



The Great War: WWI Hands-on History Day

Friday, April 10, 2026: 9:30am-2pm

Welcome to Midway Village Museum's Great War: WWI School Day! We are excited to host you and your students. This packet contains all the essential information you need prior to your visit. We ask that you read all information to best prepare for your experience. This information is subject to change and details of the day may be different than what is specifically noted here. We look forward to seeing you and your students and thank you for continued support of Midway Village Museum!

Arrival Instructions:

- Please arrive via Entrance 1 at our main parking lot.
- Pay attention to the parking staff who will guide your bus or vehicle to the appropriate spot for student drop off.
 - Buses will park in the south half of the lot, and cars will park in the north half.
 - Please cross the parking lot via the sidewalk or grass to keep the parking lot clear for traffic!
- Check-in will be from 9-10am near the Old Doll's House, or the red brick building located at the end of the main parking lot.
- At the Old Doll's House, a staff member will give you a packet with your chaperone stickers and assist with getting your group into the village.
 - If you arrive by bus, please keep your students on the bus until you have been checked in by staff.
- **Each adult chaperone needs to have a sticker.** Please check beforehand if your school has paid for the chaperones. If not, adult chaperones may pay for their entry at the tent where they will then receive their sticker.
- **Payment must be made as a whole group for the students and not by individual students paying one at a time; chaperones can pay separately if needed.**
- Midway Village is closed to the public during this event. Ensuring that each adult chaperone has a sticker confirms that they are supposed to be there. Cash, charge, or check are all accepted forms of payment.
- Bus drivers are encouraged to visit the admission tent or front desk to receive a complimentary sticker to enjoy the day's event.

Overview of Your Day & Guidelines:

- Once checked in, you will receive a QR code to maps of the various activities throughout the property.
- Your tour will be self-guided, and we recommend that you move around in **groups of 10-20 students**. The 200+ reenactors are camped throughout the village, and students are encouraged to stop at each one since they are all interpreting different units and countries involved in the war.
- Most stations are open from 9:30-11:15am and again from 12-2pm, including tours of the museum's unique 150-yard trench system!

- Our permanent exhibit, *You're in the Army Now: Camp Grant, Rockford's Legacy*, will be open the entire experience (9:30am-2pm) inside the Museum Center.
- Lunch is 45 minutes: 11:15am – 12pm. Programming stops at this time for everyone to eat. Either keep your lunches on the bus (if the driver says that is okay) or find a nice tree or picnic table to leave them while you tour. If it is raining, students are to eat on their bus.
- Weapons Demonstrations will be held at 2 different, assigned times on the Battlefield. Please arrive at your scheduled time, as we do not want to disturb others.
- **This event is rain or shine, please encourage students and chaperones to dress accordingly.** Be sure students are wearing appropriate shoes since it can be muddy in places – especially in the trench!
- The Law Office is our Information Desk and Lost & Found. This building also has restrooms and a fountain to fill water bottles.
- You are welcome to visit our main museum building to see the exhibits during your visit, as well! There is a quiet room available, along with restrooms and a water fountain.
- The Museum Gift Shop will be open indoors. We will also have a table in front of Town Hall and the Museum Center to purchase snacks. Students are not allowed at the Red Barn where the military sales vendors are setting up.
- The Millhouse and surrounding Severin Lake are OFF LIMITS to students.
- For safety, there will be NO climbing of trees or structures – including, but not limited to: the Museum Center, Millhouse, and Red Barn areas.
- Our property is home to many kinds of animals during the year. Animals should be respected at all times. DO NOT feed, touch, tease, frighten or disturb wildlife.
- **If you find any empty shell casings on the ground, you CANNOT TAKE THEM BACK TO SCHOOL!** We will advise the reenactors on this as well, but just in case a student is handed one of the blank shell casings as a ‘souvenir’ they will need to throw them away before returning to school.

If you have any questions, concerns, or additional comments please reach out to our Museum Educator, Teresa Streed, at 815-397-9112, ext. 106 or at educator@midwayvillage.com.

We look forward to seeing you and your students for this exciting, hands-on living history event!