



FIELD TRIP PLANNING GUIDE

GRADES 6-12

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Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in Holocaust Museum Houston.

Holocaust Museum Houston is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, remembering the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims, and honoring the survivors' legacy.

Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, we teach the dangers of hatred, prejudice, and apathy.

PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS FOR A VISIT

This guide has been thoughtfully crafted to help you and your students prepare for an enriching visit to Holocaust Museum Houston. Our goal is to challenge and engage students, encouraging them to critically respond to the information they encounter during their tour. We aim to spark meaningful conversations around the objects they observe, the stories they hear, and the experiences they participate in. By the end of their visit, we hope students will not only leave with a deeper understanding of history and social issues but also be inspired to take action as "upstanders"—individuals who stand up for what is right, advocate for justice, and contribute positively to society.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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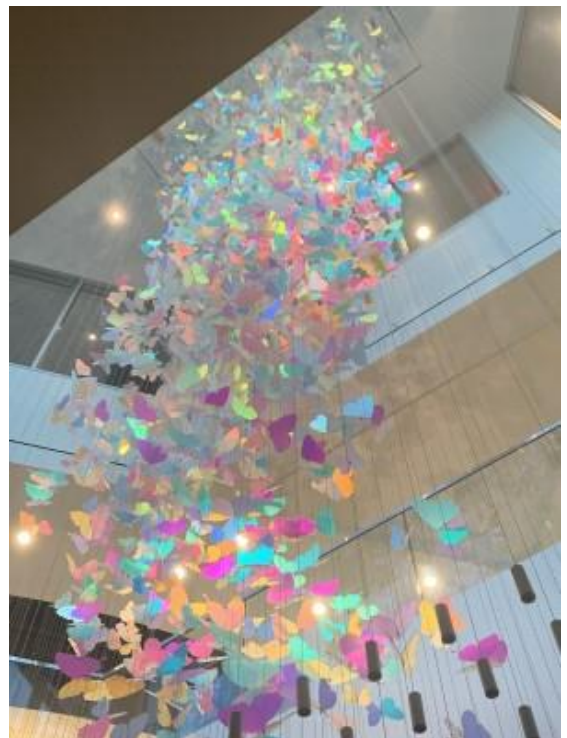


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Plan Your Field Trip

STEP 1: LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GALLERIES AND EXHIBITS

Information about our permanent galleries and temporary exhibits may be found in the Gallery Guide on pages 7-8 and online at hmh.org/exhibitions. If a temporary exhibit for your intended date is not listed, please reach out to the Group Tours Manager for additional information.

STEP 2: CHOOSE THE TYPE OF TOUR YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE

EMPOWERING UPSTANDERS DOCENT-LED TOUR

PLEASE NOTE: The curriculum of this tour is designed for grade 6-12. Students in lower grades will not be permitted to follow *Empowering Upstanders* tours.

Holocaust Museum Houston is honored to offer "Empowering Upstanders," an engaging field trip program designed specifically for school and youth groups. This program is not just a visit; it's an educational journey that empowers young minds to become active participants in shaping a more just and compassionate world. We provide three pre-designed tour options that align with standard curriculums, as well as a customizable model that allows you to tailor the experience to your group's specific interests and learning objectives.

Through our highly recommended docent-guided tours, students gain a profound understanding of history, particularly the lived experiences of local Houston Holocaust Survivors. Our docents, who undergo rigorous training in Holocaust and human rights education, continually enhance their skills and knowledge with professional development programs. This ensures they can provide students with deep insights and foster critical thinking about the past and its relevance to today's world. Beyond the history learned, students are prompted to interpret complex ideas and emotions through the exploration of symbolism in art, further enriching their understanding of humanity. Students and chaperones may also engage with powerful firsthand accounts of war and genocide, which not only inform but also inspire empathy and action.



EMPOWERING UPSTANDERS: LANGUAGE ARTS PATH

Time: 2 hours

Tour includes:

- *Bearing Witness: A Community Remembers* Holocaust Gallery
- *And Still I Write, Young Diarists on War and Genocide*
- Samuel Bak Art Gallery

EMPOWERING UPSTANDERS: SOCIAL STUDIES PATH

Time: 2 hours

Tour includes:

- *Bearing Witness: A Community Remembers* Holocaust Gallery
- Human Rights Gallery
- Current temporary exhibit (Click [here](#) for more information.)

EMPOWERING UPSTANDERS: VOICES OF THE HOLOCAUST PATH

Time: 2.5 hours

Tour includes:

- *Bearing Witness: A Community Remembers* Holocaust Gallery
- Memorial Room
- Samuel Bak Art Gallery
- *Voices* (film of Houston Survivors video testimonials)

EMPOWERING UPSTANDERS: CHOOSE YOUR OWN PATH (maximum of 3 choices in addition to *Bearing Witness: A Community Remembers* Holocaust Gallery)

Time: 2-2.5 hours

- Human Rights Gallery
- *And Still I Write, Young Diarists on War and Genocide*
- Memorial Room
- Samuel Bak Art Gallery
- *Voices* (film of Houston Survivors video testimonials)
- Current temporary exhibit (Click [here](#) for more information.)

PLEASE NOTE: The size of your group and/or time constraints may modify your choice of galleries.

☐ SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Self-guided tours at Holocaust Museum Houston offer the flexibility to explore the Museum's exhibits at your own pace. To ensure a meaningful and organized visit, the Museum provides comprehensive resources that help groups navigate the galleries and maximize their educational experience. To maintain an optimal learning environment, self-guided groups are limited to a maximum of 125 participants, including students, teachers, and chaperones. We require at least one adult chaperone for every ten students to help guide the experience and maintain a focused visit.

While exploring the Museum, your group may have the opportunity to engage with docents and trained volunteers stationed throughout the galleries. These knowledgeable individuals are available to answer questions and provide additional context to complex topics.

Depending on group size and equipment supply, audio tour devices are available for an additional \$4 for adults and complimentary for students.

☐ VIRTUAL TOURS

In response to the need for distance learning options, Holocaust Museum Houston created virtual tours for classrooms and community groups. Participants can tour the Museum's galleries virtually and interact live with a docent. Tour options include *Bearing Witness: A Community Remembers* Holocaust Gallery, the Lester and Sue Smith Human Rights Gallery, and the Samuel Bak Gallery and Learning Center. A Survivor Stories session can also be scheduled to learn about the personal history of a family during the Holocaust. HMH virtual tours are scheduled between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. central time, Monday – Friday. Groups must consist of no less than ten individuals.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS & DESCENDANTS SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Holocaust Survivors and their children are available to speak with your students in person. For survivors of the Holocaust, sharing their testimony is more than a recounting of past events; it is a testament to their resilience, courage, and determination to ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust are never forgotten and the hope that future generations learn from history. The Descendants of Holocaust survivors transform their family's legacies into a profound educational experience, honoring the past while inspiring hope for a more compassionate future.

Speaking engagements require a minimum of 50 or more individuals (students and adults) and will typically add 1 hour to your visit. Please understand that **speaker requests are not guaranteed and are subject to change even after confirmation.** The Group Tours Manager will reach out to you to arrange the speaking engagement and make any necessary adjustments to your schedule.

STEP 3: UNDERSTAND FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES & FEES

- ✓ Tours require a minimum of ten participants, with a maximum of 100 for docent-led tours and 125 for self-guided tours.
- ✓ Museum policy requires adult to student ratios of 1:20 for docent-guided tours and 1:10 for self-guided tours. ALL adults must act as chaperones.
- ✓ Tours are offered Tuesday-Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Tours are not available during times of free admission or holidays.
- ✓ Time spent on campus:
 - Docent-Guided Tours: 2.5 - 3 hours
 - Self-Guided Tours: minimum of 2 hours
 - Speaking engagements, visits to the museum store, lunch periods, and self-guiding through exhibits after your tour will add time to your expected visit length.
- ✓ Tour requests must be received at least three weeks in advance of your earliest preferred tour date.
- ✓ The Group Tours Manager will contact you within 7 business days to discuss details for your group. Tours are considered booked only after you have received written confirmation from the Museum.
- ✓ Face masks are optional for visitors. COVID-19 protocols are subject to change without notice.
- ✓ PLEASE REMEMBER: Docents are volunteers with the Museum; therefore, their availability is subject to change.

LUNCH

School groups may bring their own food or order lunches from our Bagel Shop to enjoy in the outdoor Eric Alexander Garden of Hope & Amphitheater, weather permitting. Classroom space may be open in cases of poor weather depending on availability and group size. Lunches cannot be stored onsite and must remain in vehicles during the tour; buses must return to the driveway to unload lunches, which are subject to security inspection.

ADMISSION FEES

Admission for adults accompanying public and private schools will be covered by the Museum; this is subject to assessment by the Group Tours Manager. **All adults included in the reservation must serve as chaperones at all times by supervising students and remaining with their assigned group.**

STUDENTS 18 and younger and college students	FREE
REQUIRED ADULTS 1:20 adult to student ratio for docent-guided tours; 1:10 ratio for self-guided tours	FREE
ADULTS over the required ratio	\$22 each, \$16 for seniors/AARP members/military members
MEDICAL/BEHAVIORAL AIDES	FREE
BUS DRIVERS	FREE



**ASK ABOUT OUR TRANSPORTATION
REIMBURSEMENT GRANTS**

STEP 4: **SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST**

- ✓ Choose three potential field trip dates and determine your arrival and departure times
- ✓ Estimate total number of participants
- ✓ Provide a detailed explanation of your students' familiarity with the Holocaust, including any media or literature references and classroom lessons, and their learning objectives
- ✓ Consider accommodations needed for your group – lunch spaces, medical or disability needs, Spanish language tours, etc

STEP 5: PRE-VISIT CHECKLIST

- ✓ **PAPERWORK** Complete necessary school paperwork and transportation coordination. Confirm with your administration that the field trip has been approved prior to your visit.
- ✓ **REVIEW CONFIRMATION DETAILS & GUIDELINES** The Museum should be notified of any changes to the details included in the tour confirmation email. Read the confirmation guidelines and share with all other adults participating in the tour. Share necessary unloading and parking information with drivers.
- ✓ **INTRODUCE THE MUSEUM** Speak with your students about what to expect on this visit; the Museum is a memorial space as well as an educational institution. Graphic material is displayed with care and can be avoided, but the topics and stories shared can be emotionally heavy. If possible, reserve time for students to watch the USHHRM video linked in the confirmation email.
- ✓ **SMALL GROUPS** Please divide your students as directed in confirmation email.
- ✓ **CHAPERONES** Make sure to have at least one adult chaperone for each group of twenty students for docent-led tours and one for each group of ten students for a self-guided tour.
- ✓ **SECURITY** All guests must remove keys and electronics from their pockets, place their bags into bins for inspection, and pass through a scanner device. Chaperones are permitted to carry bags and backpacks; students must leave their belongings on their bus.
- ✓ **ACCESSIBILITY** As part of the Museum's ongoing efforts to be more accessible for all, we are excited to offer support for visitors with disabilities and their caregivers. Please communicate with the Group Tours Coordinator should you need accommodation.

For more accessibility information, visit our website at <https://hnh.org/visit/accessibility>.

- ✓ **LUNCH** No food or drink is allowed inside the Museum exhibits or theater. Lunch arrangements should be requested in the tour request form and confirmed with the Group Tours Manager.
- ✓ **MUSEUM STORE** Students may purchase books, souvenirs, and gift items in groups of ten at a time with a chaperone after the tour is complete.

Gallery Guide

FIRST FLOOR GALLERIES

Morgan Family Welcome Center

Begin your visit in the Morgan Family Welcome Center, where a brief video describes life for European Jews before the Holocaust and includes accounts from our Houston survivors.

“Bearing Witness: A Community Remembers” Holocaust Gallery

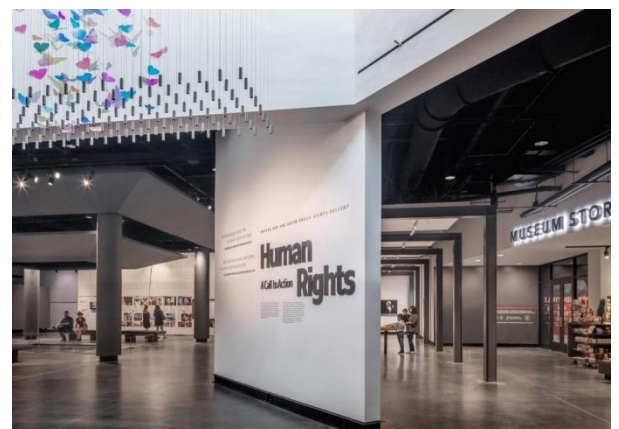
This is the focus of Holocaust Museum Houston, offering context to the rise of Nazism and following the escalation of genocide. The exhibit educates visitors about Jewish and non-Jewish resistance efforts as well as displaced persons camps and life after the Holocaust.

The material is personalized with testimony of Holocaust Survivors who later settled in the Houston area and features artifacts donated by the Survivors, their descendants, liberators, and other collectors. This space was enhanced by bringing two of the Museum’s most important artifacts, the World War II-era railcar and the 1940’s Danish rescue boat, into the Museum facility.

USC Shoah Foundation’s Dimensions in Testimony (DIT), featuring Houston-area Holocaust survivor William J. “Bill” Morgan, allows visitors to have “virtual conversations” with Holocaust survivors. By asking his pre-recorded image questions, students can interview a member of their community and be led by their own sense of curiosity and investigation.

Lester and Sue Smith Human Rights Gallery

The Lester and Sue Smith Human Rights Gallery explores the evolution of human rights throughout history and the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Gallery includes wide ranging examples of genocide and human rights abuses and educates visitors about the life and advocacy work of Upstanders who have protected and advanced human rights across the globe.



Memorial Room, Gift of The Lack Family

The Memorial Room is a place for meditation and contemplation, where the names of family members and friends lost during the Holocaust and since its conclusion are honored. Artwork and memorials frame the space: the “Wall of Tears” installation and paired pieces “Remembrance” and “Hope;” tributes to family and community members affected by the Holocaust; and ashes from concentration camps and the Babi Yar massacre site.

The Rhona and Bruce Caress Gallery

And Still I Write: Young Diarists on War and Genocide

And Still I Write: Young Diarists on War and Genocide highlights the diaries of young people who wrote during periods of instability and persecution from the Holocaust to modern day. These stand as valuable historical documents that often resonate with students and connect them with their peers across history and circumstance.

Central Gallery & the Josef and Edith Mincberg Gallery

These galleries feature the Museum’s changing exhibitions, which feature aspects of culture and history related to the Holocaust and human rights. For information about current or upcoming exhibitions, please go to hmh.org/exhibitions or ask the Group Tours Manager.

SECOND FLOOR GALLERIES

Holocaust Survivors’ Wall

Placed in the center of our Moral Choices Hall, the Survivors’ Wall includes the names of nearly 1,000 Holocaust survivors who made Houston their home after the war. Many of these survivors helped build the Museum and several are still active in HMH community.

Albert and Ethel Herzstein Theater

Playing continuously throughout the day, *Voices I & II* features the video testimonials of many Houston Survivors. Though some accounts are tragic and difficult to hear, this is one of the most impactful resources we offer students, particularly as Survivor voices dwindle.

Samuel Bak Gallery and Learning Center In Loving Memory of Hope Silber Kaplan

Inspired by his experiences as a child during the Holocaust, the Samuel Bak Gallery displays the exceptional work of the artist and exemplifies the power of creative expression to tell one’s story.

