



Dear Prospective Washington Group for Life Member:

I am so excited that you are interested in joining the MCC Washington Group for Life! Since 1988, our group has become sort of a right of passage for Saber students. Rightfully so, because the Washington Group is a core piece of the puzzle which explains why Sabers have the best work ethic, the most comprehensive knowledge of democracy, and the self-confidence and personal skills to succeed in high school and beyond. Sounds too good to be true?

Joining the Washington Group is like taking on your first part time job. You get a work schedule, you honor commitments, you work as part of a team, and you are accountable to your group leader and your peers. Your compensation takes the form of credits, and a poor performance on the job can affect your future employment. The big reward? An amazing, in depth, comprehensive, whirlwind trip with your friends to see our national government up close and personal.

Let me be frank, both with students and parents: the Washington Group is evolving. It has always been. As our class sizes taper off, and our costs to travel increase, each group and each member is going to be responsible for earning differing credits. This should not be a source of discouragement or frustration, but rather we need to fully acknowledge and be transparent about the uphill battle we fight each year to keep this group a source of core strength in our school.

I am assigning a mandatory credit goal of 500 to our incoming members. Reaching this conclusion is complex, as I must reconcile two very different items. First, I must project the total cost for this group to travel to Washington. This cost includes airfare, hotel stay, meals, admission, and tuition through our educational tour company. Second, I have a paper truck that needs to be staffed weekly, two spaghetti dinners that must be successful, and other ancillary fundraising to cover. When you commit to this Washington Group, you are acknowledging that credits are only a part of your goal. We have a fundraising machine that needs all hands on deck weekly.

If we are to make this group work, and work well, this year and beyond we need to make the following commitment:

- To be present at the paper truck 1-3 times per month minimum
- To sell our allotment of tickets for each spaghetti dinner (40 tickets max. per dinner)
- To remember that even if we reach our credit goal, that does not mean all the funds have been raised
- To put others first, to lend a helping hand, and to be compassionate in our interactions
- To be good citizens and representatives of our school and faith: at the paper truck, at dinners, in class, and around town

- To turn in our credit slips, and sign up sheets by the deadlines, and to be an active worker
- To bring our concerns to Mrs. Robinson first
- For our parents to lend hands at the paper truck, at dinners, and other events

Below are the credit opportunities available to you:

- Students earn 1 credit for every hour worked at the paper truck or Spaghetti Dinner
- Immediate family of Washington Group members earn 0.5 credits for every hour worked at the paper truck or Spaghetti Dinner
- Students earn 1 credit for every \$5.00 earned from returning donated bottles or cans (max. of 200 credits)
- Students earn 1 credit per ticket sold to any Spaghetti Dinner, and 1 credit for the required two 2-liters of pop s
- Credit limits: 200 credits from bottle returns. 200 credits from Spaghetti Dinner tickets. At least 100 credits from Paper Truck.

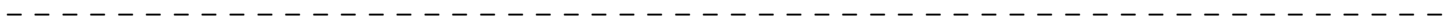
This group is worth it. It is worth the commitment, the time, the frustration, the joy, and the reward. I have seen how this group changes lives, inspires engagement, and educates. If we can put our preconceived notions aside, if we can agree to put the good of the group first, we can make this the strongest this group has ever been.

Let your signature to this letter indicate your membership in this group and your commitment to the ideals outlined above.

Sincerely, In Christ,

Suzanne Robinson
 Washington Group Advisor
 Social Studies Teacher

Please return this page. The above copy is yours for reference.



Washington Group Contract:

 Student Signature & Date

 Adviser Signature

 Parent Signature & Date

