



HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO
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HONOR.THANK.INSPIRE:

An Honor Flight Chicago Patch Program for Scout and Youth Groups

(Version 2; 031124)

This program has been developed by Honor Flight Chicago to help youth learn and embrace our core tenets of **Honoring** and **Thanking** America's Senior War Veterans. It is our hope that by participation in this patch program, youth will also be **Inspired** by the actions of these American Heroes who served to protect our freedom. It is not affiliated with GSUSA, S-BSA, school districts, or any other organization. Participation is open to any interested Scout troop, youth group, or individual.

There is no charge to participate in this program, however we ask a \$5 donation per patch to cover production of patches and mailing costs. Donations may be made at www.honorflightchicago.org. Click on *Donate Now*; indicate your troop/group number and "Scout Patch Program" in the *Donation Comment* box.

How to earn the patch:

1. Some of the requirements are simpler and less challenging than others. These are open to all ages. Others are restricted or recommended for older youth.
2. Contact the HFC Scout Coordinator at the email address below for clarification of any of the requirements.
3. **You must complete the first two requirements and at least two others** from the remainder of the list. Older youth are encouraged to try to complete most if not all activities.
4. As a group, write up a summary of what you did, what you learned, and how it made you feel about honoring our Veterans. Submit your summary (last pages of this document) via email to hfscoutcoordinator@honorflightchicago.org. Your patches will be mailed to you.

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Complete the following two requirements.

1. Learn about how Honor Flight Chicago serves Senior War Veterans by doing at least one of the following:
 - Peruse one of the flight day photo albums posted on the HFC website. As a group, make up a story written by a fictitious veteran about how you think they felt about their experiences in Washington, DC.
 - Listen to and discuss one or more episodes of "Honor. Thank. Inspire.", the HFC podcast.
 - Read some of the Veteran biographies posted on the HFC website, www.honorflightchicago.org. Discuss your feelings about the hardships the veterans endured during their tour of duty..
 - Numerous Veteran interviews, conducted as part of HFC's "Many Faces, Many Voices, One Mission" Operation Education initiative, are available on YouTube.
 - A number of additional videos are available on the HFC YouTube channel [@honorflightchicago8090], including:
 - *HFC103 Full Flight Film* (1:00:09), a video compilation of the entire flight day, start to finish (2022 Operation Education flight)
 - *Operation Education Flight: a Student's Perspective* (3:36) narrated by high school graduate members of OpCLIMB who served as Guardians on HFC103
 - *Honor Flight Chicago 2022 Flight Day Documentary (director's cut, 20:08 OR abridged, 14:01)*
2. Write cards or letters to be included in the Mail Call envelopes the Veterans receive on their flight home from Washington, DC. See separate Mail Call flyer for details.

Complete at least two of the following other ways to honor veterans. Older youth are challenged to try to complete them all.

3. Attend a Welcome Home Celebration at Midway Airport. The flights are scheduled once a month from April to October. Dates are announced in early spring for the following year. Contact the Scout Coordinator for information and reservations to attend.
4. Learn the difference between Armed Forces, Veterans, and Memorial Days, including how and when each is celebrated. Participate in a flag ceremony and/or otherwise assist at a local celebration of one of these holidays.
5. The American Flag is an important symbol to Veterans. Know how to best honor it by learning about flag etiquette and the US Flag Code. The Department of Veterans Affairs has a good document which can be downloaded from <https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/flagdisplay.pdf>
6. Interview a friend or family member who has served in the military. Write up a short essay to present to troopmates OR invite a Veteran to speak to your troop/group. Veteran groups (VFW,

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etc) can often provide a name of someone if family members aren't available. The HFC office can also provide names of willing volunteers.

7. Learn about therapy or comfort animals and their role in treating veterans with PTSD. Warrior Canine Connection is one organization that raises and trains such dogs.
8. Contact a local VA Medical Center or Veterans Home. Ask if they have a "wish list" of clothing, hygiene supplies, or other items that can be collected and donated to the Veterans .
9. Organize a veteran awareness program at your school or for a school club.
10. **8th grade or older only:** Learn about Operation CLIMB and perhaps attend a monthly virtual meeting. OpCLIMB (Connect Learn Inspire Motivate Build) is a group of dedicated high school students given unique opportunities to connect with veterans, support the mission of Honor Flight Chicago and develop skills to become productive members of their communities. Contact Nancy Staiger [nstaiger@honorflightchicago.org] for information and an invitation to a meeting.
11. More YouTube videos worth watching:
 - *This is Honor Flight* (5:31)
An overview of parent organization Honor Flight Network, produced when only WWII veterans were flown.
 - *HFC WWII Flight Documentary* (10:55)
Narrated by Gary Sinise, this film takes the viewer through one of the earliest flight days, shortly after the organization was founded.
 - *Honor Flight - the Movie* (1:22:20)
Produced by Milwaukee-based Stars and Stripes Honor Flight, this theatrical-released film chronicles several WWII veterans and how the community came together to support their trip of a lifetime.
 - *Behind the Old Guard - Sentinels* (10:44)
Background on the requirements to be a Sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.
 - *Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery Memorial Squad Recruiting Video* (6:30)
Experience the final tribute given to our nation's heroes.

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Troop/Group Summary of Activities Completed and Patch Request Form

Initial where indicated and email this completed form (use additional paper as needed) to hfscoutcoordinator@honorflightchicago.org. JPG photographs are also encouraged and welcomed (do not include photographs if you do not have parental permission for them to be posted on the Honor Flight Chicago website or social media).

___ **1. REQUIRED:** Learn about how Honor Flight Chicago serves Senior War Veterans. List activities completed.

___ **2. REQUIRED:** Write cards or letters to be included in the Mail Call envelopes the Veterans receive on their flight home from Washington, DC.

___ **3-12. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Complete at least two of the other listed ways to honor Veterans. Older youth are challenged to try to complete them all. List activities completed.

SUMMARY:

What is something you learned you didn't know before about Veterans or the US military?

What feelings about Veterans did you experience while working on this project?

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Patch order information

Adult/leader name	
Email address	
Troop/group/etc number	
Mailing address	
Phone	()
Amount donated (\$5/patch)	\$
Number of patches requested	<input type="checkbox"/> no patches requested

Thank you for participating!

Would you recommend this project to others? Do you have any suggestions for improving it?



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