

PLANNING FOR YOUR TRIP

All Gold Medal Award Recipients and family/guests are responsible for their own transportation, accommodations and tours. June is one of the busiest tourist seasons in Washington, DC and prices do reflect this. Please plan accordingly.

Getting To DC



Travel by Plane

Three major airports service the Washington, DC area:

- **Washington Reagan National Airport/DCA** (<http://mwaa.com/reagan/reagan.htm>)
- **Dulles International Airport/IAD** (<http://www.metwashairports.com/dulles/dulles.htm>)
- **Baltimore-Washington International Airport/BWI** (www.bwiairport.com)



From the Airport

The average cab fare to the Capitol Hill area for a family of four is approximately \$18 from National, \$70 from Dulles and \$90 from BWI Airport. You may consider airport shuttles (www.supershuttle.com) and bus services, which offer transportation to various destinations at a more affordable cost. See the respective airport websites listed above for more information. Washington Reagan National Airport is conveniently located on the Metro subway.



Travel by Bus

The Washington, DC area is also serviced by Greyhound buses (www.greyhound.com). The bus terminal is located at 1005 1st Street, NE. The nearest Metro Rail Station is Union Station on the Red Line.



Travel by Car

The closest place to park near the Capitol is Union Station. If you are going to drive, (which is not recommended) parking here would be your best bet. Capitol Hill is about 5-6 blocks from Union Station, you can take either a taxi or the Metro to the planned events. (<http://www.unionstationdc.com>).



Travel by Train

Washington, DC is accessible by Amtrak trains, which arrive and depart from Union Station (www.unionstationdc.com or www.amtrak.com). From Union Station, you are within four blocks of the Capitol Building. Union Station is also on the Metro Red Line, if you are trying to get around the city. From the Capitol South Metro station off the Blue/Orange/Silver Lines, you are within two blocks from the Cannon House Office Building.

Ground Transportation While In DC

Metro



The best way to travel around Washington, DC is by the Metro. This is the most convenient and easiest way to get around the city. The Metro is easy to navigate, safe and clean. The average fare per person to take the Metro is about \$3.00; this is subject to change however depending on the time of day and length of ride.

If you and your guests are planning an extended stay, you may want to buy a SmarTrip card. This is a permanent, rechargeable fare card, which is more durable than the paper ones and offers discounts for riders (Metro added a fee of \$1 per ride for paper fare cards). You can buy it beforehand online or buy one from CVS or at Metro stations when you get to DC.

For more information on the SmarTrip card please visit <http://wmata.com/fares/smartrip/>.

For information about the Metro please visit www.wmata.com.



Circulator

The Circulator bus system is another great way to get around DC, especially if you want to hit the sights. It hits all the big areas, Georgetown (which does not have a Metro stop), Dupont Circle and the Smithsonians. The Circulator also accepts SmarTrip cards. For more information please go to <http://www.dccirculator.com/>.



Accommodations

We do **NOT** make reservations for Medalists traveling to and from the city. While we have listed some options below, these are simply **examples** of either close or affordable options from our research. We recommend visiting travel discount sites like kayak.com, priceline.com and expedia.com for discounted options on hotels. Please remember that Washington, DC is a tourist destination year-round, but is at height during the summer. Prices will reflect this.

The closest hotels to the Capitol are:

1. The Phoenix Park Hotel
520 North Capitol Street, NW
202-638-6900
(6-7 blocks from the Capitol)

2. The Washington Court Hotel
525 New Jersey Ave., NW
202-628-2100
(5-6 blocks from the Capitol)


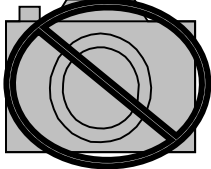


3. The Holiday Inn Capitol
550 C Street, SW
1/800-315-2621
(5-6 blocks from the Capitol)

4. The Marriot Residence Inn
333 E Street, SW
202-484-8280
(3-4 blocks from the Capitol)

Please note that the hotels listed above may be expensive due to their proximity to the Capitol. Here are some other hotels that are farther away but may be a little more affordable (note, these are just from basic research).

5. Travelodge Silver Spring
8040 13th Street
Silver Spring, MD
(301)495-0808
Metro: Red Line

6. Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge
1900 North Fort Myer Drive
Arlington, VA
703 807 2000
Metro: Blue & Orange Lines

	<p>7. Inns of Virginia-Falls Church 421 West Broad St. Falls Church, VA (703)533-1100 Metro: Orange Line</p>	<p>8. Quality Inn & Suites 7200 Baltimore Ave College Park, MD (301)276-1000 Metro: Green Line</p>
	<p><u>Tourism</u></p> <p>www.congress.org - Contact your Representative or Senator before coming to DC if you would like a private tour of the Capitol or group tour of the White House</p> <p>www.wmata.com - Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority's site can help you navigate the city</p> <p>www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/travel/visitorsguide.htm - The Washington Post's visitor's guide</p> <p>www.yelp.com – YELP will help you find awesome places to eat and things to do in DC</p> <p>www.tripadvisor.com – Trip Advisor is a good resource for planning itineraries in and around the city.</p>	
	<p><u>Photography</u></p> <p>No flash photography is allowed during the ceremony. A photograph of each young person as they receive their medal will be sent free of charge to each participant. Furthermore, for the comfort of others, all guests are expected to <u>remain seated</u> for the duration of the ceremony. Additional photos will be available to purchase.</p>	
	<p><u>Attire</u></p> <p>Please keep in mind that the Gold Medal Ceremony and the Recognition Dinner are business formal events. Business attire should be worn by all participants (Jacket and tie for men, business suit/dress for women). Formal gowns or prom dresses however will not be appropriate. Participants are encouraged to make conservative clothing choices. Please do not wear flip flops or tennis shoes for the Award Ceremony or Recognition Dinner (although you may bring for walking shoes). Also young ladies should keep a conservative heel height, you will be walking.</p>	
	<p><u>Hydration and Humidity</u></p> <p>Washington, DC during the month of June can have temperatures of 90°F and higher, with high humidity. Although we will only be outside for a short while, you should consider bringing a bottle of water. You may check www.weather.com for local weather information.</p>	