

Civil Rights Tour FAQ



- **What is the Returning to the Roots of Civil Rights Tour?**
A nine day tour of key southern sites of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s-60s. The tour is coordinated by the Common Ground Project, a nonprofit dedicated to teaching the history of the Civil Rights Movement.
- **Why does Messiah University participate in the tour?**
At Messiah University we are committed to service, leadership, and reconciliation. We view participation in the tour as an opportunity to live into this mission.
- **How do I sign up for the tour? How are people selected?**
If interested in participating in the tour you must first clear your possible participation with your supervisor in regards to your ability to travel during this time. You will then need to complete an application expressing why you wish to participate in the tour. When contacting the Office of Diversity Affairs please inform them as to whether or not persons outside of the University might wish to join you on the tour. All persons selected will be notified in mid-late February and will be advised as to the next steps to be completed in order to confirm their participation. Failure to complete this process in a timely manner may cause you to be removed from the participant list. If you are not selected you will be asked if you would like to be added to a waiting list.
- **When is the tour? Where does the tour visit?**
The tour is held annually and departs from Western, PA making stops in the following cities: Greensboro, NC; Atlanta and Albany, GA; Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham, AL; Jackson, MS; Memphis, TN and Canton, OH. **This year's tour is scheduled for June 15 - 23, 2024.** A detailed itinerary of past trips is available by contacting the Office of Diversity Affairs.

- What if I can't travel the entire length of the tour?**
 Due to scheduling conflicts, we have had participants in the past either fly in to meet the tour along the way or make arrangements to depart early. If you need to make alternative travel arrangements to connect with or depart from the tour, you will need to discuss this in advance with the trip coordinators from The Common Ground Project. You are responsible for covering this additional travel expense.
- What is the cost of the tour and what does this cover?**
 The rates for the 2024 tour are as follows: \$2,100 Single Occupancy and \$1,600 Double Occupancy. This cost covers the following expenses: Transportation, Lodging, Museums, Speakers, and Books. Meals are NOT covered in this price. A \$100 per person nonrefundable deposit will reserve a seat. Reservations are on a first come first served basis. Messiah University covers all expenses for persons selected to participate in the tour.
- Can non-Messiah University persons go on the tour?**
 Yes. The tour is open to the general public and draws a diverse range of participants. Seats are limited.
- Are there any age limits for participating in the tour?**
 No. We only ask that you consider what content on the trip will be age appropriate. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult and/or chaperone.
- If I know someone who lives near one of our tour stops would I be able to visit them?**
 Yes we simply ask that you notify us if/when you will be departing from the tour for such visits. Guests are welcome to join us for the day but are responsible for their own expenses.
- What expenses are covered by Messiah University?**
 Expenses covered by the University include: transportation from and to Messiah University, meals, lodging, and admission fees. Participants are responsible for personal expenses.
- How are expenses covered by Messiah University?**
 The Provost Office will cover expenses for the designated slots for educators/staff/administrators in the educational area.

The Student Government Association will cover expenses for designated slots for students.

Vice Presidents will cover designated slots for staff and administrators in their respective areas.

The President will cover designated slots for members of the Board of Trustees and other friends of the University.

- **If I am a P-Card holder how should I use this on the tour? How are allocations to be handled?**

Expenses requiring use of a P-Card (lodging and meals only) will follow all University practices related to P-Card use and will be allocated to the Office of Diversity Affairs. More details will be shared regarding this process at the informational meeting prior to departure.

- **What if I am not a P-Card holder? How are my expenses covered?**

Any person traveling on the tour who is sponsored by the University and does not have a P-Card will be partnered with a representative from the University that has one. Expenses to be covered are lodging and meals only. More details will be shared regarding this process at the informational meeting prior to departure.

- **How should I prepare to participate in the tour? As a representative of Messiah University, what will be expected of me while on the tour?**

There will be an on campus informational meeting prior to departure for the tour. At that time all trip details (itinerary, release and medical forms, what/how to pack, suggested readings, etc...) will be discussed. As a representative of the University you are expected to be fully engaged in the tour which includes daily participation in scheduled events and writing/submitted blog posts throughout the trip. More details will be discussed during the informational meeting.

- **Who do I contact about any specific accommodations I may need on the tour?**

For any and all questions related to the tour contact Dr. Todd Allen at tallen@messiah.edu or 717-796-1800 ext. 2255