

Taunton Diversity Network
45 School Street, Suite 1010
Taunton, MA 02780
Telephone: (774) 240-2742
Website: thediversitynetwork.org

Taunton Diversity Network presents
“Unlocking the Power of Education”
2nd HBCU College Tour

TDN
UNITED NEVER DIVIDED
April Funches, CEO

Use this application checklist to stay on top of your application, paperwork, and deadlines.

Put Initials In Box	TASK
	Application due May 23, 2025
	Field Trip General Release From Liability
	Student Data Form
	Copy of Social Security Card (front/back)
	Copy of Insurance Card (front and back)
	Copy of Birth Certificate
	Code of Conduct
	Student Media Consent and Release
	Payment Schedule
	Essay (250 words)
	Two Letter of Recommendation
	High School Transcript
	Initial Deposit \$200.00 (check or money order) Due July 11, 2025

Application Deadline

May 23, 2025

****All application materials must be submitted no later than **May 23, 2025 at 5pm!!******

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Dear TDN HBCU Families,

Thank you for your interest in attending Taunton Diversity Network’s 2nd Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour, scheduled to occur from **Thursday, April 16th to Saturday, April 25th, 2026**.

The TDN Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour is a rite of passage for 10th, 11th and 12th grade students that will provide an invaluable learning experience outside of the classroom. Students will gain firsthand knowledge about their anticipated majors and fields of study, and they will have the opportunity to explore the incredible history, culture, and excellence in education HBCUs embody. Over the course of nine days, students will visit nine Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the Southern United States.

Tour destinations include:

Fisk University Tuskegee University Spelman College Morehouse College
Florida A&M University Howard University Hampton University
North Carolina A&T State University Alabama A&M University

In addition to touring the HBCUs, we are excited to share that students will also visit historic sites such as The Legacy Museum, The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, The Martin Luther King National Museum, The White House, The National Voting Rights Institute, and The Museum of African American History.

Students attending must meet the following requirements and provide the documentation listed below:

- Enrolled in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade at any high school in Massachusetts during the 2025-2026 academic year.
- A high school transcript must be submitted with the application.
- All students must have a 2.5 GPA and be in good academic and behavioral standing, and a school attendance rate of 90% or higher.
- Two letters of recommendation; one from your teacher and one from your guidance counselor must be submitted with your application.
- A 250 word typed essay (choose (1) of the (3) prompts provided)
- 100% attendance to all educational sessions, no exceptions. (Must be able to commute to Taunton, MA)
- Attend both parent/guardian/participant meetings
- A commitment and full participation with all fundraising initiatives to cover the remaining \$2350.00.

The total cost for the tour is \$3150.00 per student. We are asking for each student to contribute \$800.00, which will be payable in installments at each educational session. Cost includes travel, food, activities, and lodging. **A \$200.00 non-refundable deposit is due by Friday, July 11, 2025. Payments must be made via the Worldstrides Payment Portal. All completed applications are due no later than Friday, May 23, 2025 at 5:00pm.** Please submit completed applications with all required documentation to: **April Funches, HBCU Trip Director**. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Funches at tauntondiversitynetwork@gmail.com.

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NAME:			GENDER:
Last	First	Middle	M F
Street Address:			
City/State/Zip Code:			
Email Address (Parent):		Primary	Secondary
PARENT Information:	Home Phone #:	Work Phone #:	Cell Phone #:
STUDENT Information:	Date of Birth:	Cell Phone#:	Email Address:
Current High School:		How did you find out about the Tour:	
This section must be filled out by your guidance counselor.			
Current Grade:		Grade Point Average (GPA):	Guidance Counselor Initials:
Are you currently involved in school activities? Yes / No. If yes, please specify			
Have you ever visited college/university campuses outside of Boston? Yes / No. If so, list the name(s) of the schools.			
Have either of your parents attended college? Yes / No. If so, list the college			
Do you have any brothers/sisters currently enrolled in college? Yes / No. If so, what college(s)			
Emergency Contact Person:		Relationship to Student:	Phone Number:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that all statements made herein, and on any attachments, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Submission of false information may result in non-acceptance on the HBCU Tour. As a condition of my participation in the HBCU Tour, I agree to abide by the rules of conduct and the guidance/directions of the Tour Coordinators/Chaperones. **I understand that serious acts of misbehavior on my part may result in my immediate dismissal from the Tour and return home at the expense of my parent(s)/guardian(s).**

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_____ Student's Name (Printed)	_____ Student's Signature	_____ Date
_____ PARENT'S NAME (PRINTED)	_____ PARENT'S SIGNATURE	_____ DATE

Student Data Form for White House Tour

Place Your Photo HERE	Name: _____ D.O.B.: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____
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Copy of Social Security Card FRONT	Copy of Social Security Card BACK
Copy of Medical Insurance Card FRONT	Copy of Medical Insurance Card BACK

Please attach a copy of your birth Certificate and Transcript.

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I understand that a copy of a Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, Medical Insurance Card, a recent photo of a student, and Report Card needs to be submitted with a completed application.

Participant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Payment Schedule

Total Cost per student **\$800.00**

INITIAL DEPOSIT IS DUE of \$200.00 on **July 11, 2025**

Initial Deposits are **NON-REFUNDABLE:**

(Parent Initials) (Student Initials)

- Jul 11, 2025: \$200 deposit due
- Aug 11, 2025: \$100 installment due
- Sep 11, 2025: \$100 installment due
- Oct 10, 2025: \$100 installment due
- Nov 10, 2025: \$100 installment due
- Jan 9, 2026: \$100 installment due
- Feb 9, 2026: \$100 installment due **Final Payment Due**
 - Total student responsibility: \$800

We read, signed, and consented to the Taunton Diversity Network Historical Black College Tour Payment Schedule.

Participant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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STUDENT NEWS MEDIA - PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE

Taunton Diversity Network Historical Black College Tour uses images and sounds of children and staff participating in programs as a way of documenting the enjoyable and educational experiences they have while exploring the natural world. TDN Historical Black College Tour will not identify my child, or will identify my child only by first name and program, unless I give specific written permission to do otherwise.

In consideration of the above, I hereby consent to Taunton High School Historical Black College Tour:

(1) photographing, filming, and video-taping my child, and (2) using and displaying images and sounds of my child in Taunton High School’s website, archives, and promotional or information material, including but not limited to newsletters, brochures, advertisements, and newspaper articles, and I hereby waive and release on behalf of my child any rights of compensation for, or ownership of, such images and/or sounds of my child.

We read, signed, and consented to the Taunton Diversity Network Historical Black College Tour Student News Media - Photographic Release.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

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CHAPERONES

April Funches

CEO Taunton Diversity Network / Trip Director

Carla Hands

Trip Coordinator

Name

Title

Name

Title

Name

Title

Name

Title

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STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. **Behavior:** Any serious violation of the established rules of conduct discussed during the mandatory orientation may result in the student being sent home immediately at the parents' expense. Follow all instructions by your chaperones. Each tour participant is expected to conduct himself or herself in a mature manner at all times and to be respectful to all adults and peers on the tour at all times. Also, prior to the tour, the tour director reserves the right to cancel reservations for students who have been subject to disciplinary action by their school.
2. **Luggage:** Please keep luggage at a manageable weight. Also, consider bringing a backpack to keep your jacket and umbrella in.
3. **At the hotel:** We expect students to behave properly in each hotel. Please adhere to the following rules:
 - No loud talking in the hallways.
 - Do not use the room phone to make outgoing calls. It is very expensive. Please use your cellphone.
 - Do not wander off from the hotel. No student is to ever leave the hotel property.
 - Students must be in their assigned rooms by 10:00 p.m.
 - (No exceptions!) Per our hotel contract. There will be room checks. Students found out of their rooms after curfew are subject to be sent home at their parent's expense.
 - Money and other valuables should never be left unattended and should never be left in the room.
 - Any damage done to the room will be charged to you or your parents.
 - Any students who keep other hotel guests awake with loud music or noise will be charged the cost of the disturbed hotel guest's room for that night.
 - Check your room carefully for personal items before leaving each hotel. Personal items left in the hotel will be sent back via Federal Express at a cost to you.
4. **Sleep:** We move along rapidly. Make sure that you use the night hours for sleeping and do not keep your roommates awake at night.
5. **Budget:** Please arrange your daily budget. The tour will not make any detours to find an ATM.

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6. No smoking, drugs or alcohol will be allowed. Any student taking prescription medicine should notify the trip director. All medical problems should be brought to the trip advisor's attention as soon as possible.
7. Each tour participant is expected to be on the bus on time every day.

We read, signed, and consent to the Taunton Diversity Historical Black College Tour Student Code of Conduct:

(Student Signature/Date)

(Parent Signature/Date)

Accommodation & Transportation Information (*subject to change)

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Jackson Airport
407 Riverwind Dr, Pearl, MS 39208
Ph. (601) 936-3434

Fairfield Inn & Suites Montgomery-EastChase Parkway
8970 Eastchase Pkwy, Montgomery, AL 36117
Ph. (334) 260-8650

Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott Tallahassee Central
2997 Apalachee Pkwy, Tallahassee, FL 32301
Ph. (850) 210-1210

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Atlanta Downtown
54 Peachtree Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30303
Ph. 678-702-6800

Fairfield Inn & Suites Charlotte University Research Park
535 Collins-Aikman Dr, Charlotte, NC 28262
Ph. (980) 483-1200

Holiday Inn Express Hampton – Coliseum Central
4201 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Ph. (757) 937-4200

Fairfield Inn Laurel by Marriott

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13700 Baltimore Ave, Laurel, MD 20707

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Bloom Transportation Inc.
28 Grosvenor Street
Taunton, MA 02780
Phone: 508-822-1991

American Airlines
Logan International Airport
Boston, MA 02128
Ph. 1-800-433-7300

In order to qualify for the Taunton Diversity Network’s Historical Black College Tour, the following requirements must be met:

- Enrolled in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade at any high school in Massachusetts during the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic year.
- A high school transcript must be submitted with the application.
- All students must have a **2.5 GPA** or greater and be in good standing academically, behaviorally, including satisfactory school attendance rate of 90% or higher.
- Two letters of recommendation; one from your teacher and one from your guidance counselor must be submitted with your application. (please use the attached forms for recommendations)
- A 250 word typed essay (choose (1) of the (3) prompts provided)
- 100% attendance to all educational sessions, no exceptions. (Must be able to commute to Taunton, MA)
- Attend both parent/guardian/participant meetings
- A commitment and full participation with all fundraising initiatives to cover the remaining \$2350.00.
- A completed application packet must be submitted by the deadline May 23, 2025. Applications will not be accepted if not submitted fully completed.

Writing Assignment: Please submit a 250 word essay in response to one of the essay questions:
All essays should be typed, double spaced, font Times New Roman and size 12.

Mandatory Essay Question:

1. This college tour is named “Unlocking Your Education”. What does unlocking your education mean to you, and how could it affect your community? Describe the value of attending a program such as this HBCU tour.

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2. What was the original purpose of Historical Black Colleges and Universities? Do you think there is still a need to preserve the remaining HBCUs? Why or Why Not?
3. If you could attend a HBCU, what would you look forward to the most?

New set of questions

Interview

If you are among qualified candidates, you will receive an email from the HBCU committee to schedule an interview.

Mandatory Meetings: Students who plan on attending the HBCU Tour should make sure they are available to attend these **mandatory** meetings. If you are not able to attend all sessions it could jeopardize your spot on the tour.

September 27, 2025

October 25, 2025

November 29, 2025

January 24, 2026

February 21, 2026

March 28, 2026

April 5, 2026 *Parent must be present

April 25, 2026

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