

# CONNECTING REAL-LIFE LESSONS *in* THE LAND OF LINCOLN

## ABOUT THE GROUP LEADER

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Social Studies Teacher



## ABOUT THE TRIP

### *Travel Expertise*

In my 18 years working with Brightspark Travel, I have always felt that they do a wonderful job to guarantee that each and every trip goes as well as possible. I have worked with Cathy my whole time as a Group Leader, and she knows my school community and my personal preferences for organizing the trip. Brightspark always seems to amaze me in that they have people that think through every aspect of a trip. The Brightspark team knows their touring sites, they have great local contacts with knowledge of the destination, and are always able to troubleshoot at a moment's notice if issues do come up.



### *Bringing the Classroom to Life*

Before the trip, we usually have just finished learning all about Abraham Lincoln's journey through Springfield on his way to leading our country through the Civil War. I try to incorporate where we will visit in my lessons so when students see those things on the trip, it reinforces the classroom learning, and they make a "real world" connection to something we learned. It is amazing how students remember seeing, hearing, or touching something in a museum, and can connect that experience back to a historical event we discuss in class.



### *Tradition and Community*

This trip is seen as a "rite of passage" in our school – for many students it is the first time they are taking an overnight trip away from their family. The best publicity for the trip is through the "testimonials" of former 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who went on the trip. Their word of mouth helps to spread the excitement. The Springfield trip has become an experience many of our graduates look back on as the "big thing" from their junior high years.



*Get the word out!*  
"At the beginning of the year, I hold a 'Springfield Promo Day' since my trip is not school sponsored. I show a video and hold a Q&A session."