



Overview 2022

In 1982, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) dedicated The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. Since its dedication, it has become one of the most visited memorials on the National Mall with over 5 million visits each year, yet millions of others are still unable to see The Wall in Washington D.C.

Shortly after The Wall's dedication, the first traveling version began touring the country. In 1996, VVMF recognized a need to provide a traveling version of The Memorial and *The Wall That Heals* (TWTH) was dedicated. While these other exhibits are necessary to meet the public's desire, as the founders of The Wall, VVMF sought to differentiate its exhibit by replicating The Wall experience as much as possible. To this day, this is accomplished through ongoing and close cooperation between the hosting organizations, their communities, and VVMF.

Of the four "walls" traveling throughout the United States, *The Wall That Heals* is the largest replica, the only one wholly owned and operated by a non-profit organization, and the only one accompanied by the mobile Education Center. The preeminent exhibit coupled with close involvement of VVMF staff and significant preparations by hosts helps ensure a positive experience for every community selected to host *The Wall That Heals*.

A Weeklong Experience

Hosting *The Wall That Heals* is an opportunity that will not only transform a community but also challenge the most experienced of event hosts. From Tuesday until Sunday, the hosts will be required to meet the needs of hundreds of volunteers and thousands of visitors for 24-hours each day no matter the weather, crowds, or other needs.

Operationally the hosts will be charged with enlisting the cooperation of many groups and organizations including motorcyclists, law enforcement, veteran, and other community service clubs, and schools. VVMF has seen the most successful events have been those that included a broader committee beyond merely the site chair/co-chair. These individuals oversee the main components of the event. These primary responsibilities are categorized as Volunteer Coordinator, Education Outreach, Site Coordinator, and Escort Captain.

Volunteer Coordinator – this person is responsible for recruiting, informing, and managing the hundreds of volunteers necessary for the event. From the preparation prior to arrival to the dozens of volunteers necessary to set up and take down the

the exhibit, to the hundreds required to serve and engage with the visitors around the clock during the display, the Volunteer Coordinator has the greatest undertaking. He/she works to fill a schedule of volunteers with members of the local community. The Volunteer Coordinator works closely with the VVMF Site Manager to educate the volunteers on Wednesday evening for their role throughout the week. The coordinator is responsible to make certain that each of the shifts has adequate volunteers to meet the needs and number of public visitors.

Site Coordinator – this individual is primarily responsible for tasks related to the site and its operation. He/she works directly with VVMF on the placement of the exhibit, the mobile Education Center, and other supplementary additions such as local displays, volunteer check-in tents, and bathrooms. He/she oversees, coordinates, and assures electrical needs are met, signage and barricades are placed for safe interplay between vehicle and foot traffic, and the site is safe for the crowds, weather, and special events that are expected.

Escort Captain – while usually a member of a local motorcycle ride club such as the Patriot Guard, the escort captain can be a member of the law enforcement community as well. He/she works to develop a ride route that will maximize the enjoyment of the participants while giving the public the opportunity to gather and “welcome home” The Wall and its escort ride participants. The Escort Captain is responsible for coordinating with local and regional law enforcement to obtain the necessary approval and permits (when required). He/she then works closely with the VVMF Site Manager during the procession into the community on Tuesday afternoon.

Education Outreach – one of the greatest benefits of having TWTH in your local community is the opportunity for education at a level impossible even at The Memorial in Washington D.C. VVMF staff who accompany the exhibit to each community are trained to engage with students of all ages and levels. That combined with access to The Memorial and mobile Education Center provides an opportunity to meet the curriculum needs and desires of educators that are often missed in the classroom. Beyond that, it provides an opportunity for social clubs, civic organizations, and other “students” to partake in an effort to learn about the Vietnam War, the Wall, and its legacy. The Education Outreach coordinator is responsible for informing, recruiting, and managing participation for these visits. He/she should have good connections within the local education community and understand the most effective way to assure their participation.

In addition to these positions, it is not uncommon for individuals to be assigned the tasks or roles of dealing with law enforcement or first responders, the media, VIP guests and speakers, and event logistics.

Site Overview

The entire display consists of the mobile Education Center and a 3/4-scale replica wall. There is some ability for us to arrange these in various layouts. VVMF will work carefully with the hosts prior to arrival to determine the best layout based on overhead aerials and local knowledge. Despite these efforts, ultimately all layout decisions are made by the Site Manager when he/she meets with the committee on Tuesday afternoon.

The most important decision the host must make is the location of the exhibit during its time in the community. Our primary goal is to replicate The Wall experience from Washington D.C. To that end, the location must provide for a somber and reflective atmosphere that will be able to accommodate thousands of visitors while limiting the impact of outside noise, lights, and other influences that might negatively change the visitor experience.

As a general rule, the site must be no less than the size of a football field in length and width (100 by 50 yards) of grass or other soft even surface that will accommodate significant foot traffic yet allow for staking of The Wall. While not prohibited, limiting trees, park equipment, and other items from this immediate vicinity is preferred. Whenever possible, the layout should be organized so the visiting public does not enter from behind The Wall.

Contractually, the host and any other organizations are prohibited from selling any items or seeking donations within the display site and its entrances. In addition, the placement of flags, signs, tents, and other elements shall not be finalized prior to the Tuesday morning walk-through with the host committee and Site Manager. It is incumbent upon the host and the Site Manager to work closely together to replicate The Wall experience while allowing for the local touches and involvement.

While access to the exhibit can be limited by gates and other walkways, the display site must remain open for 24-hours each day during the duration of the display.

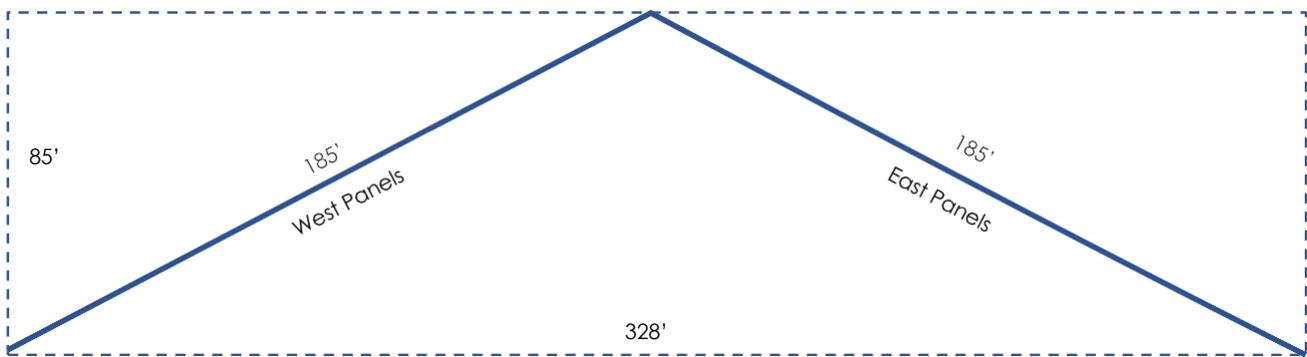
The Wall That Heals

It is our goal to replicate the layout and atmosphere of The Wall whenever possible while accommodating the local host's facility. While the framework of TWTH will allow for a grade change of up to 18" across its length, this slope must be gradual and whenever possible uniform. Except for maintenance of the grass and/or groundcover on the display site, no prior preparation is necessary for the display site. Hosts shall not preplace walkways or other paths for TWTH.

From the apex, each half of TWTH stretches out 185 feet. While there is some ability to set TWTH up at varying angles, to replicate The Wall experience we attempt to set it up at a 125 degree angle. To accommodate the engineering safety and stability, it shall not be set up less than 100 degrees or more than 160degrees.

Angle	Overall Length (End to End)	Depth
100°	283'	119'
110°	303'	106'
120°	320'	93'
125°	328'	85'
130°	335'	78'
140°	348'	63'
150°	357'	48'
160°	364'	32'

Based on ideal angles and these measurements, the minimum space for just TheWall would be the following area.



Yet in order to replicate The Wall ideal hosts will maximize the space in front of The Wall giving perspective and an opportunity for visitors to experience the entirety. In the following photo, The Wall is set up at an ideal angle with no lights behind it, it has depth and space for visitors to engage with the exhibit. The photo is taken from the mobile Education Center.





At the center point or apex of The Wall, the panels are slightly more than 7 ½ feet in height. Like The Wall, the panels slope from their apex height to 3-inches at the ends. The framework for these panels set on baseplates that are hammered into the ground using stakes approximately 18-inches in length.

Prior to the set-up date, the host is required to guarantee the location and marking of all buried pipes, lines, and other utilities. These will be reviewed during the walk-through on Tuesday. While we can move or not place a stake or two across the length, this must be limited.

Down the entire length, approximately 3-7 feet behind the panels, rear braces are used to support the exhibit in winds up to 50 miles per hour. These braces are also supported by the same 18-inch stakes. In addition, in fourteen locations behind the panels, larger 30-inch spikes are used for windy conditions. The placement of these spikes can accommodate buried lines.

Within **125 feet** of the apex of TWTH, the host must provide two 20-amp 110-volt non-GFI circuits for supplying the lights affixed to the framework. While this power can be provided through an adequately sized generator, it is ideally connected to permanent power outlets. This power source must be adjacent to or behind the panels so as to prevent trip hazards. When a generator is used, the host should carefully work to place the generator in such a place so the noise, no matter how quiet, doesn't detract from The Wall. While usually only needed in low-light conditions, the lights remain on during the display of TWTH unless a generator is used. In most instances, this power source can be used for ceremonies held at TWTH as well.

Because of the cords, supports and other items behind the panels, the public is prohibited from accessing the area immediately behind The Wall. VVMF shall provide signage to discourage visitors, but the placement of the layout will greatly help in this effort. To that end, all other additions to the display shall not occur behind the panels. This includes signage, flags, banners, and other exhibits. The architect of The Wall imagined a "rift in the earth" and to the greatest extent, we attempt to replicate this incision in displaying TWTH in communities.

Similarly, no permanent additions occur at The Wall and are similarly prohibited at TWTH. The VVMF Site Manager will be responsible for approval on the placement of wreaths, benches, POW/MIA tables, field crosses, and other "additions." While it is a nicety to provide some seating for reflection and rest, this seating must balance the access and needs of other visitors as well and impact on the visitor experience.

The Mobile Education Center

When the exhibit arrives in your community on Tuesday afternoon, it will be carried within a 51-foot commercial trailer hauled by a full-size tractor-truck (semi). The first aspect of the entire visit is this parade or escort into your community. When successful, this parade of motorcyclists, first-responders, and others energizes the community. It provides an opportunity for a homecoming many veterans never received – a moment for the community to rally roadside and welcome its heroes home.

The trailer is 13 1/2 feet tall and 51 feet long. This length greatly impacts the ability to transit over many streets and neighborhoods. Moreover, when connected to a semi, it weighs over 70,000 pounds (on its own the trailer weighs approximately 50,000 pounds). Consideration for these measurements is imperative when developing escort routes and the final placement of the mobile Education Center at the display site.



The trailer is comprised of several exhibits and displays. On the front portion of the driver's side, there is a timeline of The War and The Wall. Following that are three displays. The first is a digital display titled Hometown Heroes that contains a 6' television monitor. This monitor provides a rotation of the names and photographs of those casualties on The Wall with a Home of Record from the nearby communities. The second is a digital display that contains a 6' television monitor showing those from the state who have been honored in VVMF's *In Memory* program. The third contains representative examples of some of the 400,000 items left behind at The Wall in Washington D.C.

Similarly, on the front portion of the passenger's side of the mobile Education Center, there is a display highlighting the components of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which includes the Three Servicemen statue, flagpole, *In Memory* plaque, and Women's Memorial. Like the other side, it is followed by two large display cabinets showing those items left behind at The Wall and their evolution since its dedication in 1982. Finally, there is one more monitor that shows introductory videos about The Wall,

The Wall That Heals, the *In Memory* program, and those items left behind at The Wall. Adjoining the sides of the trailer are two canopies that extend 15 feet from each side. Under one side of the canopy, the Gold Star bike is displayed for visitors.

In addition to these canopies, VVMF will provide a 10'x10' canopy and tables for use as a Visitor Center or Welcome Tent. At least one volunteer will remain in this tent throughout the display to help visitors engage with the exhibit, find names on The Wall, and answer other questions that may arise.



The canopies and Visitor Center tent are not to be used for volunteer support or visitor support by the host. VVMF provides the directories for use as well as all the printed materials necessary to support the exhibit including forms used to make “rubblings” of names on The Wall. The host is required to provide 100 #2 pencils for dissemination on the display site. Other materials and or handouts cannot be disseminated without concurrent approval of both the host and VVMF Site Manager.

Upon arrival of the escort group on Tuesday afternoon, the motorcycles and other vehicles will be parked in one area and the trailer will temporarily “land” to perform a brief welcome ceremony. This ceremony will give an opportunity for your community or committee to thank the escorts and allow for some media availability. Following a brief ceremony, the trailer is “opened up” allowing escorts and visitors the opportunity for a sneak peek of the exhibit.

Following this sneak peek on Tuesday, the trailer is moved into its final location for set-up. The ideal location for the mobile Education Center is within the pathway from the parking area yet not immediately adjacent to The Wall. The ground for the trailer should be a hardened or even paved surface. When totally opened during set-up on Wednesday, the trailer needs a flat surface no less than 100 feet in length and 50 feet in width. If this placement is on a paved or concrete surface, the host needs to

provide 14 additional 50-gallon drums forward protections that hold down the canopy that will extend from the trailer. When on soft surfaces, this is accomplished by 30-inch stakes hammered into the ground.

In order to power the displays, computers, and other facilities within the mobile Education Center, the host must provide a 50-amp 220-volt service within **175 feet**. This can either be provided from an existing circuit or an appropriately sized generator. When a generator is used, the host should carefully work to place the generator in such a place so the noise, no matter how quiet, doesn't detract from The Wall or visitors at the mobile Education Center. If a generator is used, the host is responsible to provide for additional fuel during the course of the display week.

Additional Considerations

Ceremonies – Visitors expect a certain number of ceremonies, and yet these ceremonies can negatively impact visitor experiences when they arrive.

Generally, a good rule of thumb is that ceremonies less than one hour in length can occur near the apex thereby closing access to The Wall. Ceremonies longer than this length must occur outside the general vicinity of The Wall yet they can remain on the site. Educational field trips and tours cannot be scheduled for the duration of the ceremony nor one hour prior to or following the event.

Flags – While many photos exist of placement of flags near or around The Wall, careful consideration must be made by the host and VVMF Site Manager. No flags will be placed immediately behind the panels. Placement of other flags on the site to signify locals or other designation should be made in cooperation with VVMF.

Parking – It is recommended that sufficient parking for a minimum of 40 cars be located within approximately 100 yards of the mobile Education Center. In addition, it may be necessary to have parking for 100-200 vehicles for ceremonies. If sufficient parking isn't nearby, the host can work on a shuttle system for throughout the week or just ceremonies.

Handicapped Access – It is incumbent upon the host to make necessary accommodations for handicapped visitors. In addition to bathroom facilities, this includes considerations in placement of the mobile Education Center as well as The Wall. While most handicapped visitors come equipped with wheelchairs and walkers necessary for access, this is not always the case. In most situations, an additional rugged wheelchair will allow for access across the bumpiest of terrain. When provided by the hosts, golf carts shall not be used within the sanctified triangular arc of *The Wall That Heals*. It is the host's responsibility to have the equipment necessary to meet handicapped access needs.

Items Left Behind – The host should make arrangements for keeping and display of any items left behind during the display of *The Wall That Heals* in their community. As items are left during the week, VVMF will work with the host to adequately protect and

keep them in place for other visitors. Immediately following the closure of TWTH on Sunday afternoon, the host will be asked to document and remove items left behind before the panels can be removed.

Landscaping – In keeping with the original intent of The Memorial's designer, hosts are encouraged to go with the concept that less is more. On its own, *The Wall That Heals* is incredible and awe-striking. That stark impact can only be sullied with additions of other items, plants, and benches. Nothing is to be placed prior to completion of the set-up of the exhibit and only with the approval of the VVMF Site Manager.

Restrooms – The host shall provide 24-hour access to an appropriate number of bathroom facilities for visitors and volunteers. In most circumstances, this is a minimum of three standard and one handicapped portable toilet facility. The host will coordinate with the VVMF Site Manager during preparatory calls and the walk-through as to the placement of these on site.

Rules – It is the responsibility of the host, volunteers, and VVMF to enforce rules that foster the proper decorum for the display. These rules include prohibitions against smoking, biking, and skating near The Wall. Whenever possible, the host should look beyond the immediate vicinity to determine if the closure of pools, playgrounds, sporting fields would enhance the decorum. Special consideration for display sites should also look towards the ability to darken the vicinity in and near the display area.

Signage – VVMF shall provide signage that will help welcome and inform visitors. Some of this signage will also clearly designate the rules. The host should endeavor to look towards the display site as a visitor might. Therefore, the host should utilize signage that directs traffic, parking, and guides visitors who may come from far beyond your community. Signage placed within the vicinity of the display must be reviewed with VVMF during the Tuesday walk-through.

2022 - Covid 19 Precautions. VVMF and the Host shall maintain and exceed health safety standards as established by the appropriate federal, state, and local entities. Based on CDC guidelines, plans for the display of *The Wall That Heals* may require alteration of site layout and separate planning and consideration with regards to COVID-19 strategies.