



MISSOURI BLUEBIRDS BUS TRIP 2027

**Mary Lou Darnell Co-Chair
Cindy Williams Co-Chair**

Enjoy the Missouri Bluebird 'Trip of a Lifetime' to NSDAR Continental Congress 2027

Join us June 19-28, 2027 as we traverse cross country on our way to Washington D.C. for the 136th Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution!

Reviving the tradition of taking motor coaches to D.C., this year's Missouri Bluebird's flight to D.C. will allow travelers to enjoy the beautiful countryside across the prairies, over the mountains, and through the colonies settled by many of our patriot ancestors during the American Revolution.

What will you see along the way? For the first leg of our journey to Washington, D.C., the Bluebirds will be travelling along the National Road or America's First Federal Highway. It was authorized by Congress in 1806, signed into law by President Jefferson and became the first highway in United States history to be funded by the federal government. Our travels will take us along the historic National Road that connected our frontier heritage to the very birthplace of American democracy. Every mile tells a story.

June 18, 2027 (Friday) - will be a day of videos and games!

- 🐦 Welcome! Join tour guides, Marylou and Cindy aboard the Bluebird Bus!
 - 6:30 am - Kansas City – pick up of passengers (1st Stop)
 - 9:30 am - Columbia - pick up of passengers (2nd Stop)
 - 12:30 pm - St. Louis – pick up of passengers (3rd Stop)
- 🐦 Lunch in St. Louis – StL passengers can eat before boarding or with rest of group
- 🐦 Spend overnight in Indianapolis, IN (KC to Indianapolis)

June 19, 2027 (Saturday) Leave Indianapolis, en route to Washington, Pennsylvania

- 🐦 Richmond, Indiana – sightseeing!
 - Visit Wayne County Historical Museum (Richmond, Indiana). The Hicksite Friends Meeting House now houses the Wayne County Historical Museum, a meeting house built in 1864 by the Hicksite Friends, the largest and most influential Quaker group in Richmond, Indiana. Wayne County was a major Quaker settlement corridor for migrants from North

Carolina seeking farmland free from slavery-based economies. Often described as a miniature Smithsonian, the museum showcases Wayne County which served as a major gateway to the West. When the National Road opened in 1833, Wayne County became a vital thoroughfare for many families traveling westward.



- Madonna of the Trail (Richmond, Indiana) – In commemoration of pioneer mothers of the covered wagon days, this statue is the ninth link in the Great National Shrine erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution along the *National Road Trail*. There are only 12 statues linked along US 40 from Bethesda, Maryland, to Upland, California. The Richmond statue was dedicated in 1928 by a little-known Missouri judge, Harry S. Truman!

🐦 Columbus, Ohio – lunch

- 🐦 Zanesville, Ohio – See the Historic Y-Bridge. Yes, it really is in the shape of a “Y” – a three-way bridge that spans the confluence of the Licking and Muskingum Rivers, along the National Road. The first bridge was constructed in 1814 with successive bridges built, up to the current and 5th bridge which was built in 1984. The 4th bridge is on the National Historic Registry. We’ll view this unique Y-shaped bridge from a high-point scenic overlook at nearby Putnam Hill Park.



- 🐦 Wheeling, West Virginia – Heading westward was no small feat! The National Road—formerly the Cumberland Road—crossed the Ohio River in Wheeling, West Virginia.

- The historic Wheeling Suspension Bridge was built specifically to carry the National Road spanning the main channel of the Ohio River in Wheeling, West Virginia. It became the first bridge to span a major river west of the Appalachian Mountains. It linked the eastern and western section of the National Road, and was strategically important during the Civil War. It is considered one of the most important antebellum civil engineering structures in North America and a pioneering example of long-span wire-cable suspension bridge design. Today, no vehicles are allowed on the bridge. It’s open to foot traffic and bicycles only. What a spectacular view over the Ohio River. Can you imagine being pioneers having to cross this river years ago?

- Madonna of the Trails can! You got it! Only a few miles away along the National Road sits the next Madonna of the Trail statue in Wheeling Park. Let's say hello to this statue erected and dedicated July 7, 1928.
- 🐦 Washington, Pennsylvania – more sights to see! During the 19th century, the National Road served as a vital commercial link and "Main Street of America," helping towns like Washington evolve into major regional centers.

- Tour the historic LeMoyne House located in downtown Washington, Pennsylvania. Built in 1812 by Dr. John LeMoyne, a French physician who had fled the French Revolution, the house is more famous as the home of his son, Dr. Francis LeMoyne. The younger Dr. LeMoyne was a noted abolitionist and the house served as a documented station on the Underground Railroad.



- The Bradford House, built in 1788, was the home of David Bradford, one of the principal leaders of the Whisky Rebellion. The home includes clever architectural details designed to minimize property taxes of the era, such as four fireplaces flued into a single central chimney and glass-pane cabinets taxed individually as light sources. There's even a secret escape route! Restoration work uncovered a secret underground passage leading to a nearby ravine, presumably used as an emergency escape route.
- Madonna of the Trail in nearby Beallsville continues the testament to the historic National Road. Let's say hello!



- 🐦 Spend the night in Washington, Pennsylvania

June 20, 2027 (Sunday)

- 🐦 Leave Washington, Pennsylvania, en route to Philadelphia (4- 5 hours driving)
- 🐦 Lunch in Philadelphia. – Anyone up for “shoofly pie!?” This a traditional Pennsylvania Dutch dessert made with a rich molasses filling and a crumbly streusel topping inside a pastry crust. D-licious!
- 🐦 Sight-seeing in Philadelphia
 - Soak in history with the Liberty Bell / Independence Hall tour in Philadelphia – a must for every American!! Independence Hall is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were debated and signed. The Liberty Bell is displayed directly adjacent to Independence Hall. Did you know – the bell was originally ordered in 1751 by the Pennsylvania Assembly to mark the 50th anniversary of William Penn's 1701 Charter of Privileges?

- American Revolution Museum – The museum owns a collection of several thousand objects including artwork and sculpture, textiles and weapons, manuscripts, and rare books. Permanent and special exhibition galleries, theaters and large-scale tableaux portray the individuals and events and engage people in the history and continuing relevance of the American Revolution.



- Carpenter's Hall – site of the 1st Continental Congress and a key meeting place for colonial delegates during the early part of the American Revolution. Completed in 1775, the two-story brick meeting hall was built for and is still privately owned by the Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia, the country's oldest extant craft guild. The First Continental Congress met at the building in 1774 and passed and signed the Continental Association.



- 🐦 Dinner in Philadelphia
- 🐦 Spend the night in Philadelphia

June 21, 2027 (Monday)

- 🐦 Leave Philadelphia (awwww), en route to Annapolis, Maryland (*oh, boy!*)
- 🐦 Tour the Naval Academy in Annapolis. The exhibit area is a mini-museum, with several interactive screens, including informational maps and guidance. There are several kiosks with interactive videos featuring midshipmen and recent graduates who discuss admissions, academics, student life, and career options, as well as a station that provides the career paths of exceptional graduates. With over 700 photographs and incredible heart-stopping photography of the U.S. Naval Academy's most iconic moments, you'll feel the spirit right from the start. Best of all, there is a gift shop!



🐦 Enjoy a waterfront lunch at Historic downtown Annapolis. The historic downtown has been the heart of revolutions and the construction of Government. Stroll along the waterfront and enjoy the charm of the City Dock. Watch the boats as they cruise our famous Ego Alley. Sit on the seawall and watch the sailboat races as they return to the harbor and see why Annapolis is “America’s Sailing Capital.” We’ll have time to explore Annapolis shops in the historic downtown streets and waterfront.

🐦 Leave Annapolis, enroute to DC

🐦 Check into the Hamilton Hotel, located at 1001 14th St NW in downtown Washington, D.C. Blending classic character with modern comfort, the Hamilton Hotel’s rooms and suites offer spacious accommodations designed for a refined stay in downtown Washington DC. Thoughtful amenities and timeless design create a relaxed experience in the heart of the capital.



Across the street, a block away is a CVS Pharmacy. The hotel is conveniently located just blocks north of the J.W. Marriott where many of the NSDAR luncheons and dinners are held. Be sure to check with Marylou and Cindy for times of departure to and from NSDAR Constitution Hall through the week.

TIP: Bring comfy walking shoes and an umbrella in case of inclement weather!

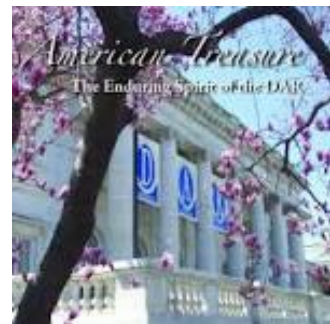
June 22, 2027 (Tuesday)

- 🐦 Morning – go to NSDAR, 1776D Street and register.
- 🐦 Noon – Enjoy the Missouri Bluebird Luncheon – a tradition of over 70 years!
- 🐦 Night tour of the Monuments (possibly Embassy Row and ice cream stop)

June 23 (Wednesday) – June 27 (Sunday)

🐦 NSDAR Continental Congress

Enjoy all there is to see and do during the 136th NSDAR Continental Congress. Visit the NSDAR website for the Congress Schedule, and make plans to attend educational sessions, luncheons, and evening celebrations. There’s something for everyone!



Sometime this week – be sure to join the traditional Bluebirds photo with the State Regent! (*date & time to be announced*)

June 27, 2027 (Sunday) (continued)

- 🐦 Leave D.C./eat lunch en route to Charleston, West Virginia

🐦 Dinner and sleep in Charleston, WV.

The completion of the New River Gorge Bridge on October 22, 1977 solved a



travel challenge. The bridge turned a 40-minute drive into less than a minute. It removed the need to navigate down narrow mountain roads across an ancient river. When it comes to road construction, mountains pose a challenge. At New River Gorge, the challenge transformed into a work of structural art. The New River Gorge Bridge is the longest steel span in the western hemisphere.

The New River Gorge Bridge is one of the most photographed places in West Virginia. In 2013, the National Park Service listed the New River Gorge Bridge in the National Register of Historic Places.

June 28, 2027 (Monday)

- 🐦 Leave Charleston, WV, en route to Vandalia, Illinois
- 🐦 Spend the night in Vandalia, IL

June 29, 2027 (Tuesday)

- 🐦 Vandalia, Illinois – visit Madonna of the Trail near the historic county courthouse and see the monument dedicated to Abraham Lincoln. Vandalia is where Abraham Lincoln began his political career.



- 🐦 Leave Vandalia for St. Louis, Columbia and Kansas City