

## **Educational Trip Excusal for Scouting Civil War History Trip to Antietam National Battlefield**

Dear School Administrator and Attendance Office,

This letter is to formally notify you that (Student's Name)\_\_\_\_\_ will be participating in an organized educational trip through their involvement in Scouts BSA from September 25–26, 2026. In order to participate in this experience, the student will need to be excused from school on Friday, September 25, 2026.

During this trip, students will visit Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland, and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. This experience is designed to supplement classroom instruction by providing structured, experiential learning focused on American history, civic responsibility, and historical analysis.

This trip focuses on helping students gain a deeper understanding of the United States Civil War and its lasting impact on our nation. Instructional activities during the trip will include guided historical tours, observation, group discussion, and reflective learning at nationally recognized historic sites. Students will examine the causes and consequences of key Civil War events; study the Battle of Antietam and its role in shaping national policy, including the lead-up to the Emancipation Proclamation; explore Harpers Ferry's geographic, economic, and political significance before and during the Civil War; develop historical thinking skills by connecting physical locations to historical decisions and outcomes; and reflect on themes such as leadership, sacrifice, division, reconciliation, and citizenship.

This learning experience provides students with the opportunity to engage in place-based education, allowing them to interact directly with primary historical locations rather than learning solely through textbooks or secondary sources. Visiting preserved battlefields and historic towns enhances comprehension, retention, and critical thinking while reinforcing civic responsibility and respect for national heritage.

The educational activities conducted during this trip align closely with common U.S. history and social studies learning goals, including understanding historical events and timelines, recognizing the role of individuals and communities in shaping history, evaluating the impact of conflict on a nation's development, and applying academic learning through observation and discussion.

We respectfully request that (Student's Name)\_\_\_\_\_ be granted an excused absence for Friday, September 25, 2026, as the student will be participating in this structured and meaningful educational experience.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of educational learning beyond the classroom. If additional information, itineraries, or documentation are required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours In Scouting,

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Scoutmaster

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Contact Information

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Date