

# **Boston Pilgrimage Itinerary**

**Wednesday, October 14-19, 2026**

## **REGISTRATION**

### ***Why “Pilgrimage”***

The goal of the Unity Junior class trip is to have a ridiculously fun, bonding experience with friends from Coming of Age and RE; we also undertake this trip in order to 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 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.

### ***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
- Stroll “Boston Commons” and the Boston Gardens
- Utilize the Boston Subway system
- Travel the 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
- 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.

## ***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).

- 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.

## ***Logistics and Costs***

- We will travel by plane. We will likely leave Wednesday afternoon and return Monday afternoon, 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.
- ESTIMATED cost of 5-day, 5 night trip, including airfare, ground transportation, dining, snacks, beverages and all admissions = **approximately \$2100**
- There are two Payment Options
  - Pay in full upon registration
  - Pay in 6 monthly installments (\$350 beginning in May 2026), Final payment adjusted

## ***Fundraising and Scholarship***

- We will work between now and before we leave, to reduce the overall cost of the trip. One major way to do this is to consider opportunities for fundraising on behalf of the Tower Club.
- Money raised by the group will be used to reduce overall costs of the trip.
- Hours earned at previous Wreath and cookie sales will be applied for individual participants.
- Future employment opportunities through Unity will be offered frequently from now through early fall. Hours earned may be applied to individual accounts.
- **Scholarships** Unity places great importance on the benefits of pilgrimage, and has committed funds to help all members who desire to participate and seek financial assistance. We will ask you to indicate interest in Scholarship when you register.