

TO: Westwood School Committee  
FROM: Kat Griffen and Miki Kinugawa, Student Council Advisors  
DATE: December 5, 2025  
RE: Student Council Field Trip 2025-2026

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Below please find information about the anticipated field trip for the co-presidents of WHS Student Council that will require overnight stays, presented here for SC approval.

The [LEAD: National Student Leadership Conference](#) offers an invaluable opportunity to develop our student leaders, strengthen our program, and bring fresh ideas back to our school:

- Collaboration with 2,000+ student leaders and advisers from across the country
- Learning about practical strategies and tools to grow and sustain a strong student leadership program
- Hearing from inspiring speakers, including LEAD's first confirmed keynote—Laurie Hernandez, Olympic gold medalist, author, and mental health advocate
- Returning with renewed energy, actionable insights, and peer-tested ideas to improve engagement and impact
- Providing students with a meaningful opportunity to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and learn from diverse perspectives.

Students who have attended in past years have described the experience as transformative, inspiring, and a major confidence boost—helping them find their voice and return with ideas to positively impact their school communities.

Overview with Cost Breakdown:

- I. [LEAD: National Student Leadership Conference](#) - Washington, D.C.
  - A. Dates: February 27 - March 1, 2026
  - B. Registration Cost: \$299 per student, paid by Student Council
  - C. Hotel Cost: \$450 plus service charges
    1. Accommodations: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009
  - D. Transportation: Airfare (~approximately \$300 per student)
  - E. Chaperones: Kat Griffin, Miki Kinugawa

LEAD is a strategic investment in our students' development and in the strength of our school culture. The skills, connections, and ideas they gain will benefit our entire community well beyond the conference weekend. Thank you for considering this opportunity.