

**Request for Overnight Trip to the 250th Independence Day Parade - Chicago, Illinois**

*Pipestone Area Arrow Marching Band  
42 participating students.  
6 chaperones, plus the band director.*

**Trip Details:** The Marching Arrows will travel to Chicago, IL to participate in the 250th Independence Day Parade on July 4, 2026. The parade celebrates the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America and will be viewed in person by over 20,000 people and televised to millions. The students will travel on a charter bus, and will participate in other activities while they travel to and from Chicago, IL. These activities include: Millennium Park, a photo op at "The Bean," The Museum of Science and Industry, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, 360 Chicago, and Gino's Pizza.

The total cost per student to attend this trip is approximately \$1,400. The Pipestone Band Parent Association has committed to reducing the cost, per student, by \$400. Currently, the price we are asking students to pay is \$1,000. Students have past and future opportunities to fundraise this amount, or pay out of pocket.

**Request:** We are requesting permission for the band to attend this overnight trip from July 2nd through July 5th, 2026. We are also requesting permission to use the school marching band uniforms, necessary school instruments, and use of the school's likeness at this event. There will be no financial cost to the district.

Included in this trip price are all meals, hotels, and admission costs.

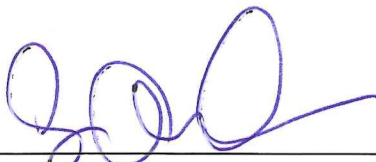
Trips such as this one serve the school and community by providing visibility across the country. They are also an important recruitment tool for our band program. In the past, the Pipestone Marching Arrows have participated in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, The Tournament of Roses in Pasadena, CA, The Inauguration Parade in Washington, D.C., The World's Fair in New York City, Disney World in Orlando, FL, The Portland Rose Festival Parade and numerous other high profile events.

Thank you for your support of our PAS band program,




2/17/2026

Dr. Zachary Ploeger  
Director of Bands  
Pipestone Area Schools

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

2/26/26  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

2-26-28  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Presenting your custom designed proposal:

# Pipestone Arrow Marching Band

of

Pipestone, Minnesota

Mr. Zachary Ploeger, Director of Bands

Your proposed trip is to:

**CHICAGO, IL (4-DAY)**

Including these trip highlights:

4th of July Parade

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Museum of Science and Industry

The Field Museum Performance

Proposed trip date:

July 2 - 5, 2026

Presented by:

Libby Gephart

Design Specialist

[libby.gephart@musictravel.com](mailto:libby.gephart@musictravel.com)



[www.musictravel.com](http://www.musictravel.com)



## Pipestone Arrow Marching Band

Pipestone, MN

July 2 - 5, 2026

Thursday, July 02

Travel/Chicago Sights

### MTC Online

Eliminate stress and headaches from your school or music booster organization, and pass the liability to MTC. Your travelers may easily sign-up and pay for their children's trips online, directly to MTC, 24/7. No more dreaded collection phone calls about past due payments! Just watch the excitement when you announce your group's next trip. Save time, energy and trees, all with MTC Online!

### The TripAccount App

Introducing: The TripAccount App! At no additional charge, Teachers, Staff, Chaperones and Students may use the information-packed, versatile TripAccount app before and during their trip. Features include the itinerary, traveler location, interactive attendance taking, rapid communication between teachers, chaperones, and students, and trip feed. We're constantly updating our app, bringing more and more features online.

### MTC Tour Director

Most companies will send you out on the road alone or, at best, provide you with a guide who might meet you at your destination. Instead of troubling you to manage the logistics, Music Travel Consultants will provide a personable, experienced Tour Director, empowered to fix problems on the spot. This professional Tour Director will manage the many facets of a successful trip, including confirmations, deadlines, routing, and other logistical pieces and will join you at your point of departure and be by your side until the group is safely home. Leave the travel to us and enjoy being a teacher!

### Gift Link

Request safe and secure contributions to assist in covering the cost of your trip.

Gift Link allows you to efficiently contact family and friends that are invested in your educational journey. Our simple, automated process of sending an email describing your upcoming adventure allows your biggest supporters a quick and easy way to provide you with the gift of travel.

### Optional CFAR Travel Insurance

We are proud to partner with CF Travel Insured International to provide optional CFAR Travel Insurance to each of our customers. Pricing for this coverage is banded by overall package price and will allow the traveler to cancel up to 48 hours prior to departure and still receive a significant refund (75%-100%, based on reason for cancellation) through a claims process with the carrier. The cost of this insurance is in addition to the MTC package presented herein and is an opt-in product - travelers must register for and make payment of their premium directly with CF Travel Insured International. Due to insurance regulations, we are unable to include this product for all travelers as part of our package cost, but strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance to all of our travelers.

Travelers are eligible to purchase this product so long as they have not paid their trip in-full or requested cancellation of their trip. Once either of these conditions are met, they are no longer eligible to purchase coverage.

If electing coverage, travelers must register for their plan and purchase the Optional Cancel for Any Reason Benefit and Pre-Existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver within 14 days of deposit.

All questions regarding plan specifics (benefits, coverages, inclusions, exclusions, pre-existing conditions, etc.) should be directed to the carrier by e-mail at [groups@travelinsured.com](mailto:groups@travelinsured.com) or by phone at (844) 440-8113.

### Traveler Meetings

#### Kick-off Meeting

Prior to the deposit due date, an MTC representative will host a kick-off meeting at the school to introduce the trip itinerary and the TripAccount online system to all potential travelers.

#### Departure Briefing

Prior to the trip departure an MTC representative will host a departure briefing at the school to discuss important final details with all registered travelers.

\*Alternatively, all meetings can be presented virtually via Zoom, if preferred.

### \*Motorcoach Contracting\*

\*Note: Trip includes quoted rate for 1 motor coach to be with the group through the duration of the trip. The quote is valid until July 10, 2025. The motorcoach reservation will be confirmed upon receipt of a signed Letter of Intent.

### Meet at the School

Meet for attendance at the designated location at the school. Your Music Travel Consultants Tour Director will meet you at the school. Eat breakfast before you arrive at school or bring a sack breakfast to eat along the way.

### Load the Motorcoach

Board the motorcoach with everything you will need for the trip. You may also bring a blanket and pillow for comfort.

### Depart for Chicago

Depart for the journey by motorcoach. Several rest stops will be made along the way. Get some rest for the busy days ahead.

### Lunch en Route (\$15)

Funds (\$15) will be added to your Jassby card towards the purchase of a quick-service lunch en route. You may check your current available balance at any time by scanning the QR code on the back of the card. Purchases larger than your current available balance will be declined and may need to be split by the merchant, if possible.

Welcome to Chicago!

Chicago is known for its stunning architecture, vibrant arts scene, and deep cultural heritage. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, it is home to iconic landmarks like the Willis Tower, Millennium Park, and the Art Institute of Chicago. The city also boasts a rich history in music, particularly jazz and blues, and is famous for its diverse food scene, including its deep-dish pizza.

**\*Time of arrival is tentative\***

Dinner at Navy Pier (\$25)

Using your preloaded Jassby card, purchase dinner at Navy Pier.

A Chicago landmark since 1916, this 50-acre world-class recreation center reopened in 1995. Its beautiful lakeside setting is a sight in itself! Restaurants, shops, a musical carousel, a giant Ferris wheel, and a variety of entertainment make Navy Pier the place to be!

Meet for Attendance

Meet for attendance at the designated location.

Depart for Millennium Park

Depart for Millennium Park as a group.

Millennium Park

Millennium Park, located in the heart of Chicago, Illinois, is a vibrant urban park known for its striking modern architecture and public art installations. Key features include the iconic Cloud Gate sculpture, commonly known as "The Bean," and the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, which hosts free concerts and events. The park offers a blend of cultural attractions, gardens, and outdoor spaces, making it a central hub for visitors and locals alike.

Bean Photo Op

Cloud Gate, aka "The Bean", is one of Chicago's most popular sights. The monumental work of art anchors downtown Millennium Park and reflects the city's famous skyline and the surrounding green space.

Meet for Attendance

Meet for attendance at the designated location.

Depart for the Hotel

Board the motorcoach and depart for the hotel.

Hotel Check-in

Once you arrive at your hotel, unload the luggage from underneath your motorcoach. One person from each room may get the keys for your room from your Tour Director. After you have given your roommates their room keys, you may proceed to your room. Be sure to take your luggage and all of your personal items off the motorcoach.

**Friday, July 03**

**Chicago Symphony/MSI**

Breakfast at the Hotel

Breakfast will be provided at your hotel this morning.

Depart for Walking Tour

Meet for attendance in the hotel lobby. Board the motorcoach and depart for Roosevelt University to begin the Chicago Downtown Walking Tour.

Downtown Chicago TV/Movie Tour

Don't miss this opportunity to walk in the footsteps of your favorite stars and relive unforgettable cinematic moments on the Downtown Chicago TV & Movie Sites Tour!

Lunch at the Urbanspace (\$25)

Using your preloaded Jassby card, purchase lunch at the Urbanspace Food Hall today.

Urbanspace Food Hall (also known as Washington Hall) is a vibrant, modern food hall in downtown Chicago, just steps from Millennium Park and the Theatre District. It brings together a curated mix of local favorites and global flavors—from wood-fired pizza and spicy fried chicken to vegan bowls and fresh sushi—all under one stylish roof.

Meet for Attendance

Meet for attendance at the designated location.

Depart for MSI

Board the motorcoach and depart for the Museum of Science and Industry.

Museum of Science and Industry

The Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago is a captivating institution where science comes alive. It houses interactive exhibits showcasing advancements in technology, engineering, and innovation. Visitors can explore hands-on displays making learning both educational and exciting!

Meet for Attendance

Meet for attendance at the designated location.

Group Dinner

A budget has been set for a group dinner in the area. Location is dependent upon the location and availability of the concert.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Pending scheduling and availability, the group will see a Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert tonight.

**\*Schedule and pricing is not yet available and is an estimate until 2026 schedule and pricing is released\***

Depart for the Hotel

After meeting for attendance, leave to go back to the hotel.

**Saturday, July 04**

**4th of July Parade**

Breakfast at the Hotel

Breakfast will be provided at your hotel this morning.

Depart for the City

Board the motorcoach and depart for the Art Institute.

Parade Staging

The group will arrive downtown to stage for the parade.

4th on 53rd Parade

The group will march in the 2026 4th on 53rd Parade today!

**\*Parade participation is pending availability and acceptance\***

Boxed Lunch

A boxed lunch will be delivered after the parade while the group is transferring equipment back into the motorcoach.

Parade Festival

After the parade ends at Nichols Park, spend some time celebrating Independence Day at the Post Parade Festival.

Depart for 360 Chicago

Depart for the 360 Chicago Observatory at the John Hancock Building.

360 Chicago With TILT

Here you'll have a view of the dynamic Chicago skyline from the 94th-story observatory of the John Hancock Building affectionately named "Big John."

Depart for Gino's East

Board the motorcoach and depart for Gino's East on Superior Street.

*Dinner at Gino's East*

Gino's East in Chicago is renowned for its legendary deep-dish pizza, featuring a buttery, flaky crust piled high with rich layers of cheese, savory toppings, and zesty tomato sauce. Established in 1966, this iconic pizzeria has become a staple of Chicago's culinary scene, attracting pizza lovers from around the world with its unique, hearty style. The restaurant's casual, vintage atmosphere and signature pies make it a must-visit destination for an authentic taste of Chicago pizza culture.

*Fireworks at Polk Bros Park*

The group will watch the Navy Pier fireworks tonight at this nearby park.

*Meet for Attendance*

Meet for attendance at the designated location.

*Return to the Hotel*

Board the motorcoach and return to the hotel.

**Sunday, July 05**

**Performance/Travel Home**

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*Breakfast at the Hotel*

Breakfast will be provided at your hotel this morning.

*Hotel Check-out*

Check-out of your room by packing everything up and leaving your key card in your room. Then, load your luggage onto your motorcoach, and prepare for departure.

*Depart for the Field Museum*

Board the motorcoach and depart for the Field Museum.

*Arrive and Prepare to Perform*

Unload instruments from the motorcoach and prepare to perform at the Field Museum.

*Field Museum Performance*

Pipestone Arrow Marching Band performs for the visitors of the Field Museum of Natural History in Stanley Field Hall.

**\*Performance is tentative based on availability and acceptance\***

*Performance Ends*

Load instruments back onto the motorcoach and prepare to enter the museum.

*Free Time in the Museum*

Visit one of the world's greatest natural history museums, alive with ideas, knowledge and discovery. Founded in 1893, the museum houses over 19 million artifacts and specimens drawn from the fields of anthropology, botany, geology, and zoology.

*Lunch at the Museum (\$25)*

Using your preloaded Jassby card, purchase lunch at the museum today.

*Meet for Attendance*

Meet for attendance at the designated location.

*Depart for Home*

Board the motorcoach and depart for the school.

*Dinner en Route (\$15)*

Using your preloaded Jassby card, purchase dinner on the way home today.

*Welcome Home!*

Welcome home after a memorable performance trip to Chicago, Illinois!

**\*Time of arrival is tentative\***

# TOUR CONDITIONS

## Pipestone Arrow Marching Band

Pipestone, Minnesota  
to:

Chicago, IL (4-day)

4th of July Parade

Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Museum of Science and Industry  
The Field Museum Performance

July 2 - 5, 2026

### Trip Price per Person

9 Complimentary Trips Included; 01 Director in Single Occupancy and  
08 Chaperones in Twin Occupancy. 2026 ticket pricing ESTIMATED

Passengers	60	45	50	55
Quad	\$1396	\$1369	\$1279	\$1479
Triple	\$1444	\$1417	\$1327	\$1527
Twin	\$1540	\$1512	\$1423	\$1623
Single	\$1827	\$1800	\$1710	\$1910

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The above trip prices are based on hotel room occupancy and the total number of travelers and may vary depending on group size when prorated costs, such as motor coach, etc., are affected. Tour prices in this proposal are based on tariffs in effect as of June 26, 2025 and are subject to change. These trip prices were developed for individuals traveling with your group, as a group, on the trip described in this proposed itinerary.

### Inclusions

- Music Travel Consultants tour director throughout
- Roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation via chartered coaches
- Tolls, Taxes and Daily Maintenance Fees for Driver(s)
- (3) nights Hotel Accommodations per the itinerary
- (11) Meals included; they will be a variety of buffet, fast food, plated and/or pre-selected menus per the itinerary. For variety and convenience, money will occasionally be given in lieu of a pre-determined restaurant.
- All Sightseeing & Special Events per the Itinerary
- Entrance Fees where necessary
- Taxes and Gratuities - As required for all included features
- Gratuities to Driver(s) and Local Guide(s) as necessary
- Trip Departure Briefing (if applicable)
- Customized Tour Itinerary & Baggage Tags
- All Operations & Planning Charges

### Exclusions

Passport fees; baggage handling at airports & hotels; excess baggage charges; forwarding of baggage; items or services of a personal nature such as snacks, laundry, room service, telephone calls, pay TV, movies, cables, souvenirs or the like; gratuities to travel directors; any items or services not mentioned specifically in tour conditions.

### Payment Schedule

Payment	Amount	Due Date
Non-refundable deposit	\$140.00	August 26, 2025
Installment	\$140.00	September 26, 2025
Installment	\$140.00	October 26, 2025
Installment	\$140.00	November 26, 2025
Installment	\$140.00	January 11, 2026
Installment	\$140.00	February 11, 2026
Installment	\$140.00	March 11, 2026
Installment	\$140.00	April 11, 2026
Installment	\$140.00	May 11, 2026
Final Payment	Balance	June 11, 2026

### Cancellation Information

"Cancellation" is defined as any change made to the passenger list at least 60 days prior to trip departure day. Cancellation must be made under the traveler's account at MTC@ Online by clicking on the "Cancel a Traveler" link on travelers/ payer's welcome page dashboard OR by e-mail or written communication to MTC@. With the exception of non-refundable deposits/payments. If cancellation is received 60 days or more prior to trip departure day, money returned by suppliers is refundable. Cancellations received 60 days or fewer before, or on, trip departure day are non-refundable, unless a paying substitute traveler takes the place of the cancelled person. If the trip includes airfare, cancellation and/or substitution policies may vary, depending on the airline, date of ticketing and group contract. Please contact MTC@ for additional information. Travelers desiring travel and cancellation insurance may find it from a provider of their choice.

### Tour Operator Responsibility

MTC@ acts only as an agent in providing means of transportation or other services. All tickets are issued and all other services are offered or provided subject to any and all terms and conditions, under which such means of transportation or other services are offered or provided. The issuance and acceptance of such services shall be deemed to be consent to the further condition that MTC@ shall not be or become liable or responsible in any way in connection with such means of transportation or in connection with other services, or for any loss, injury or damage to or in respect of any person or property howsoever caused or arising, even if such loss, injury or damage arises, in whole or in part, as a result of alleged negligent acts or omissions of Music Travel Consultants. The airlines, trains, motor coaches and ships concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard the airline, train, motor coach or ship. MTC@ reserves the right to alter the itinerary. Any extra charges arising from such change must be met by the passenger. MTC@ reserves the right to cancel the tour or to remove any passenger from the tour; its sole liability in such instance being the refund of all monies paid to it for unused services. By acceptance of tour membership, Passenger agrees to the foregoing and also agrees that MTC@ shall not become liable or responsible for loss, damage, injury or inconvenience to Passenger and to their possessions caused by or resulting from occurrences, negligent or otherwise, due to the malfunction or breakdown of machinery or equipment, strikes or labor disputes, acts of God, war or civil strife, acts of governments or civil authorities, disease, delays, fire, theft, weather, itinerary changes or cancellation of services or default by suppliers, even if such loss, injury or damage arises, in whole or in part, as a result of alleged negligent acts or omissions of Music Travel Consultants LLC.