

Basic Docent Instructions

- I. **Arrive** at museum at least **15 minutes before your first group**
- II. Wear your **Holocaust Memorial pin**; if you don't have one we'll get you one
- III. There will be a **bin at the main desk** with the docent script and packets of button and bookmarks
- IV. **Give** enough packets of each (10/packet) **to the teachers** so that **each student** gets a bookmark and button
- V. After you gather the students walk with them to the movie theater entrance, closer to the memorial.
- VI. Stand in front of the doors to the outside, facing the students, so that **students are facing away from the concession stand**
- VII. Be prepared to answer difficult questions: Did it really happen? Did people deserve to die? Etc.

Daily Schedule

	6th Grade
9:30-9:35	Arrival/Check-In
9:35-10:00	Split into classes, 25 minutes per activity
	9:35-10:00: Class 1: River/Stream Table Class 2: IHSA Class 3: Holocaust Memorial Class 4: The Street
10:00-10:45	Giant Screen Theater: Mysteries of China
10:45-12:00	Split into classes, 25 minutes per activity
	10:45-11:10: Class 1: The Street Class 2: River/Stream Table Class 3: IHSA Class 4: Holocaust Memorial
	11:10-11:35: Class 1: Holocaust Memorial Class 2: The Street Class 3: River/Stream Table Class 4: IHSA
	10:35-12:00: Class 1: IHSA Class 2: Holocaust Memorial Class 3: The Street Class 4: River/Stream Table
12:00-12:30	Lunch/Departure

Part 1: This first part is to be done when you first meet with student groups, in the theater lobby

Find Out What They Know

- **Introduce yourself: your name & that you're a volunteer docent with the Jewish Federation of Peoria**
- **We understand you've studied the Holocaust some, what are some of the things you remember about it?**
- What is the Holocaust?
- How did it start?
- Other things you remember learning?

Next page continues discussion, still at the beginning of tour

What is the Peoria Holocaust Memorial?

- This is actually the 2nd Peoria Holocaust Memorial
- Original memorial opened in 2003 at Shoppes at Grand Prairie
- Buttons contributed from 48 states and 3 different countries
- In 2017 the newly redesigned memorial was dedicated at its new location, here at the Peoria Riverfront Museum.
- **The goal is to both honor those people who lost their lives and help educate about the dangers of intolerance, bigotry, hatred, and prejudice**

Part 2: The section should also be done in the theater lobby, just before leading them to the memorial

Symbolism of the Memorial design

- Pass out sheets with questions/things for students to look for & go over as briefly as possible
- When we go out to the memorial, these are some things we want you to look for and questions we want you to try and answer
- You can work on these in groups of 3 or 4
- We're going to gather again at the bottom of the memorial to discuss these questions and get your answers
- Remember that each button in the memorial represents someone killed by the Nazis as part of the Holocaust

Continues on next card

Continuation of Part 2

- **As you go through the memorial remember that each one of these buttons represents a person killed in the Holocaust.**
- Six million buttons represent each of the 6 million Jews who were exterminated (**roughly population of Chicago & LA combined, imagine the people of those two cities wiped off the face of the earth**)
- You need to be respectful of what this represents
- **No climbing on the memorial or leaning against the glass**

Part 3: This section should be done at the memorial, down by the triangles where you can gather the group again

Why buttons?

- Get their answers first
- Wanted something unique
 - Paper clips & pennies already being done by others
 - Buttons are unique like people
 - Buttons were a part of the clothes left behind at the gates of the concentration camps, ghettos, and slave camps
 - Buttons last long after garments have faded and unraveled; help us to remember the dead represented by these buttons.
 - Many buttons are round and symbolize the cycle of life.
- Recently discovered another group collected 11 million stamps
 - Foxborough, MA charter school

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Continuation from previous card

- Number and shape of columns
 - 18 glass columns in the shape of the Star of David; eighteen is symbolic in Judaism for the word “Chai,” which means life, while the Star of David has been a symbol for Jews & of Judaism for thousands of years.
 - 2 rows represent the selection process, one row lives, one dies
- What do you think the triangles represent?
 - Five triangles represent the “enemies of the state” who were murdered, including political and religious leaders, Roma (gypsies), Serbians, Catholics, homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, trade unionists, alcoholics and the handicapped

Continued from previous card

- **Other symbolism of memorial:** Columns descend as you walk, symbolizing the descent of society and civilization under the Nazis
- **Depending on the weather, you might discuss what it was like being out here for a few minutes with your clothes, shoes and coats**
 - Prisoners in the camps might stand outside for hours at a time, having to stand still and be counted, with no coats and barely any clothes
 - Larger discussion of people losing all their possessions, going into the camps with nothing
- How does it make you feel looking at all these buttons and knowing each one represents someone killed in the Holocaust?

Part 4: Wrap, to be done wherever and whenever you have time. This could be still down at the triangles, as you head back to the museum, or in the lobby of the museum before the students go to their next stop. It should take no more than 1 or 2 minutes.

This should also be played by ear depending on the group, how you approach this

- **Do you think anything like this could happen today? Why/why not?**

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Continued from previous card

- **Did the Holocaust start with death camps? What made it possible?**
 - No, we're looking for ideas like bullying, people accepting things they knew were wrong but not standing up for what they knew was right, etc.
- **How do we keep it from happening again?**
 - Stand up to bullying or when we see things happening that we know are wrong
- **Have you ever seen something happening that you knew was wrong? What did you do?**

Part 5, Back in Museum lobby

- Show bookmarks and buttons
- You're each going to get a bookmark about the memorial and button
- We'd like you to take these home and discuss your visit with your parents
- What are some things you might say or questions you might ask your parents?
- Do you have any final questions for us?