



2008 Take a Veteran to School Day

HISTORY™ has developed **Take a Veteran to School Day** together with our cable partners to link veterans of all ages with young people in our schools and communities.

This national initiative will help strengthen ties in your communities and bring history to life in classrooms. It is timely, topical, and non-partisan. **Show our veterans how much we value their service while inspiring our young people in all grades from kindergarten to college.**

"How To" Guide

Below are some simple steps and a sample agenda for setting up a **Take a Veteran to School Day** in your local community.

1. Visit www.veterans.com to become familiar with the program and download helpful information HISTORY has created to help you get started. (Of course, you may already be reading this online!)
2. Reach out to your local cable providers – they may want to collaborate on this project and can help you organize and publicize!
3. Choose a class or school for this program – this can be an elementary, middle, or high school. Activities and events can be tailored to fit a variety of age groups. You may also want to roll out this program in your entire school district.
4. Set up a meeting with teachers, school administrators, or other interested participants to make a plan for **Take a Veteran to School Day**.
5. Before or after the initial meeting, locate veterans to participate. Three easy ways to reach out to veterans: a) contact your local American Legion chapter; b) find out if there is a military base nearby – officials there can help you locate appropriate veterans nearby; c) ask students to invite veterans they know in their families or neighborhoods.
6. Try to bring in veterans from more than one branch of the armed forces and/or from different eras – this will give students the opportunity to hear about a variety of experiences.
7. Identify an area within the school in which to have the event. This could be a single classroom, or for a larger group, a cafeteria, auditorium, or school gym. Plan simple invitations to be circulated through the school to veterans, parents, and local officials.
8. Publicize! Notify the press about the project. Get the word out to your communities through school newsletters and other communication routes. Your local cable company may be able to help spread the word.
9. Share the activity guides and resources from HISTORY with teachers and students. Teachers may want to introduce key concepts to students in preparation for the event.
10. Finalize an agenda for the event (see the following suggested agenda).
11. Be sure to document the event through photographs or video.
12. Don't hide your light under a bushel! Let your community know about your involvement in this project. You might inspire others to make connections with veterans in your community.

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Sample Agenda for **Take a Veteran to School Day**

1. Assemble the class or school for the event.
2. A spokesperson, such as a teacher or an adult, starts the event and welcomes the group. A student representative leads the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. If elected officials or other notable attendees are present, allow them to introduce themselves and say a few words.
4. The group leader introduces the veteran(s).
5. One person, either a designated student or adult, asks the veterans to talk about their roles in the military.
6. Basic questions to ask each veteran: When did you serve? Where did you serve? What was your primary job or role in the military? What do you remember or value most about your years of service? Do you have a story you would like to share? (It would be helpful to assign individual students to ask questions, and make sure their questions are appropriate before the event.)
7. If time allows, locate on a map the areas in which each veteran served.
8. Honor each veteran in some way. Students may want to present a single flower to each veteran, or give the veterans thank you letters that have been written in advance.
9. Close the event with the spokesperson and the class thanking the veterans. Applause!
10. If time allows, adjourn for a short reception or lunch.

Additional School Activities and Projects

HISTORY™ has developed a list of grade-appropriate, curriculum-linked activities for grades K through 12 for **Take a Veteran to School Day**. The list is available online at www.veterans.com and will include oral history guidelines for middle and high school students, simple activities for younger children, and projects to share with the visiting veterans. *The Story of Veterans Day* – a 25-minute documentary produced in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education – as well as an online study guide for teachers and students is also available. For more information on this joint effort, please contact veterans@aetn.com. We encourage schools to work with their cable companies on this project. For more information, please contact Dr. Kim Gilmore at kimberly.gilmore@aetn.com or 212-210-1400 x5341.