



The Great War: WWI Hands-on History Day

Friday, April 25, 2025: 9:30am-2pm

Welcome to Midway Village Museum's Great War School Day! We are excited to host you and your students. This packet contains all the essential information you need prior to your Midway Village visit and we ask that you **read this packet carefully to best prepare yourself and your students for your visit. This packet is subject to change and details of the day may be different than what is specifically noted here.** To get the most up-to-date information, please reference our Wix website: <https://ww2days.wixsite.com/mvmschooldays/general-1>

Upon arrival:

- 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 first half.
- Check-in will be from 9-10am in 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 in maroon 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 Museum Center's front desk to receive a complimentary sticker to enjoy the day's event.

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 15-20 students. The 200+ reenactors are camped throughout the village and woods, and students are encouraged to stop at each one since they are all interpreting different units and countries involved in the war.

Overview of Day's Event:

- Most stations are open from 9:30am – 2pm; **however, tours of the museum's 150-yard trench system will have an assigned time.** Please arrive on time for your scheduled trench tour, as we do not want to disturb others.
- 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.
- There is a quiet room available in the main museum center if needed.
- **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!
- You are welcome to visit our main museum building to see all the museum's exhibits during your visit as well! This includes our NEW exhibit – *You're in the Army Now: Camp Grant, Rockford's Legacy* – about our area's training camp during WWI and WWII.
- The Museum Gift Shop will be open from 10am – 4pm inside. We will also have a table in front of Town Hall to purchase snacks during lunch. Students are not allowed to shop at the Red Barn where the military sales vendors are setting up.
- **If you find any empty shell casings on the ground after the battle reenactment, you CAN NOT 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 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!