ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM PRESENTS

EXPERIENCE360

SHAPIRO FAMILY FOUNDATION CENTER

DOCENT LED PRE-VISIT GUIDE

"The Museum is place we Holocaust survivors can call home; a place that welcomes us to remember our past and honor our families; a place that speaks out against hatred. I invite you to our home to honor those who have helped create this special space."

Fritzie Fritzshall
Holocaust Survivor, President Emeritus

Dear Teachers:

First and foremost, thank you for providing your students with the opportunity to visit Experience 360, presented by Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center. We know that you have many choices for your field trip experiences, and we are glad you chose us. We know this is a big undertaking on your part, and that communication and preparedness are keys to a successful trip.

A visit to Experience 360 (E360), presented by Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is meant to engage students and spark their interest. It offers a unique experience that cannot be replicated in the classroom. We are inspired by the tens of thousands of students and educators who engage in our field trip program. We know from testimonials and evaluations that they leave with an enhanced understanding of how the Holocaust impacted the lives of individuals, and what is possible when hatred, bigotry, and indifference are left unchallenged.

This Guide is a first step in giving you the planning support you need. Within it, you will find details on preparing for your visit, your arrival, tour, and frequently asked questions. Please feel free to duplicate any pages as needed.

Lastly, we look forward to helping you with the logistical side of your trip. We are only an email or phone call away from answering your questions. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Education Team
P: **847-967-4800** Email: **fieldtrips@ilhmec.org**

PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

For Teachers and Chaperones

- Expect your group journey through E360 to take around 2 to 2.5 hours.
- Recruit chaperones. **We request student groups include one chaperone for every 10 students.**
- Before you arrive, divide students into groups of 20. Each group of 20 should have 2 chaperones.
- Give chaperones the names of students for whom they will be responsible.
- Name Tags: Make sure that every child and adult is wearing a name tag that includes name, pronouns, group designation (number, letter, etc.)

For Students

- Please review E360 rules.

E360 RULES

Every visitor has a right to enjoy a meaningful and educational visit.

All visitors must pass through metal detectors and have their belongings scanned.
For your safety, all items brought into E360 are subject to inspection.

Please leave all coats, bags, and valuable personal belongings back at school or on the bus.
It is a very short walk from the bus into the building.

Leave all food, beverages, gum, candy, and pens in your bus or car. Pencils are allowed if connected to an on-site activity—worksheet, class notes, reflection diary, etc.

Please use inside voices. Screaming and yelling interrupts other tours and visitors.

Unless otherwise noted, photography without flash is allowed inside most exhibitions, as well as in public, non-exhibition spaces (*i.e. lobby*) and outside the building.

"We dreamt of creating a place that would not only serve as a memorial to our families that perished, and the millions lost, but also where young minds could learn the terrible dangers of prejudice and hatred."

Sam Harris
Holocaust Survivor, President Emeritus

ACCESSIBILITY AT E360

We want each visitor to have a memorable experience and we are committed to making our programs, exhibitions, and facilities accessible for everyone by removing accessibility barriers, delivering a welcoming and relevant experience, and providing opportunities for meaningful engagement. Please notify the staff at the time you sign up if you have any students who require accommodations. Giving advance notice will make the visit more meaningful for all. Feel free to visit the Accessibility at the Museum page of our website to learn what support is available.

DIRECTIONS

Address: 360 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60654

PARKING DISCOUNT: Parking is available at the Standard Parking ramp at 401 North State Street, diagonal from the museum. Look for the Hertz sign. Illinois Holocaust Museum Presents: Experience 360 will give you a discount coupon with the purchase of admission.

DRIVING FROM SOUTHBOUND LAKE SHORE DRIVE: Use exit for Grand Ave. Turn right onto Grand Ave, then turn left onto State Street. E360 will be on your right.

DRIVING FROM NORTHBOUND LAKE SHORE DRIVE: Keep left to exit to Columbus Drive. Turn left onto Randolph Street, then turn right onto Dearborn. Cross the Chicago River and turn right on Kinzie, then left on State Street. E360 will be on your right.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: CTA bus routes 29, 36, and 62 all stop at the front door of the E360. From the CTA Red Line station at Grand, walk south on State Street for three blocks. From the station at State & Lake, walk north on State Street for one block, cross the river, and E360 will be on the left before you reach Kinzie Street.

ON ARRIVAL

- Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled visit.
- School bus and motor coach unloading and loading will take place in front of E360's main entrance. We recommend that your group remain on the bus while you check-in.
- **Check-in:** The lead teacher or group contact should present their confirmation letter at the Admissions counter.

  A volunteer will come on the bus to greet and orient the students. Upon completion of the orientation, teachers should facilitate students exiting the bus(es) in their designated groups, about 20 at a time, to enter the building.

  Please remember we encourage you to pre-pay your full field trip balance in advance of your visit. If advanced payment is not possible, the balance of your field trip payment is due upon arrival.

  Please organize payment in full for the entire school group in the form of credit card, check, or cash (exact change only). **We do not accept purchase orders.**
- Students should exit the bus in pre-divided groups, with their chaperones.
- After going through security, students should gather as directed by Museum staff or volunteers in their pre-assigned groups with their chaperones. Student groups will then be assigned a Docent, who will ensure students have the opportunity to use the bathrooms and then begin their tours.
- After your students have unloaded, please inform your driver of your pick-up time. There is no designated parking for buses. Bus drivers are invited to join a group for their tour. **Your bus driver will receive free admission.**

INSIDE E360

When neo-Nazis threatened to march in Skokie in the late 1970s, Holocaust Survivors around the world were shocked. They realized that, despite their desire to leave the past behind, they could no longer remain silent. In the wake of these attempted marches, Chicagoland Holocaust Survivors joined together to form the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois. They purchased a small Skokie storefront and made it available to the public, focusing on combating hate with education. The 65,000-square-foot Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center opened in 2009 and is the culmination of 30 years of hard work by the Survivor community. While the Skokie location receives upgrades to improve visitor experience, the museum's new downtown location, Experience 360, opened in the summer of 2025. Designed to reach new audiences in the heart of downtown Chicago, Experience 360 features Illinois Holocaust Museum's ground-breaking innovations in storytelling through holographic technology and virtual reality experiences paired with exhibitions on the Holocaust and genocide.

YOUR TOUR

Our docents are life-long learners, educators, and ambassadors who share their passion for history, deliver accurate information, and are able to share powerful stories behind the objects and photographs displayed. They encourage exploration and interpretation of the exhibitions using methods of dialogue and inquiry. We encourage you and your students to engage with them and ask questions.

On their tour, students will experience:

Karkomi Family Fund Gallery: Explore key events from the Holocaust and World War II through the words, voices, and photographs of Chicago area survivors.

Northern Trust Virtual Reality Theater: Journey with survivors through childhood hometowns, current-day concentration camps, and sites of hiding in this immersive 360-degree film experience.

Lillian & Larry Goodman Foundations Holographic Theater: High-definition interactive interview recordings paired with voice recognition technology enables Survivors to tell their deeply moving personal stories and respond to questions from the audience, inviting visitors to have a personalized, one-on-one 'conversation.'

ITW Special Exhibition Gallery featuring Stories of Survival: Object. Image. Memory: Photographs and treasured artifacts from Survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides explore harrowing and inspiring stories of resilience and perseverance.

DEPARTURE

Following your tour, buses and/or motor coaches should pick up the group in front of E360's main exit at your assigned departure time. Please note that if your bus arrives earlier than your scheduled departure time and your group is not ready to depart, they may be asked to "circle" or park elsewhere until the group is ready. Please keep your driver's phone number with you.

If you need to leave early, please notify staff as soon as possible.

Student Coupon

After your field do not forget to download your students' return coupons, which allows those students who visited to return for a visit with their families. Each student is able to return free of charge with one paid adult or senior admission.

www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/studentcoupon

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is your chaperone policy?

- **We require two chaperones, 21 years of age or older, for every twenty (20) students.** No exceptions will be made to this policy. Chaperones within the 1:10 ratio are admitted free of charge.
- Medical/behavioral aides accompanying special needs students, over and above the 1:10 ratio are also granted complimentary admission.
- Additional chaperones not serving as necessary aides are charged the group tour fee of $12/adult.
- Bus drivers and tour operators are granted complimentary admission.
- College/University field trips do not require chaperones.

How do I divide or organize my students prior to my field trip? Do I need to create name tags?

We ask that you please divide your students evenly into color coded groups of no more than 20 before your field trip. Assign two chaperones per group.

Number of Students	Number of Small Groups
10-20	1
21-40	2
41-60	3
61-80	4

Please have each student and teacher/chaperone wear a name tag that identifies each individual by first name, pronouns, and is written in bold black marker. The easiest way to accomplish this is to use 2" x 4" Address Labels! Mark each individual name tag with a group designation – letter, number or color of their group.

Can my group hear a Holocaust eyewitness during our visit?

Your group will hear from survivors in the Virtual Reality experience and have the chance to interact and ask survivors questions in the Holographic Theatre. Members of the Museum's Speakers' Bureau will share their stories with the general public on Tuesdays and Fridays at 12:00 noon. Please let us know if your group is planning to attend.

May our group bring lunch to eat before or after our tour? Can we purchase lunch on-site at the Museum?

There is no lunchroom provided onsite at our downtown location, but there are outdoor spaces for groups to eat along the nearby Chicago Riverwalk.

Are there suggested learning activities or teaching guidelines you would recommend to prepare for our field trip visit?

Before your visit we recommend you prepare your students for their field trip. You can download suggested learning activities, which include rational, guidelines to teach about the Holocaust, a historical chronology, glossary of geographical and biographical terms, online resources, exhibit summaries, and other materials. Please visit us at http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/pre-visit-information/ to learn more.

In addition, the week before your tour a volunteer Museum docent will contact you by telephone to confirm your field trip and gather background information, goals and objectives for your trip. Docents cannot accept or handle any changes to your field trip. Please see below on how to request a change to your field trip request.

How do I make a change to my field trip request?

In order for the Museum to properly plan for all interested student groups, a one-time change may be made to the following:

- Number of Students
- Rescheduling (Date and Time)
- Cancellation

up to 21 days in advance of the tour, based upon availability. All changes must be requested in writing to the Education Department, emailed from an official school email address. Changes will not be accepted by phone.

Number of Students

After final confirmation of your student group size, we shall not issue any refunds or make any final balance due adjustments for failure to adhere to the confirmed group size. We reserve the right to invoice schools for any unpaid balance due.

Rescheduling (Date and Time)

Any request to reschedule within 21 days of the field trip date will be considered a cancellation, a new request and deposit must be submitted.

Cancellation

Refunds will not be given for cancelled tour. If you group is unable to travel to E360 due to extreme weather conditions, please call us at 847.967.4848 as soon as possible. We will make every effort to reschedule your visit, based on availability.

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