

# Welcome!

*Thank you for choosing to visit the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center.*

IHMEC is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Holocaust by honoring the memories of those who were lost and by teaching universal lessons that combat hatred, prejudice and indifference. The museum fulfills its mission through the exhibition, preservation and interpretation of its collections and through education programs and initiatives that foster the promotion of human rights and the elimination of genocide.

This Pre-Visit packet was developed to prepare you and your students for your visit to the Museum. For all school groups, a visit to the Museum is inquiry-based: we ask students to respond to materials they see on their Museum tour while involving them in a conversation about the meaning and relevance of the objects they see, stories they hear, and experiences they participate in. An Illinois Holocaust Museum visit is meant to engage students and spark their interest. Students will leave with more questions than answers, as well as a desire to learn more.

## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR STUDENTS FOR A VISIT

This pre-visit packet will enable you to maximize the educational potential of your visit and engage all of your students.

We do encourage you to visit our website for additional and helpful pre-visit

## CONTENTS

- Introduction..... 1
- Did You Know.....2
- Top Ten Reasons to Take a Field Trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum.....3
- Plan Your Field Trip.....4
  - Planning Tips
  - Pre-Visit Check-list
  - When You Arrive
  - Inside the Museum
  - Exhibitions
  - Memorial Areas
- Why Teach About the Holocaust.....11
- Focus Student Learning: Guide to Exhibition.....12
- Enhance Your Visit: Pre-Visit Activities.....18
- Engage with History: During Your Field Trip.....20
- Explore Your Thoughts: Post-Visit Activities.....21
- Appendix.....22
  - Guide for Teaching the Holocaust
  - How to Teach about the Holocaust
  - Glossary

resources, such as an Exhibition Guide, pre-visit activities, field trip observation worksheet, and post-visit materials. You will also find resources, such as

a Holocaust Chronology and Glossary, to photocopy and give as handouts to students.

## Did You Know?

- The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is the second largest Holocaust Museum in the country.
- The Museum's Karkomi Holocaust Exhibition has over 500 artifacts, documents, and photographs on display, as well as a 20<sup>th</sup> Century German rail car of the type used during the Holocaust.
- Illinois became the first state in the entire country to mandate the teaching of the Holocaust in all public elementary and high schools, effective January 1, 1990. In 2005, the Museum helped expand the Mandate to include the study of other modern genocides.
- The Museum was created in response to a threatened neo-Nazi demonstration in Skokie, IL in the late 1970s, where at the time 7,000 survivors of the Holocaust lived.
- The architectural features of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center affirm its place as both monument and memorial. Designed by renowned Chicago architect Stanley Tigerman, the 65,000-square-foot space incorporates historical and emotional symbolism as a response to the inhumanity of the Holocaust.
- A visit to the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center aligns with Common Core State Standards for Social Studies and English Language Arts. Students can practice reading and comprehending informational texts. They can also analyze content in multiple formats of media, as well as write informative/explanatory narratives based on their field trip experience.

# Top Seven Reasons to Take a Field Trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

1. Enhance student learning of history of the Holocaust as told through the personal belongings, photographs, historical records, and stories of local survivors and eyewitnesses.
2. Teach students why, how, what, when and where the Holocaust took place, including key historical trends/antecedents that led up to and culminated in the "Final Solution."
3. Examine primary and secondary sources through the use of film, interactive text and graphics, diaries, letters, newspapers, and first-person testimony, actively engaging students in a direct connection with the ideas of those involved in the Holocaust, and bringing a more personal dimension.
4. Improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills by transforming history into lessons for today, inviting students to discuss the power of choice, responsibility, citizenship, and human rights, and to discover what influences our decisions to act as bystanders or upstanders in response to inhumanity.
5. Increase historical empathy and civic engagement by empowering students to take a stand for themselves and on behalf of others while motivating students to take informed, constructive, collaborative, and positive action in their community and around the world.
6. Apply historical knowledge to real and relevant problems today. Connect the history and lessons of the Holocaust with other modern genocides and human/civil rights issues locally, nationally, or around the world
7. Offers students a unique experience that cannot be replicated in the classroom.

# Plan Your Trip

It's easy! To schedule your field trip, complete the registration form at our website [www.ilholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org). Due to popularity of school group visits, reservations must be made in advance. Your visit will be confirmed via email within 10 business days of your request. If you don't receive a confirmation letter, call 847.967.4840. We look forward to your visit.

## Planning Tips

- Expect your group journey through the Museum to take a minimum of 2 to 2.5 hours. Visits begin at 10am Monday through Sunday.
- Indicate the size of your group. **Maximum size of group is 300 for a teacher-led tour.**
- Divide your students into **groups of ten prior** to arriving at the Museum.
- **Secure one chaperone** for every ten students in grade 7 and above. Each adult exceeding the 1:10 ratio will be charged \$12 or \$8 for seniors.
- **Color code** each group of students.
- **For your safety**, all items brought into the Museum are subject to inspection.
- **Backpacks are not allowed in exhibition spaces.** Large items will need to be left on the bus.
- **Photography is not allowed** inside the Karkomi Holocaust Exhibition .
- **Pens of any kind are not allowed** in the exhibition areas. Only pencils are allowed.
- **Be quiet and respectful of others.** Please do not use your cell phones.

| Students, ages 8-22          | \$8 Jan-June               |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Special incentive pricing    | \$5 Jul-Oct<br>\$6 Nov-Dec |
| Chaperones up to 1:10 ratio  | FREE                       |
| Medical / Behavioral Aides   | FREE                       |
| Bus Drivers / Tour Operators | FREE                       |
| Chaperones above 1:10 ratio  | \$12.00                    |

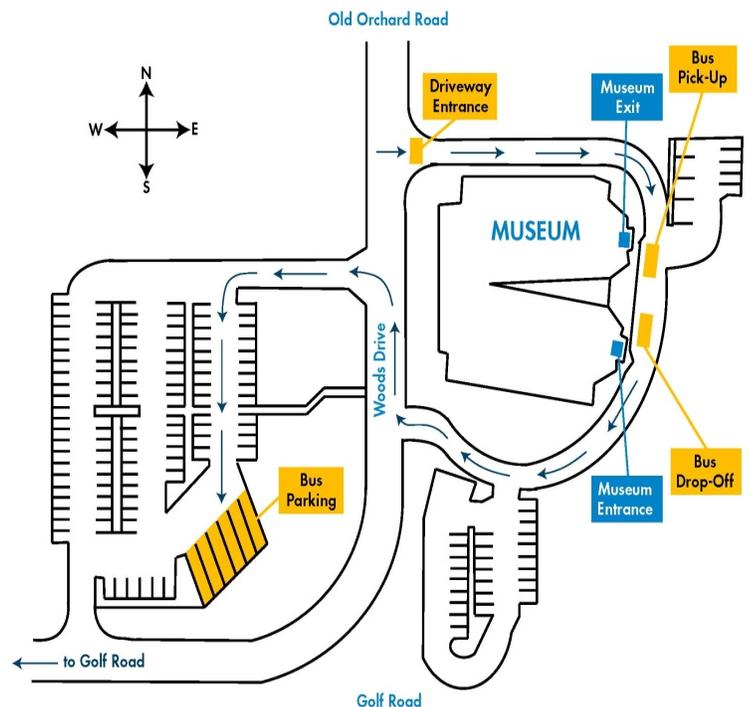
# Previsit Check List

- Prepare to register online at [www.ilholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org)
  - o Choose three potential field trip dates
  - o Determine total number of students and chaperones
- Complete the online field trip application.
- Complete necessary school paperwork (e.g. field trip application, student permission slips, etc).
- Coordinate transportation.
- Recruit chaperones.
- Divide students into groups of 10 with one chaperone and color code each group.
- Pass out pre-visit packet to chaperones with maps.
- Review policies of Museum.
- Prepare itineraries for chaperones to guide students through the exhibitions.
- Complete suggested pre-field trip activities in the classroom.

## When You Arrive

### Bus Drop-Off, Parking and Directions

School bus and motor coach unloading and loading will take place in front of the Museum's main entrance. Buses should enter the signed "Museum Entrance" area and pull up to the "dark side" of the museum building. Students/chaperones **should not** unload from the bus until you have been greeted by a museum representative for your orientation. After your students have unloaded please direct your bus driver to the main museum parking lot on the west side of the museum where they will find special bus parking



slots. Please direct your driver that **bus engines must be turned off when parked**. Bus drivers are invited to join a group for their tour.

**DRIVING - FROM THE SOUTH via I-294:** Take the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) north to the Dempster St. east (US-14) exit. From the exit ramp, turn right onto Dempster Street (US-14). Drive east about 3.5 miles. Turn left onto Waukegan Road. Drive north about 1 mile. Turn right onto Golf Road. Drive east about 2 miles. Turn left onto Woods Drive. The Museum will be on your right.

**DRIVING - FROM THE SOUTH via I-94:** Take the Kennedy Expressway (I-90/94) west. Merge onto the Edens Expressway (I-94) going west to the Old Orchard exit. From the exit ramp, turn left onto Old Orchard Road. Turn left onto Woods Drive, about 1/4 mile down. The Museum will be on your left.

**DRIVING - FROM THE NORTH via I-94:** Take the Edens Expressway (I-94) east to the Old Orchard exit. From the exit ramp, turn right onto Old Orchard Road. Turn left onto Woods Drive, about 1/4 mile down. The Museum will be on your left.

# Inside the Museum



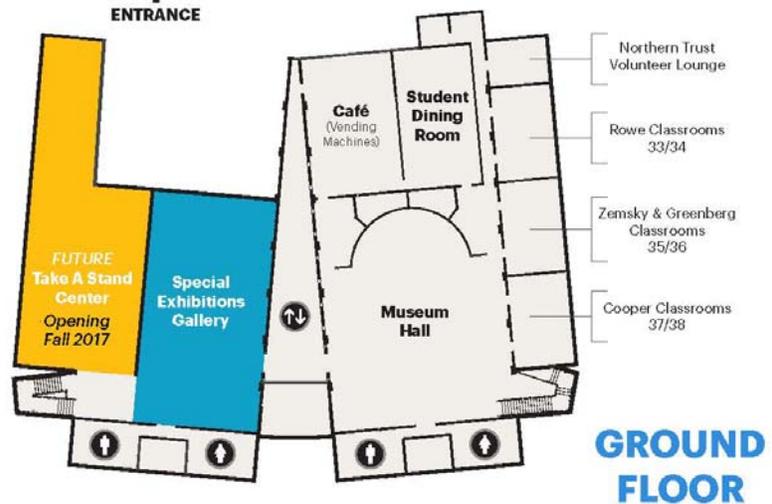
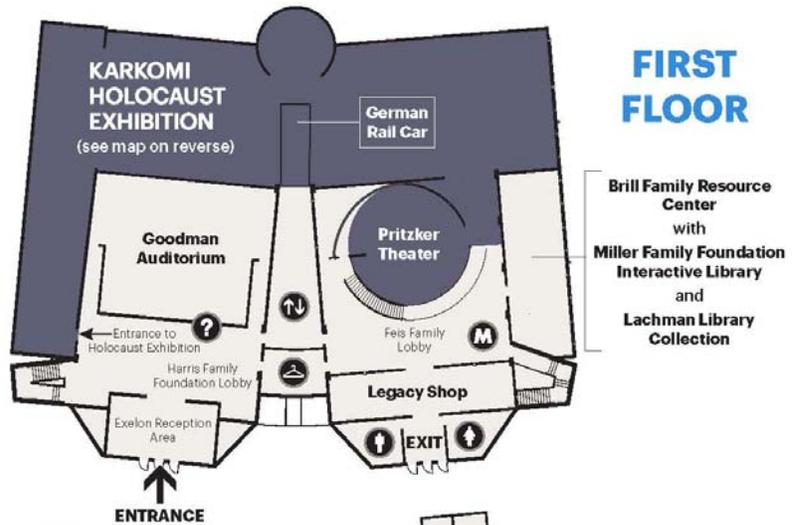
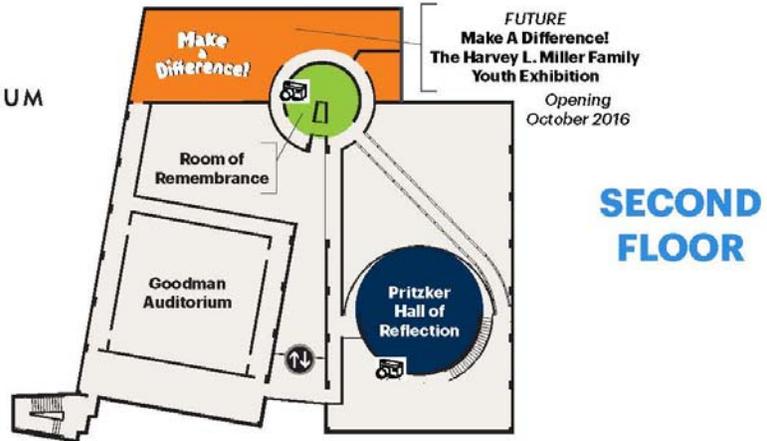
ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM  
& EDUCATION CENTER

**KEY**

- Coat Check
- Elevator
- Information Desk
- Membership Desk
- Men's Restroom
- Women's Restroom
- Stairs
- Photo-Friendly Area

**VISITOR GUIDELINES:**

- Cell phones must be placed on vibrate/silent.
- Photography and audio/video recording are allowed in all common areas and in galleries designated as photo-friendly.
- In the galleries, only pencils may be used for writing.
- No food, drinks, or gum are allowed outside of designated eating areas.
- Snacks and beverages can be purchased from our vending machines, located in the ground floor Café.



# KARKOMI HOLOCAUST EXHIBITION

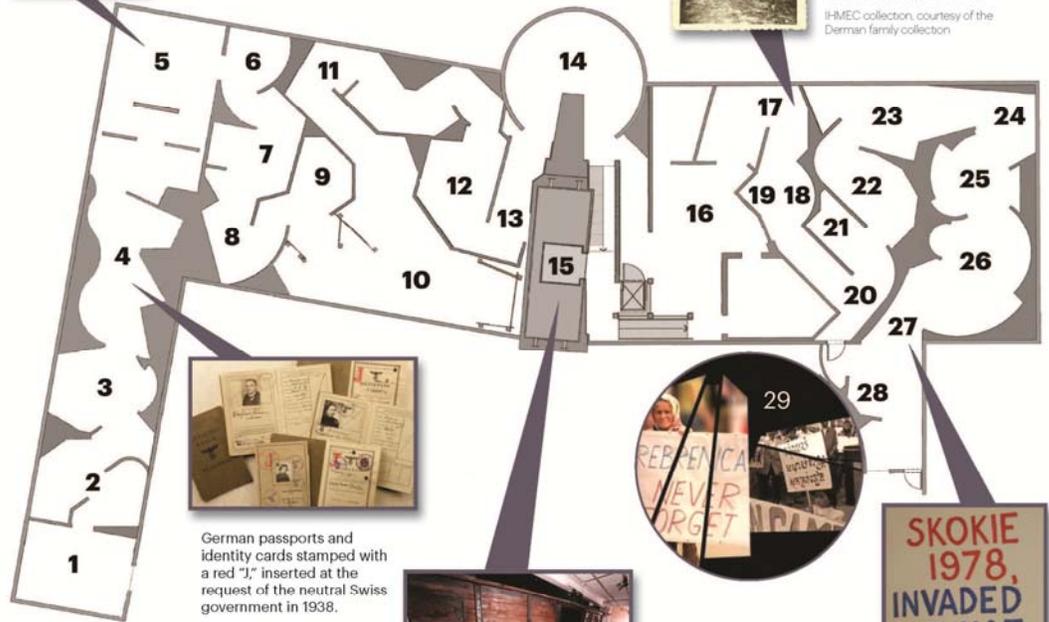
- 1 Introduction
- 2 World Before
- 3 Rise of Nazism
- 4 Life under the Swastika
- 5 November Pogroms
- 6 World Response
- 7 World at War
- 8 Mosaic of Victims
- 9 Nazi Racism Spreads
- 10 Ghettos
- 11 Mass Murder
- 12 The Final Solution: Wannsee Conference
- 13 Deception
- 14 Deportation
- 15 Rail Car
- 16 Camps
- 17 Getting the Word Out
- 18 Rescuers
- 19 Collaboration
- 20 Death Marches
- 21 Liberation
- 22 Return to Life
- 23 Political Aftermath
- 24 Departure and Arrival
- 25 Arrival in a New Country
- 26 Becoming Americans
- 27 Neo-Nazi March on Skokie
- 28 Holocaust Awareness/ Survivor Empowerment
- 29 Closing Film/Pritzker Theater



On the evenings of November 9 and 10, 1938, which have come to be known as Kristallnacht—the Night of Broken Glass—the Nazis staged vicious state-sanctioned, antisemitic riots against the Jewish communities in Germany and Austria.



Aron (Dereczunski) Derman, escaped deportation and joined Jewish partisans, who were fighting in the forest; Poland, ca. 1945.  
IH-MEC collection, courtesy of the Derman family collection



German passports and identity cards stamped with a red "J," inserted at the request of the neutral Swiss government in 1938.

IH-MEC collection. Courtesy of the Seder family, Tom and Steve Ungar, and the Gideon family collection, and in memory of Bridget Gallagher and Cantor Leopold Fleischer and family



A German rail car of the type used in Nazi deportation sits in the center of the building.



Poster made in response to the proposed neo-Nazi march in Skokie.

IH-MEC, courtesy of the Charak Family

## Exhibitions

### Karkomi Holocaust Exhibition

The Zev and Shifra Karkomi Holocaust Exhibition tells the story of the Holocaust, from pre-war German life, to ghettos and concentration camps, to eventual liberation and resettlement throughout the world, with a special focus on post-war life in Skokie. More than 500 artifacts, documents, and photographs help illustrate the narrative of the Holocaust, while testimonies from local survivors add personal detail. A [German rail car](#) of the type used in Nazi deportation programs sits in the center of the building. The exhibition concludes with a summary film in the Pritzker Theater that connects the lessons of the Holocaust with other genocides.

## Make a Difference! The Harvey L. Miller Family Youth Exhibition

Have fun in this highly interactive space where hands-on activities teach kids ages 8 – 12 to respect differences, address bullying, and take a stand on issues that matter to them!

- Peek inside school lockers to find surprising stories about Rosa Parks, Miep Gies and others who took a stand
- Create a self-portrait expressing your unique personality.
- Give advice to kids in sticky situations or tell your own story on video

## Temporary Exhibitions 2016-2017

Please visit our website at [www.ilholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org) for updated temporary exhibitions.

## Room of Remembrance and Hall of Reflection

The Room of Remembrance pays special homage to the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. Representative names of victims line the walls in a moving tribute to those who were lost. The inspirational Pritzker Hall of Reflection provides a forum for peaceful discussion and contemplation for groups and individuals.

