of our kids wait in line to recreate the Abby Road album cover, to seeing how the kids acted/reacted to being on another continent without school or their parents and how mature and responsible they could be was just incredible." ~ Brian Carter, Parent 2020 Trip

"My kid that went enjoyed it so much she is wanting to go as an adult with her sister who will be in the band when you go. So it has to be a good trip for those that graduated to be wanting to go back WITH the band when they are not IN the band." ~ Amber Lynn Harper ~ Parent 2020 Trip



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"It's the most exhausting but, even more important, it's probably the most fulfilling experience you'll have in your high school band years! Where else can you have pure FUN learning about travel abroad, history, other cultures, and responsibility, all while representing your school/state/country with your band friends, on an international scale?? As a parent, our trip to London with our son is like nothing we could have imagined! Just seeing the excitement in the students' eyes after the fears of the unknown TRULY shows you they are ready to step into adulthood and be open to new experiences!" ~ Connie Lane, Parent 2020 Trip

"We still talk about how awesome, amazing, fun, time we had! It was an experience that I probably won't get one like that again! The proud feeling of seeing your son/daughter perform at the New Year's Day parade! The parade was amazing too! Kept us busy and we learned so much! Well worth what the cost was." ~ Kim Macias, Parent 2020 Trip

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I never had any desire to travel outside the US. I was so glad that I went with my son. I learned so much about the way other people live. Experiencing the London Tube was a whole different experience. All the sight-seeing was awesome. I highly recommend anyone that can to go and I hate hate hate flying." ~ Lori Trueblood Denny, Parent, 2020 Trip

"It was amazing be able to show people who don't really know what marching band is what we do and love. It was also very fun to be able to spend time in a different country, especially right before everything shut down." Alexis Harper, Guard/Flute, Class of 2021

"If you're a parent, you will never ever regret getting to have this experience alongside your child. My daughter was a senior, and it was the most amazing experience we've ever had! I know when you see the price tag, the sticker shock is rough, but as a single mother determined to do anything to get to go on this trip with my daughter, it was well worth every single penny!! Just the experience of watching your kid, and the entire band, March in a London parade is crazy! Seeing how proud they are to get to be there after working so hard is amazing. And the money you pay to go?! I don't think I ever wanna travel without being in a group! We got to do so much, and see so much in such an organized, yet incredibly fun and exciting way. I don't think you could make your money stretch so far going on your own, or even know where to go once you got there if you weren't in a group. You absolutely WILL NOT regret one moment of this experience!" ~ Wendy Dobbs, parent 2020 Trip

"I mean, don't you want to get away from your parents and experience something new and memorable? 😂😂" ~ Ro Craig, Parent 2016 Trip

"You'll get to see abbey road if you convince Mr. Clifton to take you!!! 11/10 best part". ~ Charlotte Ramsey, Trumpet, Class of 2022

"I shared my experience with a parent I work with of an incoming freshman. I told her that not only was it a once of a lifetime trip, but it was also amazing to see our kids march in the parade and really showcase their amazing talent. I told her she couldn't travel with a more dedicated, professional group of young adults. To see those kids march past the stands.... the smiles they snuck in as they went by.... just priceless!" ~ Susan Erne, Parent 2020 Trip

"From a parent's perspective- to have your kid march in the London Parade is a once in a lifetime opportunity. To watch them from the stands as they march by is priceless. There are no words to describe how proud you are of them in that moment. But it's not just about the parade. The kids play in amazing concert halls. You get to hear other band play as well. It is a band family vacation. A vacation you don't have to plan!! A vacation with scheduled tours of palaces, a boat ride, a West End show. A free day to explore all on your own where you can re-enact Abby Road, see the Princess Di memorial, take a Harry Potter tour, eat some fabulous food, ring in the New Year on the Thames River with all the other parents. And you get to see your kid with their friends and directors outside the school setting. It is a great trip for a first out of the country experience. Only one band kid in my family, but my family of four went. Each one of us would gladly go again." ~ Erin Davis, Parent 2020 Trip

"On opportunity to experience the vastness of our world and be immersed in both cultural similarities and differences." ~ Byron Church, Highland West Band Director 2006-2020

"The apple juice is reason enough." ~ Emma Cravens, Flute, Class of 2020