



The **AMERICAN EXPERIENCE FOUNDATION** (AEF) enriches the lives of low-income students through inspirational travel experiences and educational opportunities to cultivate the next generation of hospitality industry professionals.

AEF is the 501(c)(3) charity affiliated with **Destination DC**, Washington DC's official destination marketing organization and convention and tourism corporation.

AEF is uniquely positioned to open doors for students, filling a need for career exposure and paths to success with inspiration, real experiences, and training opportunities.

By leveraging Destination DC's reach, resources, and its members' expertise, AEF provides students with unforgettable opportunities, brings curricula to life and supports career paths in hospitality.

"AEF gave me the ability to see outside of Southeast, the only place I've seen my whole life."

KAYLA

8th Grade Student
Charles Hart Middle School





AMERICAN EXPERIENCE FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

COLLEGE AND CAREER ENRICHMENT

Established in 2014, Academies of Hospitality and Tourism are located within Ballou HS, Bell Multicultural HS at Columbia Heights Educational Campus, Woodrow Wilson HS, and Maya Angelou Public Charter School. Students in grades 9-12 follow the National Academy Foundation program and emphasize strong college and industry partnerships, work-based learning experiences and rigorous curricula that culminate in an industry-recognized certification at graduation.

SCHOLARSHIPS

AEF provides scholarships to students or graduates from the DC Hospitality Academies pursuing higher education for a career in the hospitality industry. Scholarships may be applied to college and university, technical/trade school or certificate programs.

INTERNSHIPS AND MENTORS

All Academy students are encouraged to apply and interview for competitive, structured summer internships through DCPS' Career Ready Internship program. AEF partners and Destination DC members provide valuable work experience and exposure to career paths and professionals by hosting interns.

Learn more at DCPSinternships.org.

IN-CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES

Destination DC members are also featured in Academy classes or host site visits to share their stories, experiences, career paths and skills.

To learn more or to get involved, please contact

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FREE FIELD TRIPS FOR 8TH GRADERS

Each year, hundreds of thousands of students travel to the nation's capital and receive a rich educational experience and deepen their knowledge of American history, democracy and culture. For many, it is their first travel experience.

But there are students across the country and right here in Washington, DC who have never visited a museum or national park due to lack of resources and funding. AEF's unique programming helps fill a void by providing an introduction to the joy of travel and exposure to tourism and hospitality industry professionals. It cultivates a life-long appreciation for the unique heritage of Washington, DC.

- **Backyard Bound**, for DC public school 8th graders.
- **Rite of Passage**, for students outside the DC area.

"The last time I saw these museums was when I was the students' age. This trip gives kids a sense of self-worth that you have invested in them and their future enough to provide this opportunity. It's great exposure to a world they would not otherwise see. Thank you."

LISA-FAULKNER JONES

Principal

Charles Hart Middle School

Washington, DC

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