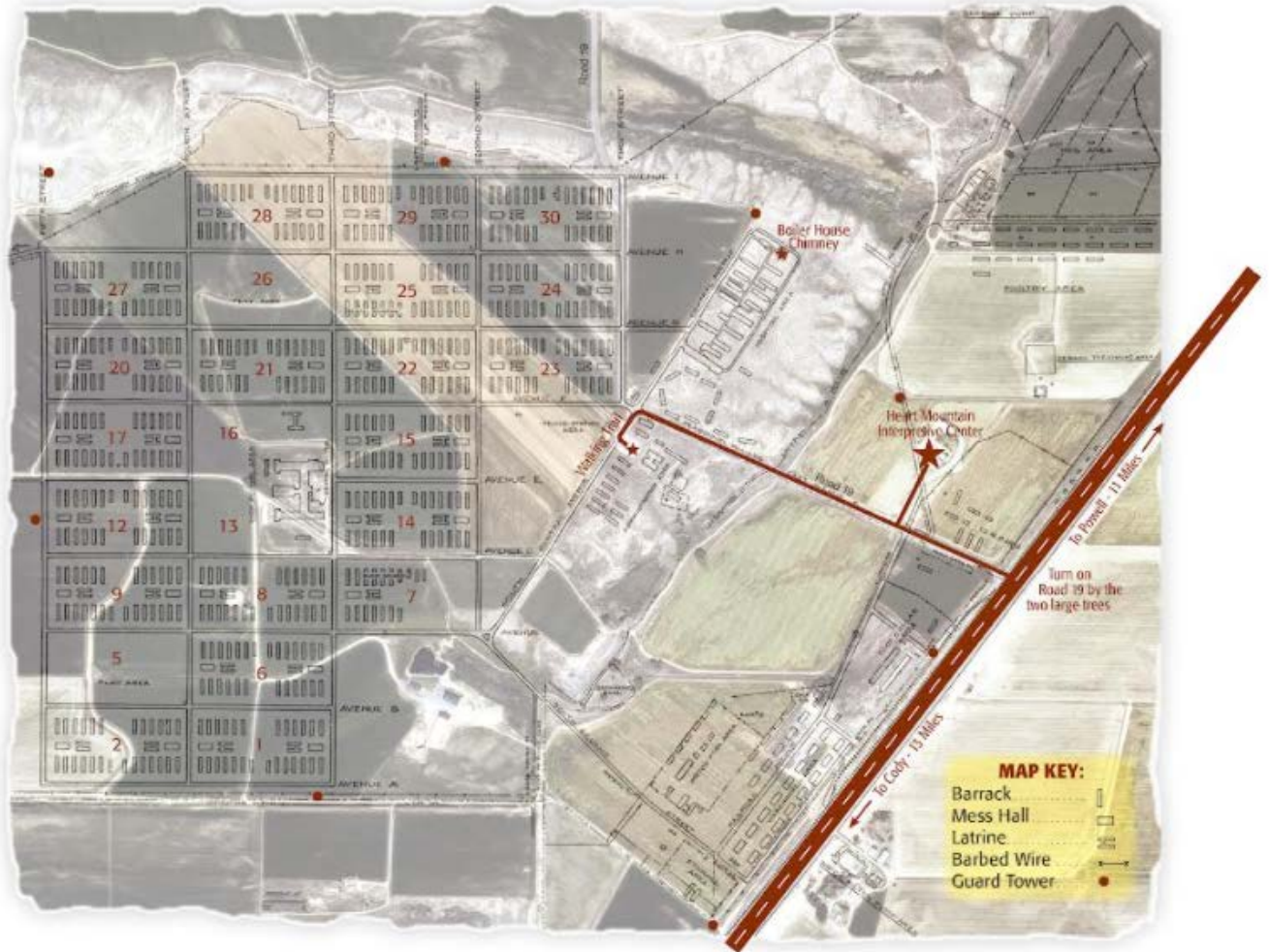


## Heart Mountain WWII Confinement Site Social Story

Today, I am visiting the Heart Mountain Confinement Site. Heart Mountain tells the story of one of the camps where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. It includes an indoor Interpretive Center, guard tower, original barrack, walking trail, and hospital complex with boiler house chimney.



I begin my visit at the Interpretive Center. There is a long driveway that goes all the way around the building to the parking lot. It may be very windy in the parking lot.



As I walk into the Interpretive Center, the light is very dim. Audio from overhead plays a conversation between Japanese Americans who have just learned they will be forced to move from their homes.



My family or I will pay admission to the Interpretive Center at the front desk. Sometimes the front area of the museum is crowded and noisy and I may need to wait in line to pay. If I want an audio tour of the museum I can ask to borrow a mp3 player for free.



One of the front desk staff will give me an introduction to the museum. If I have any questions, I can ask the front desk staff, who are wearing name tags.



The bathrooms are down the hall past the sign that reads “Latrines.” We use this old-fashioned word for the bathroom because that was what people called bathrooms at the Heat Mountain Camp in the 1940s.



The middle stalls in the men’s and women’s bathrooms have mirrors on each wall. This is to help visitors imagine the lack of privacy in the bathrooms at the Heart Mountain camp. I don’t have to use this stall if I don’t want to. I can wait to use a different stall or use the family bathroom.



I start my visit in the museum in the pre-war section, which tells me what life was like on the west coast before the war.



After the pre-war section, I tell the front desk worker I'm ready to watch the film in the theater. The film is 15 minutes long and includes subtitles. It begins with the sound of airplanes and explosions which can be pretty loud. If I don't want to watch the film, it's ok to skip through to the rest of the exhibit.



In the exhibit, I can use the TV monitors to watch videos of Japanese Americans who lived at the Heart Mountain camp. If the TV monitors are not working, I can let a staff member know.



I can walk into the barrack rooms to see where Japanese Americans lived at Heart Mountain. It is very cold in these rooms, and the light levels can change as I walk in. I can also hear audio of Japanese Americans discussing their living situation.



Learning about Japanese American incarceration may make me very sad or angry. It wasn't fair that Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes without trial. If I need to take a break, I can visit the reflection room or the garden.



When I am finished in the museum, I can visit the museum store.



Outside, I can walk to the replica guard tower.



I can also walk or drive to the original barrack by the end of the driveway. In the summer, I may be able to go inside the barrack. I can check the door to see if it is open.





I can drive up Road 19 to the top of the ridge, where there is a gravel parking lot to my left. If I park in this parking lot, I can visit the interpretive walking trail and honor roll.



I can drive across the street from the honor roll, down a long gravel driveway to the Heart Mountain hospital complex. The driveway has some potholes and can be pretty bumpy. At the hospital, I can see three original buildings from the camp and the boiler house chimney.



I'm careful to watch where I step at the Hospital Complex since the ground is very uneven! I'm also sure not to enter any of the buildings since they're very old.

Thank you for visiting Heart Mountain!