

PUSH FOR EXCELLENCE, Inc.
AND THE RAINBOW PUSH COALITION, Inc.
20th Annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour
(Saturday, March 24, 2018 through Saturday, March 31, 2018)

Saturday, March 24, 2018

- Leave Rainbow PUSH Coalition—Chicago, IL
(Stay overnight in Elizabethtown, KY)

Sunday, March 25, 2018

- Mt. Zion Baptist Church—Whites Creek, TN
(Stay overnight in Tuskegee, AL)

Monday, March 26, 2018

- Tuskegee University—Tuskegee, AL
- Alabama State University—Montgomery, AL
- Equal Justice Initiative—Montgomery, AL-----**(Cultural Stop)**
- Hyundai Motor Manufacturing—Montgomery, AL-----**(Corporate Stop)**
(Stay overnight in Selma, AL)

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

- National Voting Rights Museum—Selma, AL-----**(Cultural Stop)**
- Stillman College—Tuscaloosa, AL
- Miles College—Fairfield, AL
(Stay overnight in Talladega, AL)

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

- Talladega College—Talladega, AL
- Birmingham Civil Rights Institute & 16th Street Baptist Church—Birmingham, AL-----
(Cultural Stops)
(Stay overnight in Huntsville, AL)

Thursday, March 29, 2018

- Toyota Motor Manufacturing—Huntsville, AL-----**(Corporate Stop)**
(Stay overnight in Olive Branch, MS)

Friday, March 30, 2018

- National Civil Rights Museum—Memphis, TN-----**(Cultural Stop)**
(Stay overnight in Champaign, IL)

Saturday, March 31, 2018

- Return to Rainbow PUSH Coalition—Chicago, IL

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HBCU Tour Mandatory Student Workshops

Saturday, January 20, 2018—

- **Mandatory Parent-Student Orientation**
- 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 27, 2018—

- **Student Leadership, Part 1**
- 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 3, 2018—

- **Entrepreneurship**
- 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 10, 2018—

- **Student Leadership, Part 2**
- 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 17, 2018—

- **The College Experience**
- 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 24, 2018—

- **Student Leadership, Part 3**
- 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 3, 2018—

- **Non-Violence, Part 1**
- 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10, 2018—

- **Non-Violence, Part 2**
- 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 17, 2018—

- **HBCU Tour Prep Meeting**
- 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 24, 2018—Tour Departure!!!

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- ❖ **Attendance at scheduled student workshops is mandatory.**
- ❖ **Tour selection will be partially based on workshop attendance and partially based on required documentation:**
 - **300-word essay (must be typed)**
 - **recommendation letter (from non-family member)**
 - **transcript (minimum 2.0 GPA)**
- ❖ **TOTAL COST of tour is \$505:**
 - **\$365 should be made payable to “PUSH Excel” and \$140 should be given to the student**
- ❖ **Breakdown of the \$365:**
 - **\$350 covers 7-night hotel stay, round-trip transportation via coach bus, and breakfast for 7 mornings.**
 - **\$15 covers Student Membership Fee to the Rainbow PUSH Coalition for one year**
- ❖ **Breakdown of the \$140:**
 - **\$140 will be used by student to pay for his or her lunch and dinner for 7 days.**
 - **If the student budgets \$10 for lunch and \$10 for dinner, that’s \$20 each day.**
 - **\$20 each day times 7 days equals \$140.**
- ❖ **Total \$365 for “PUSH Excel” is due by Friday, March 23, 2018. Individual Payment Plans are negotiable.**

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PLEASE NOTE:

- **Although the required documentation is not due until 12noon on Saturday, March 3, 2018, based on consistent workshop attendance and early submission of required documentation, students may possibly be notified of their selection for the HBCU Tour as early as Saturday, February 17, 2018. If a student would like to know if he or she has been selected for the Tour, he or she may ask Mr. Jason Robinson in person on that day, or he or she may call Mr. Robinson at 773.256.2761 or email Mr. Robinson at jrobinson@rainbowpush.org on that day.**
- **If student is selected by February 17, 2018, parents may begin to make the \$365 payment on Monday, February 19, 2018, between the hours of 9:00a.m. and 5:00p.m.. All payments are due by Friday, March 23, 2018. Acceptable forms of payment include the following: personal check, money order, credit card, or cash. Payments should be made payable to “PUSH Excel.”**
- **There will be a final HBCU Tour Prep Meeting on Saturday, March 17, 2018 from 12noon to 1:30p.m. Final tour details will be shared at this meeting.**

For more information, please call 773.256.2761 or 773.256.2762

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**THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE
REQUIRED IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED
FOR THIS YEAR’S HBCU TOUR:**

- A 300-word typed essay on “The Value of an HBCU College Tour.” The essay must contain a **minimum** of 300 words, but the student is free to include **more than** 300 words if he or she **so chooses**. In this essay, the student should explain why it is important to go to college, what the purpose of college is, what the benefits of going to a historically Black college versus a non-historically Black college are, and how college will help the student reach his or her goals in life. Also, the student should try to incorporate personal testimony in the essay, or personal examples of people who have influenced his or her life (such as a parent, a grandparent, a teacher, a pastor, etc...).
- One typed recommendation letter from a non-family member.
- One transcript (it does not have to be an official copy).
PLEASE NOTE: In order to be selected for this tour, the student must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 by the time the transcript is turned in.

The **LAST** day to turn in the essay, the recommendation letter, and the transcript is Saturday afternoon, March 3, 2018 at 12:00 noon.

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STUDENT GUIDELINES and CODE OF CONDUCT

Overview

PUSH For Excellence Inc. is a 501-c-3 tax exempt organization founded by Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. in 1975 to inspire students to push for excellence in education in spite of personal, family and community challenges they face. The PUSH Excel HBCU Tour is designed to take students from Chicago and other cities around the nation on a tour of historically black colleges and universities to encourage students to attend college and to enroll in the year long PUSH Excel College Bound Program. The College Bound Program is designed to train students in 4 areas:

- 1. Leadership**
- 2. Organizing for social change**
- 3. Impacting public policy through research, education and action**
- 4. Preparing for college and future careers**

Commitment to the General Requirements

- **I hereby acknowledge that I have completed a 300-word essay explaining why it is important to attend college, the purpose of college and the benefits of attending a historically black college, and finally how college will help me reach my goals in life.**
 - **The student is urged to incorporate personal testimonies in the essay or provide personal examples of persons who have influenced his or her life (parent, grandparent, teacher, pastor, mentor etc...)**
- **I have provided one typed recommendation letter from a non-family member.**
- **I have provided my transcript (does not need to be an official copy) indicating that I have a minimum GPA of 2.0 by the time of the trip.**

Tour Specific Guidelines

- **I am responsible for providing funds for my meals.**
- **I am responsible for my own clothes and personal belongings (such as phones, computers, electronic equipment, medications, etc).**
- **I am responsible for the loss and/or misplacement of money, jewelry, equipment, luggage and any items I purchase during the course of the tour.**
- **I am advised to leave any gold and/or silver chains at home.**
- **I am allowed to bring one piece of luggage and one carry-on item on the bus (such as a backpack).**
- **I must make sure that all bags are tagged with my identification that includes name, home address (city, state) and contact phone number.**
- **I understand that all PUSH Excel Staff and appropriate chaperones have the right to randomly search phones, laptops, iPods, iPads, luggage, and rooms to see if there is gang activity, pornography, illegal activity, or bullying.**

Behavior Guidelines

I will:

- Commit to being on my very best behavior at all times during the tour. I understand that I am representing myself, my family, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., PUSH For Excellence, and the African-American race.
- Pledge to respect my peers, all chaperones, all adults, and myself during the tour.
- Commit to wearing the PUSH Excel ID badges and uniform required at all times during the tour.
- Agree to wear the tops provided during the 5 days of the tour as campuses are visited. I understand that I must comply with the PUSH Excel uniform and, therefore, I will pack dark bottoms (dress pants, or skirts) and or Khakis while touring campuses.
- Agree to be in my hotel room by 11:00p.m. each night. I understand that nightly room checks will be conducted and that I must be in my room at that time.
- Respect the **Rainbow PUSH membership policy**. I understand that my parent, legal guardian, or I must be a current Rainbow PUSH member by the date of tour departure (Saturday, March 24, 2018) because Rainbow PUSH is a tour sponsor. I have been informed that a one-year adult membership is \$35 and a one-year student membership is \$15.

I will NOT:

- Consume alcohol or drugs (including any forms of tobacco or marijuana).
- Fight, spit on anyone, bully anyone through text or social media, or use any profanity during the tour.
- Engage in sexual activity of any kind.
- Use or purchase weapons of any kind during the tour (knives, guns, etc).
- Use or bring a taser or laser on the tour.
- Go swimming. I understand that there will be *no* swimming at the hotels during the tour (PUSH Excel is not providing a life guard and cannot guarantee water safety; thus, students will not be permitted in the hotel swimming-pool areas).
- Dress inappropriately. Male students are not allowed to wear earrings on the tour. Male students are not allowed to wear sagging pants or do-rags while on tour. Female students are not allowed to wear revealing clothing or tight-fitted tops or bottoms while on the tour.
- Jeopardize my health. I realize that students who have prescription drugs must have that information included on their parental consent form *prior* to leaving for the tour.
- Wear pajamas or underwear outside of my respective hotel rooms.
- Disrespect the **phone policy**, which states that I will not make outgoing calls. I will only make an emergency call that is dealt with by notifying the chaperone or a member of the PUSH Excel Staff. I have been advised to limit my calls to my parents. I agree to wait to call friends and other relatives upon my return home.
- Disrespect the **caps policy**. All caps must be worn straight (only).

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Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour Suggested Items:

- 1. Toiletries—toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, comb, brush, mouthwash, feminine products, tissue, hair oil**
- 2. Snacks—chips, juice boxes, cookies, fruit snacks**
- 3. Sleeping bags (optional)**
- 4. Clothing—change of clothes daily, socks and underwear, Church attire, comfortable shoes**
- 5. Pillows, throws**
- 6. Souvenir money**
- 7. Disposable camera (optional)**
- 8. Bible (optional)**
- 9. Sweater or jacket to wear on the bus**
- 10. Movies (DVD's) (optional and must be prescreened to play on the bus by Excel Director)**
- 11. Hand sanitizer**
- 12. Umbrella (optional)**
- 13. Cell Phones & Chargers**
- 14. Notebook (optional)**
- 15. One piece of luggage, and one carry-on item (such as a backpack)**