

Emory & Henry College Letter to Parents for Trip

30 March 2004

Mr. and Mrs. Beeler
1441 Lacoma Drive
Jefferson City, TN 37760

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Beeler,

Greetings from the Bonner office! By now, you have probably heard Daniel talk about an exciting opportunity coming up: the first-year Bonner trip to New York City. The Bonner Foundation encourages every Bonner school to embark on a group service trip with students who have just completed their first year in the Bonner Program. However, no other school takes quite as impressive a trip as we do at Emory & Henry College. We want to give students the opportunity to see the "Big Apple" and participate in the culture and history of the biggest and best city in the world. And more importantly, we want students to make important connections between Southwest Virginia and New York City. We hope they will see, through their service work in both communities, that though New York is drastically different from Appalachia, the root causes of hunger and poverty are the same.

I want to share with you some basic information about the trip:

- We will be traveling by Amtrak; we will meet at Emory & Henry campus late on Saturday night, **May 15th** and drive to Lynchburg, VA where we will board our train. We will return to the Lynchburg station at approximately 9:30 p.m. on Friday, **May 21st** and head back to Emory. If students need to make arrangements to stay on campus before and/or after the trip, they need to let me know as soon as possible. Also, if you would like to have your child picked up along the way, or if you would like to meet us at the Lynchburg station, we can arrange it.
- We will be working with an organization known as the **Youth Service Opportunities Project**. Your child will be working in a variety of service capacities, including but not limited to soup kitchens, food banks, homeless shelters, and thrift stores. After their daily service work, our group will participate in a reflection session, allowing each student to share their experiences, ask any questions, and reflect on the meaning and importance of their work. You can reach the YSOP office at 212-598-0973.
- We will be staying at **Hostelling International New York**. Our group will have two large rooms, one for males and one for females. This is a very nice facility that supplies clean bedding, clean bathrooms, and very adequate space. As Tal Stanley and I will both be accompanying the students on the trip, there will be one adult in each room. While students will have some free time to explore the city, they will be required to stay in groups of three or more, and will have a curfew. You can reach the HINY office at 212-932-2300.

The first-year Bonner group has been spending the semester preparing for this trip in their weekly reflection groups. We have talked about such topics as the history of New York City, American urban culture, diversity in America, the working poor, New York culture, and general New York tourist information. We've even gone over maps of both the city and the transportation systems.

I am attaching a tentative itinerary for our trip. Please note that some of our nightly activities are still being planned; you will be updated with this information as it is available.

I hope that Daniel is looking forward to this trip. I believe it will be an exciting and impacting journey that Daniel will remember for many years to come.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at jfairchild@ehc.edu or 276-944-6250.

Yours in Service,

Jenny Fairchild
Coordinator, Bonner Scholars Program

**Bonner Scholars Program
Emory & Henry College**

**First Year Service Trip
Destination: New York City**

Tentative Schedule

Please note: all times are subject to change

Saturday, May 16

- 12:00 a.m.** Depart Emory & Henry
- 4:30 a.m.** Arrive at Amtrak station, Lynchburg, VA
- 5:15 a.m.** Board Train #20
- 5:51 a.m.** Depart station
- 2:01 p.m.** Arrive in New York City
- 2:30 p.m.** Check in to Hostelling International New York
- Afternoon - Evening, Events TBA**

Monday, May 17

Discover New York! Activities to include:

- Walking tour
- Brooklyn Bridge
- Ellis Island
- Statue of Liberty
- Shopping
- Central Park
- Other

Tuesday, May 18

- 7:30 a.m.** Depart HINY for YSOP offices
- 8:00 a.m.** Meet at YSOP: breakfast, orientation, and assignments
- 10:00 a.m.** Service work at one of three sites (with lunch provided)
- 3:30 p.m.** Return to HINY for reflection
- Evening** Choice of activities
- Midnight** Everyone in their rooms and lights out

Wednesday, May 19

- 8:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m.** Arrive at worksites
- 3:30 p.m.** Return to HINY for reflection
- 5:00 p.m.** Dinner at local homeless shelter
- Evening** Broadway show
- Midnight** In rooms with lights out

Thursday, May 20

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Arrive at worksites
3:30 p.m. Return to HINY for reflection
6:00 p.m. Group dinner
Evening Choice of Activities
Midnight In rooms with lights out

Friday, May 21

8:00 a.m. Breakfast and free time
1:00 p.m. Head to train station
2:30 p.m. Depart NYC for Lynchburg, VA
9:30 p.m. Arrive in Lynchburg and depart for Emory
11:30 p.m. Arrive in Emory and head for home or stay the night on campus