The Richard I Bong Veterans Historical Center Traveling Trunks Program will provide schools across the region with unique hands-on opportunities to explore the stories and lessons of the major military conflicts in our nation’s history.

Traveling Trunks are a great way for your students to build their historical thinking skills, prompt questions about the past, and share knowledge.

Bring a small part of the Richard I. Bong Center into your classroom with the any one of our eight uniquely themed trunks!
Each trunk contains uniforms, artifacts, multi-media, lesson aids and activities that illustrate the soldier’s experience or unique story in one of the following conflicts:

- The Civil War
- World War I
- World War II
- Richard I. Bong “Ace of Aces”
- Joe Gomer (Tuskegee Airman)
- The Korean War
- The Vietnam War

Each trunk focuses on a specific conflict or individual and contains an assortment of items—original or reproduction—that would have been commonly used by soldiers during that time in our nation’s history. As well as other primary sources and supporting pieces from that era. The contents of these trunks can be used for research or as a hands-on educational resource that piques student interest in history by engaging them in object-based learning.
Traveling Trunks Program

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I reserve a Traveling Trunk?

- Download and fill out a Traveling Trunk Loan Agreement form from the Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center website. Then mail it to the museum, fax it, or scan it and send as a PDF attachment in an email. The agreement form must be received at least two weeks prior to the desired date of use. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis.

What does it cost?

- If you have a future field trip scheduled at the Richard I. Bong Center the trunks are free of charge if you are able to pick them up and return them to the R.I. Bong Center. If not we will deliver and pick up the trunk for a $25 fee for transportation costs inside a 50 mile radius of the center. Outside of the 50 mile radius the fee must be negotiated. We will be able to ship them UPS or FedEx with a return label.

How long may we keep the trunk?

- Trunks are loaned for two weeks, inclusive of shipping. Upon request, they may be renewed for an additional two weeks if the renewal does not conflict with other scheduled requests. Borrowers may come and pick up or return trunks anytime during business hours or by appointment.

What are my responsibilities?

- As borrower, you must agree to return the trunk by the due date. You are also responsible for its care and security while in your possession. You are not liable for any wear and tear of trunk contents as a result of normal use.
Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

What are my responsibilities?

- However you may be held accountable for any damage or loss that occurs due to abuse or neglect.

What is an artifact?

- An artifact is an object that has been created or altered by humans from another place or time (or both). As such, it may be irreplaceable. Artifacts represent the material culture of a place and time. If we analyze, or “read,” artifacts, we can learn about what was occurring when the item was created and used. Artifacts can be small or large but whatever their sizes, artifacts are the “real deal” of history. By handling artifacts, students, in a sense, travel back in time to experience history.

How Do I handle an Artifact?

- Remember: an artifact is an object from another place or time (or both). As such, it must be treated with great care and respect. Students and teachers alike need to understand the fragile nature of the artifacts they will be using. Each artifact used in Operation Footlocker is unique, and will require special treatment, but there are a few basic handling rules to follow. Teachers, students or anyone who will handle the items, should be sure to wash their hands prior to use. Please use two hands to display the items whenever possible, and be careful when passing. It is also a good idea to return the items to their containers immediately when no longer in use.
Traveling Trunk Program Post Use Survey.

Please take the time to fill out this short survey prior to returning the trunk to the Richard I Bong Veterans Historical Center. Your assistance will help us to ensure this service is continued. Thank you!!

Please return with the trunk or, if you prefer, complete on our website at: https://www.bvhcenter.org/for-teachers/survey

Name of person completing survey:

School or Organization (Please include county information):

How many students or people used or viewed the contents of the trunk?

On a scale of 1-5, (1 being “Not very much”, 5 being “Greatly improved”) how much has this program helped you teach about military history?

1 2 3 4 5

On a scale of 1-5, (1 being “Not very likely”, 5 being “Extremely likely”) how likely are you to recommend this program to others?

1 2 3 4 5

Overall, on a scale of 1-5, (1 being “Not very satisfied”, 5 being “Greatly satisfied”) how satisfied are you with the traveling trunk program?

1 2 3 4 5

General comments, suggestions or comments on how the trunk was used: