

Black Votes Matter
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Black Lives, Black Poverty and Black Votes Matter

The 2019 Black Votes Matter Face to Face with Black History Tour

For the record, the BVM 2018 Tour exceeded all expectations as to content, impact and outcome. For a complete review, there is a Comprehensive Analysis and Report on the 2018 Tour, available upon request through the BVM Office at 402-905-9305.

Planning and arrangements, for the 2019 Face to Face with Black History Tour, is in full throttle and in the final stages. The 2019 students have been identified and meetings with the nominating groups and parents have been completed. In 2018, we were able to take 40-OPS high school kids on the tour. In 2019, there will be 65 students and an additional 30 adults (2 full tour buses).

For review, the Tour attributes include:

- All expenses paid for the students
- Chaperones
- Back ground checks for all adults
- Full liability insurance
- Pre-Tour medical assessments
- Nurse on board
- Tour Handbook, which includes an agreed upon Code of Conduct
- Many amenities including T-shirts, personal bags and more

The 2019 Tour promises to be not only educational, inspirational and transformational, but per our vision to develop our future leaders, by providing a learning experience, respect for their history and a challenge for them to go out and make history. The Tour travels to: Memphis, Tennessee, Birmingham, Alabama, Selma, Alabama, Tuskegee, Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia.

This years' tour features, as mentioned, two buses—the second bus will be populated by United Methodist students and adults—daily tour impact surveys and reflection journaling, enhanced tour alumni tracking and development, new collaborations with The West Point Society, as to leadership development and possible attendance to the prestigious West Point Military Academy, collaboration with Bellevue University for personal growth credit and educational modules.

There was a full length and short documentary made of the 2018 Tour, showings and lectures about the 2018 Tour are available by contacting the BVM office. The 2019 Tour will have the honor and pleasure of a visit from the OPS Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Cheryl Logan. Portia Love and Preston Love have written a children’s book illustrated by Regina Jeanpierre, entitled “Your Bridge to History,” which is scheduled to be released late summer, 2019, the Great Plains Black History Museum is presenting an exhibit featuring the Tour through April (every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M., and monthly, free 90-minute workshops by BVM founder Preston Love, Jr. The full workshop schedule can be obtained from the Great Plains Black History Museum.

It should be noted that on March 29, 2019, at 11:30 a.m., at Emory’s Café, at the monthly Black City Hall Live Forum, Eric Ewing, Executive Director of the Great Plains Black Museum, will be the guest speaker.

It should also be noted, affirmed that to date, several organizations have provided scholarships, donations to the Tour students, including Waste Management, West Point Society and Great Plains Black Museum. Also, the Sherwood Foundation and the Weitz Family Foundation, have made significant donations to the Tour. Fundraising is still on going and it should be noted that BVM is a 501C-3.

Lastly, with commemoration of the 100-year lynching of Will Brown, the 2019 Alumni will be challenged to write an essay on the history of Douglas County lynching’s. The winners will be announced in a celebratory food and fun event in late July.

