

# ***Boston Pilgrimage Itinerary 2024***

***Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> through Monday the 21<sup>st</sup>***

## **Why “Pilgrimage”**

The goal of the Unity Junior class trip is to have a fun, bonding experience with friends from Coming of Age and RE; we also undertake this trip in order become energized by and recommitted to our Unitarian/Universalist faith. By walking in the steps of American History, and revisiting the extraordinary thinkers and theologians of the early Unitarian and Universalist church, youth get to feel the depth and promise of this faith. They will be changed by this experience, and will have a stronger understanding of what it has meant, and what it will mean to carry UU principles into the world as adults.

## **Our Pilgrimage Itinerary**

- See the sights of Lexington and Concord and their environs
  - Commune with the spirits of Thoreau, Emerson, Fuller *et al.*
  - Step inside *Little Women* and tour the Alcott home
  - Canoeing through Concord
  - Check out Sleepy Hollow cemetery and be forever impacted by Walden Pond
  - Compete at “Pooh Sticks” on the Old North Bridge
- Visit Plimoth Plantation and our early Congregationalist cousins – Step Aboard the “Mayflower”
- Stroll “Boston Commons” and the Boston Gardens
- Utilize the Boston Subway system
- Travel the venerable Freedom Trail of Boston landmarks
  - Quincy Market, Faneuil Hall, The North Church
- Visit Cambridge: reenact Emerson’s Divinity School address in the Harvard Chapel, tour Harvard Square
- Visit Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) headquarters, see the famous desk of Frederick May Eliot
- Attend Sunday services at King’s Chapel or Arlington Street Church – with church Basement Luncheon!
- Play the Carillon Bells at Arlington Street
- Walk old Boston’s North end neighborhood and try cannoli.
- Experience great Hostel living with young people from around the world.
- Walk through Boston’s moving Holocaust Monument and gardens
- We eat pretty darn well! Seafood. Dunkin Donuts. Chinatown.

## **Logistics and Costs**

- We will travel by plane. We will likely leave Wednesday afternoon and return by midday Monday, it will depend on the cheapest airfare.
- We will lodge at youth hostels in Boston. Dormitory-style accommodations will include bed, shared toilet and shower facilities and breakfast.
- The cost of the trip is heavily dependent on the number of youth who travel. The costs below assume 12 or more participating youth and 3 adult chaperones.
- **\$450 down Payment in June; additional \$350 by September 10<sup>th</sup>**
- ESTIMATED cost of 5-day, 5 night trip, including airfare, ground transportation, dining, snacks, beverages and all admissions = **approximately \$1300 - \$1400**

## **Fundraising and the Share System**

- You will have the opportunity to raise money to cover some of the cost of this trip through donut sales, cookie sales, and wreath sales.
- Money raised by the group will be distributed by *shares*. You earn one share (\$15) by working one hour at a church-sponsored fundraising event.
- Unity bills families in the spring following the trip. Families can tell us they want to leave their invoice open in order to allow youth to continue volunteering for shares.
- Scholarships are available, as are payment plans. Just ask RE staff.

## **Ground Rules**

There are a few ground rules that we will have for the trip. They are for your safety and well-being (and the sanity of everyone involved).

These are not negotiable:

- The group stays together pretty much always. Everyone attends everything and remains involved.
- When we decide to split up as a group during the day, you will be expected to go in pairs at a minimum, with a clear statement of your destination/activity, and meet at the time indicated.
- No one is allowed to go anywhere after dark without the company of one of the chaperones.
- Ask questions!! This is your trip to learn about your UU heritage – take advantage of the experience.
- At the end of the day each night we will do a check-in, talk about the next day and have opportunities for discussion.
- There are a few serious issues that will result in your being sent home at your family's expense: involvement in any illegal activities, including the use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs; threats or violent actions; or actions that seriously endanger you or anyone in the group.