



We are pleased that you will be joining us for the 2024 Minidoka Pilgrimage!

**Here are a few important details to read through before the trip:**

**Transportation**

The 2024 Minidoka Pilgrimage will occur in the general Twin Falls, ID area. **Pilgrimage participants will need to arrange their own transportation to Twin Falls, ID.** To help cut down on costs, transportation will only be provided for the Saturday activities. Participants must take the chartered buses for the NPS site tours and to the legacy/talk story session. Following the legacy session at CSI, the buses will return to the hotels so participants can have a moment to refresh. Buses will be provided to the Fairgrounds for the Closing dinner but participants can also drive themselves if they wish.

**Pilgrimage Participant Packets**

Pilgrimage participant packets will be available for pilgrimage participants at the Thursday night dinner at Koto Brewing, or Friday Morning at the College of Southern Idaho before the Educational Program.

**Thursday's Dinner**

Pilgrimage participants will be joining the pilgrimage on Friday evening in Twin Falls, ID at 6:00pm for dinner at Koto Brewing (156 Main Ave N, Twin Falls, ID 83301).

Pilgrimage participants will pick up pilgrimage participant materials at this time. Please be aware that the packets will be arriving from Seattle, so they will not be available until after the Seattle group has arrived in Twin Falls (after 6pm).

**Friday**

Friday activities will be held within a 2-mile radius of the Fairfield Inn & Suites and the TownePlace Suites. The Education Program will be held at the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) in the Fine Arts Building. To help cut down on costs, Twin Falls Package participants are asked to drive themselves or carpool to CSI. Maps and Directions will be included in your program.

**Education Program**

The Minidoka Pilgrimage will be conducting its own educational program on Friday at the College of Southern Idaho in the Fine Arts Building starting at 8:30am (MDT). Throughout the day, we'll have three sessions with different presentations on various topics during each session. Pilgrimage participants are encouraged to choose one presentation to attend each session.

**Genealogy Sessions**

The Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee is pleased to offer genealogical assistance to survivors and descendants seeking information on Block, Barrack and Unit addresses, WRA family numbers, how to request official WWII governmental files and dates of incarceration.

For anyone seeking general camp information such as: basic block, barrack, unit numbers, length of imprisonment including incarceration camp location and original family numbers - please email your request to [bifbrigman1@gmail.com](mailto:bifbrigman1@gmail.com).

For folks with very specific or multi-person searches -- we will have one on one sessions with families on Friday at CSI starting at 10:15 am. Please note that folks signing up for these time slots may have to miss portions of scheduled programs but we will try to be sensitive. Please contact Bif prior to the Pilgrimage. You can also sign up for a time slot Friday morning as soon as you arrive at CSI.

Bif is willing to meet with folks at additional times during the Pilgrimage as requested and as able. We want to respect you and your overall Pilgrimage experience. We will also continue to pull documents for everybody who emails us. If we do not get a session scheduled with you we will contact you after the Pilgrimage. We appreciate your patience and we hope to provide all with requested info.



Please do not hesitate to connect with Bif at the Pilgrimage.

**Friday Night Dinner** will be on your own; following the conclusion of the Education Program and the group photos. A list of nearby local restaurants is included in the program. So make some new friends and go grab a bite together!

### **Youth Social Hour**

On Friday Night, we invite all those participating who are under the age of 30 to gather at 6:00pm at the Fairfield Inn Conference rooms for a youth/young adult social hour. This session is intended for young adults and youth from high school-aged to 30 to gather and share what they hope to see/hear/experience during the Pilgrimage. Dinner will be provided for this.

### **Saturday**

Pilgrimage activities will begin promptly at 7:30am (MDT) with the boarding and departure of to the Minidoka National Historic Site. Please arrive on time (early is better) and plan your time accordingly. We cannot be responsible for any participants who are late.

Each tour will be on its own bus. Please make sure you get on the bus for the tour you signed up for. The sticker color on your name tag will indicate which bus to board.

### **Legacy Session**

Saturday afternoon will consist of our Legacy Talk Story program. This will be an opportunity to help bring the pilgrimage experience to another level of focused awareness and *kimochi* (feeling). It is important to share and carry on the legacy of the many stories that are shared in these groups from one generation to another so that what has happened will not be forgotten.

During this session, we will have everyone divided into groups. These groups will have a cross section of age groups in order to gain as much diversity as possible. We will be assigning each person to a specific group number. We highly encourage each person to adhere to their assigned group. This is to encourage people to talk and share their own stories in these smaller groups. It will allow families to ask questions of elders, as well as open up dialogue amongst your own families. For those under the age of 16, we will keep you with a family member in the small group.

### **Sunday**

The Closing Ceremony at the Minidoka National Historic Site will begin at 9:00am. Participants should drive themselves to MNHS. It's about a 30 minute drive from Twin Falls.

The Pilgrimage officially concludes at 10:00am at the end of the closing ceremony at the Minidoka National Historic Site.

### **COVID-19, Health & Safety Guidelines:**

In light of the recent increase in COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, the Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee is dedicated to prioritizing the health and safety of all attendees. Experts continue to recommend wearing masks indoors, improving ventilation indoors when possible, staying home when sick, and getting the latest COVID vaccine.

**Please remember: WE keep us safe.** We have a responsibility to protect our entire community including those most vulnerable -- those aged 65+, pregnant people, the very young, immunocompromised people -- from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. While we recognize attending large in-person gatherings carries risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission, we encourage participants to help minimize this risk by:

- Staying home if you are sick
- Testing for COVID-19
- Wearing a well-fitting, high-quality mask (e.g., N95, KN95, KF94) while indoors
- Isolating from others if positive while on Pilgrimage



**We ask all participants to please NOT attend if you are feeling sick.** Whether you are sick with COVID-19 or a cold, please stay home and take care of yourself. Staying home is **the best way** to help protect others. Anyone who cancels due to a positive test for COVID-19 or other illness PRIOR to the Minidoka Pilgrimage will get a full refund of their registration fee (cancellation costs for travel and hotel are at participants' own expense). Please contact Ryan Koza at [ryan@minidokapilgrimage.org](mailto:ryan@minidokapilgrimage.org) if you will not attend due to illness.

### **What to Bring**

Pack comfortable, casual attire. Keep in mind that will be outside and in the sun for many of the activities and walking through tall grass at the Minidoka Monument. The following items are optional, but very helpful:

- Comfortable shoes and long pants for walking at the Minidoka Monument
- Sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- Lightweight jacket for cool evenings
- Minidoka family stories, memories, poems to share
- Camera

### **Weather Update**

The current forecast for both Boise, ID and Twin Falls, ID is Sunny and Highs into the mid-80s to 90s during the days and lows falling to the mid-50s in the evenings. Please plan accordingly.

### **Camp Stories, Memories, and Family Number**

We look forward to hearing your camp stories, memories, and reflections. If you have letters or mementoes that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. If you were in Minidoka, please bring along your family name and number. If you yourself were not incarcerated, and you are honoring family members, please bring along the name(s) and family number(s) of the internees you are honoring.

### **Raffle**

Pilgrims will have an opportunity to support the many vital programs of the Minidoka Pilgrimage by purchasing raffle tickets!

Raffle tickets will be sold on all day Friday and Saturday evening during Pilgrimage activities. Tickets will be \$5 each or \$20 for 5 for the Royal Red Prizes and, \$25 each or 5 for \$100 for the Golden Ticket Grand Prizes. Prizes will be awarded at the Sunday Night Dinner at the Turf Club.

### **T-Shirts/Books/Other Merchandise**

Pilgrimage T-shirts, Books and other various merchandise will be available for sale at select times throughout the pilgrimage.

**The Pilgrimage store will only be open from: 10:30am – 3:30pm on Friday at the College of Southern Idaho.** We are able to accept cash, checks, credit/debit cards as methods of payment.

### **Questions/Comments**

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at: [minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com).

We look forward to meeting you in a couple of weeks in Twin Falls.

Sincerely,  
The Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee