



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the InterFaith Leadership Council?

The InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit (IFLC) is a faith-based civic organization made up of religious and lay leaders of many faiths whose shared values compel them to work toward a community that lives together with understanding and appreciation. Our goals are to: **Bring together** and encourage interfaith groups and networks; **support conciliation** between religious groups through conflict resolution when necessary and **promote interfaith education** so that the metropolitan Detroit community can benefit from the synergies that knowledge can provide.

What is Religious Diversity Journeys?

Religious Diversity Journeys (RDJ) is an immersion program that gives students in 7th grade the opportunity to visit a variety of houses of worship in the metropolitan Detroit area over the course of a school year. During each day-long **Journey**, students learn about the a faith's customs and practices, ask questions, share a meal and participate in service-learning activities designed to promote respect. RDJ is offered to students in 7th grade specifically to enrich the 7th grade Social Studies/World Religions curriculum.

What does Religious Diversity Journeys accomplish?

- ✓ *Promotes knowledge* by dispelling apprehension about unknown faiths and cultures.
- ✓ *Engages minds* by encouraging question-asking.
- ✓ *Instills understanding* through interactive learning
- ✓ *Combats stereotyping* by helping kids make friends from different faith traditions.
- ✓ *Develops future leaders* by exposing students to community leaders
- ✓ *Supports Michigan's* mandated 7th grade World Religions unit.

What is the cost of the program?

The program cost for the 2018-2019 school year is \$120.00 per student. This fee covers 6 full-day field trips, a warm culturally-connected lunch at each house of faith and enriching educational resources for each participant. In many cases, the InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit works with private foundations and individual donors in order to assist schools with this cost.

Which faiths will students be exposed to?

This year students will learn about five faiths. There is also a summation session at the Detroit Institute of Arts or the Holocaust Memorial Center.

- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism

What are some of the houses of faith that host Journey programs?

Specific locations for each group of students will be shared with teachers and parents by early October.

Congregation Beth Shalom
Temple Beth El
Temple Israel
Christ Church Cranbrook
Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints,
Bloomfield Hills
First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham
Geneva Presbyterian Church

St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church
Gurdwara Sahib Singh Sabha
Mata Tripta Ji Gurdwara Sahib
Rochester Gurdwara
Sterling Heights Gurdwara
Islamic Center of America
Muslim Unity Center

Tawheed Center
WISE Academy
Bharatiya Hindu Temple
Hindu Temple of Canton
Sri Balaji Temple of Great Lakes
Sri Venkateswara Hindu Temple

How are students selected?

Teachers at each school are responsible for selecting students. Most teachers ask students to write an essay, or answer questions, about why they think the program would benefit them and how they might share information learned with their schools and communities.

How long is each Journey?

Each Journey, inclusive of transportation, is a full school day: Journeys begin at 9:00am and conclude between 2:00 and 2:30, depending on each Journey location.

How are students transported to and from each Journey?

Participating teachers often arrange for parent drivers for each Journey. Some schools use district bussing.

How long has the program been running?

2018-2019 is the program's 17th year.

For more information on Religious Diversity Journeys please contact:

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