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SMITHSONIAN STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS THREE STUDENTS FREE TRIPS AND FIVE STUDENTS FREE IPODS

Winners express their excitement about their upcoming tours to Washington, D.C.

Boston, MA., September 29, 2009 - Smithsonian Student Travel announced the winners of three free trips and five free iPod touches last week.

In the drawing, winning group leaders will choose which traveler will travel for free.

Group leader Karen W. from Alabama will lead her third trip to Washington, D.C. with Smithsonian Student Travel this April. Karen chose fifth grader Alexia F., whose nickname is Blaze, as the winner of the free tour. She said, "My students are very excited about their tour. We have always traveled with Smithsonian Student Travel. We love it!"

The iPod touch winners were chosen randomly by Smithsonian Student Travel.

One of the five iPod touch winners is Lincoln H., from Florida. His group leader, Kelly B. said, "Our seventh and eighth grade students are really excited about the trip. Because it has become part of our school tradition now, the students have already heard feedback from other students who have been before." This will be Kelly's fourth trip with Smithsonian Student Travel and for some of her students this will be their second.

She said her students, "love the prospect of a little independence and the parents love that the trips are so well organized and safe for their kids." She added, "The success of former trips and the huge educational benefit of the tours have been a big selling point."

Other free trip winners were chosen from Arizona and California. Those groups will go on tours of Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York and Washington, D.C. and New York in June and March. The four other iPod touch winners are from Washington, Alabama, Wyoming, and California. They will go on the Washington, D.C.: The Capitol Tour trip, the Washington and Williamsburg tour, and The Eastern Seaboard tour, respectively, in March and June.

Smithsonian Student Travel combines the educational resources of the Smithsonian Institution with the travel expertise of EF Education to create educationally-enhanced tours for students and teachers. Smithsonian Student Travel tours are operated by EF Education, the world's largest private education organization with more than 40 years experience. EF's North American headquarters are in Cambridge, MA, though the company spans the globe with hundreds of offices in more than 50 countries, a staff of over 29,000 employees, teachers and volunteers.

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