

THE VIETNAM WAR

TELLING THE PENNSYLVANIA STORY

Education Day Student Guide

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, WPSU is bringing the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall to Innovation Park on the Penn State University Park campus. This 80% scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the climax of our community outreach efforts. We are very excited to partner with you to bring your students to visit WPSU Studios and this traveling piece of history on Education Day, Friday, October 6th. As an Education Day Partner School, we have planned a sequence of interactive events intended to foster cross-generational understanding of this complex era of American history. We also have arranged a unique opportunity for you to learn directly from our professional production staff about the craft and art of storytelling. Students studying American History, Political Science, English, and Media Studies may all benefit from this hands-on experience. We also want to invite you to become part of the immersive story portion of this local project. As a reflection on lessons learned about the Vietnam Era, The Wall, and modern storytelling, we encourage you to create digital storytelling projects to potentially be posted on the A Time to Heal website.

Can you tell me more about what we will see in the Documentary?

A Time to Heal is a 60-minute documentary which explores the impact of the Vietnam War on the lives of those who fought, protested, and prayed for their loved ones to return home safe. Producer Lindsey Whissel Fenton traveled across Pennsylvania, talking with men and women about their experiences during this divisive time and their perspectives now, seeking an answer to the question: Is it finally a time to heal?

Difficult subjects such as violence, death, taking lives, saving lives, and the lasting effects of war are addressed.

What events are planned during Education Day?

We have designed a series of interactive stations for students that will include:

- Listening to local Vietnam veterans share personal stories and talking about the significance and meaning of this war.
- Learning about the design and symbolism of the memorial, and the recommended etiquette for viewing The Wall.
- Visiting the installation of the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall.
- Visiting an encampment display with equipment and military vehicles from the Vietnam War and talk with the veterans about day to day life during wartime.
- Hearing Vietnam-era songwriter Scott Ainslie perform “Rice Grows Again in Vietnam” and talk about his musical storytelling surrounding this war.
- Interacting with a panel of professional documentary film and radio producers and photographers who worked on the WPSU documentaries.