

Baylor Senior Trip

The Baylor Senior Trip is the culminating event in a Baylor student's high school education. For forty years, Baylor seniors have spent the last week of their high school experience together - experiencing adventure and sharing precious time with classmates and faculty.

"Composing my favorite week of the school year, the senior trip is an educational enterprise in the best senses of the phrase. Its having physical, social, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions gives it a wholeness that enables it to be a nearly perfect conclusion to students' experience at Baylor. The trip is a community of students, faculty, instructors, musicians, storytellers. The twelve small groups are microcosms of the whole. The members talk together; eat, climb, paddle, walk, look and listen together; they feel joy, stress, laughter, fatigue, and fear. They are new friends and old, experiencing one another's vitality in fresh ways. Occurring in the Southern Appalachian Highlands, the trip is also rainfall and sunshine; rocky faces, crags, and nubbins; laurel, fern, and moss; pools, eddies, rapids, and falls. The Chattooga River is magical."

Bill Cushman, Instructor of History



Baylor School believes the Senior Trip experience is woven into the fabric of a Baylor education. The Senior Trip is not a reward. It is the last week of school that happens to take place in a unique and profoundly influential environment. If it were pure recreation, we would not do it. Seniors are expected to be involved in this experience just as they would be expected to attend their classes and exams. Missing a day on the trip is viewed administratively in the same way as missing a day of class - rare exceptions do occur and are reviewed by the deans, the Assistant Headmaster, and the Headmaster. Choosing to miss the entire trip is analogous to choosing to miss the last week of school and final exams. Students (day or boarding) who choose to miss the Senior Trip will be on campus studying and taking their exams for the duration of the time their classmates are experiencing the fellowship and adventure of the Senior Trip. Even though AP students will have already taken their exams, any AP student who chooses to miss the Senior Trip will spend the duration of the trip taking classes on campus at Baylor.

Once on the Senior Trip, students are expected to be with their activity group during each day of activities. Exceptions are made only in the case of physical limits or health concerns. Once on each activity, students have the option of not doing any specific challenge that they view as an unacceptable risk. For example: Students who choose to go on the Senior Trip will be expected to go rafting when their activity group is scheduled to go rafting - but they will not be forced to run each rapid. Students have the option of walking around rapids that they determine to be an unacceptable risk. Students do not have the option of choosing another activity or spending the day at camp. Students who do not fulfill these expectations at any point during the trip will return to Baylor to take all of their exams.