

Horn Lake Choirs

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TO: Disney Trip Participants & Parent/Guardian
FROM: H. Beck
DATE: Monday, March 30, 2020
RE: Trip postponement

Hey everyone! I hope you are all well. I wanted to touch base and be certain everyone is aware of what is going on with the trip.

With just over two weeks prior to our original departure date (3/26) we had to change plans. The Mississippi Department of Education told all schools that among other things, field trips were a 'no go' for the remainder of the school year in an attempt to protect students from being exposed to the COVID-19. Just hours later, it was announced that schools would be closed for the immediate future.

Needless to say, many schools had groups trips planned and we were all in the same boat. Because of the way group trips must be planned, contracts must be signed 9-12 months in advance to hold transportation, lodging, etc... The contracts include a payment schedule - a deposit of 10% has to be paid at the time of booking and all balances are to be paid to these companies at least 4 weeks prior to departure date. With that being said, our trip was paid in full to the companies before we started Spring Break.

These contracts also have refund stipulations and trip cancellation components. With just over two weeks until travel, we were well past the deadline to cancel a trip. Now granted, this is a very different situation. Because of that, the companies involved allowed me to *move* the date of the trip to June 2 - 6. That date was chosen in hopes that we will be permitted to travel by June.

A decision will be made the first week of May. If we are able to keep the June travel date, we will perform in a Disney theme park instead of Festival Disney since there is not a Festival Disney after the month of April. We will add a rehearsal on Monday, June 1 followed by a parent meeting. We will meet Tuesday to depart. After a final rehearsal, we will load the bus and head out.

If it looks like the travel ban will still be in effect in June, I will cancel. Unfortunately we will lose the majority of the trip money. The portion that we are able to get back will take 12-16 weeks to be sent from the companies to the Choir Boosters.

So, there we are! If the June 2-6 dates are not an option for an individual choir member, please contact me ASAP. I need for you to understand that I cannot promise any money back. To get the partial refund I would need to pull the entire group, not an individual. The best hope would be to see if any of our singers that were not planning on traveling originally may now want to go.

Please know that we are in a much better place than some of the other DCS groups that were scheduled to travel. One school had a group traveling to NYC...they have lost almost \$2500 per traveler!

I will keep in touch. Stay healthy!