



Hosting Camp Darfur

What you Need to Know

Questions? Email Katie-Jay

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What is Camp Darfur (CD)?

Camp Darfur is an interactive awareness and educational event that brings attention to the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and gives individuals the opportunity to discover their ability and power to make a difference. This traveling refugee camp raises awareness and examines Sudan's Darfur region and its humanitarian crisis – genocide – by placing it in its historical context with Armenia, the Holocaust, Cambodia, and Rwanda. Camp Darfur empowers communities to raise their voices and take action for the individuals of Darfur. **Check out the website for ideas and photos:** <http://www.iactivism.org/projects/campdarfur/>

Hosting Camp Darfur

Think of Camp Darfur as the physical exhibit that will draw visitors and your program as what educates and empowers them to be part of the movement to end genocide and mass atrocities. Camp Darfur creates the space for you and your group to raise awareness, take action and get the rest of your community involved in human rights. It offers your group the opportunity to interact with the community of Darfur! We encourage students to learn about each genocide represented and to provide a host at each tent to peer educate. We would like you and your group to take the opportunity of having Camp Darfur on campus to create an event that will reach your target audience. Have music playing to attract those passing by, offer samples of refugee food, sign teachers or professors up to visit the Camp with their classes. Be creative! Together with Camp Darfur, your program, events and information will help to make the overall event interactive. Don't forget to have activities available that allow your audience to take immediate action in helping the people of Darfur.

Camp Darfur provides:

- ✓ FIVE 8x10 canvas tents that tell an abbreviated history of genocide: Armenia, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, and Darfur
- ✓ Inside the tents, materials include: Timelines, testimonials, photographs, historical facts, DVDs (if Camp Darfur is inside, includes electricity, and DVD players/computers) and banners
- ✓ A Camp Darfur representative(s) to show videos and slideshows, give presentations, work with group leaders, and provide ideas on how to optimize CD
- ✓ An opportunity to link your community with those who are directly affected by genocide: you can collect written messages to be delivered to refugees or record video messages for refugees to view

- ✓ Support from an i-ACT team member to help provide additional support to create programming around your Camp Darfur event.
- ✓ **We have drawings by refugee children on canvas panels, you can request these if you would like your community to see and touch them.**
- ✓ **CHECK OUT photos of past Camp Darfur events: <http://bit.ly/kiyijw>**

Logistics:

- ✓ Check out our list of resources and ideas to make your Camp Darfur successful. You will want to have a general idea of what you want to accomplish and include before you pick a date! <http://www.iactivism.org/projects/campdarfur/>
- ✓ If outside, tents **MUST** be tied down or they will fly away. Please check with your facilities about staking into the ground. If this cannot be done, please provide us with an alternative, which could include sand bags, cement blocks or other secure and heavy objects. Please provide our team with a hammer/mallet for staking.
- ✓ If inside, CD includes multimedia DVDs for each genocide: you will need to provide 4-5 computers, or DVD players and electricity. Please let us know if you are interested in this aspect of the Camp, so we can work with you to arrange proper set up.
- ✓ If you are interested in a presentation(s) by our team, let us know. You will need to provide a projector and screen to show footage from Darfur refugee camps.
- ✓ CD requires one table or shared area for information (and canvas panels if requested).
- ✓ Will the camp be set up overnight and/or will community members be spending the night in the tents? Please check with the appropriate people to make sure this is possible.
- ✓ **Setting up CD: It takes 1 and ½ hrs with 6-8 volunteers provided by YOU. Set up can take upwards of two hours if 6 to 8 volunteers are not available. Please plan accordingly.**
- ✓ **The host group also needs to provide volunteers throughout the day to interact with visitors.**
- ✓ **Taking down CD: With 6-8 volunteers take down will be 30-45 minutes.**

Making Camp Darfur Successful

Camp Darfur is the perfect opportunity to educate and empower your community and increase the number of community members involved in your group. Use this as an opportunity to reach out to the media, local schools and government, as well as community partners. The more partners and individuals involved in planning and promoting the event, the more people you will reach.

Here are things to think about:

- Location, Location, Location – high traffic and easy to find! It can be outside or inside but please keep the weather in mind. The tents cannot get wet.
- Create a **PROGRAM** for the day(s) – Communities hosting CD have been very creative in their programming!
 - Compare food in a refugee camp with what a high school or college student might eat in a day
 - Create a Die-In to simulate an attack and lie in solidarity
 - Have individuals read testimonies of Darfuris
 - Use photos of Darfur refugees to create “tickets” for the camp with actions or necklaces for people to wear during the day (ask us for these – we have tons!)
 - Include various speakers
 - Have music during the day or night – it attracts visitors!
 - Have a student host at each tent during the day and peer educate others about Genocide
 - Invite community members/students to spend the night in the tents like a refugee
 - Screen a film or video footage from the camps
 - Invite local organizations to attend throughout the day
 - Invite local survivors of genocide to speak to your audience
- **OUTREACH:**
 - Contact your local media – most have community calendars, write a letter to the editor, send press alerts/releases (see sample Media Alert in this packet).
 - Contact local schools: teachers/professors can plan to bring their students at a specific time and develop a lesson plan and/or assignment given enough time (specific ideas include: any genocide-related classes, history, sociology, international affairs, African studies, literature)
 - Invite your local legislators and/or city or school government officials
 - Utilize online communities – create a facebook event or myspace page or add it to your profile, post the event on all online calendars, send event details to local listserves two weeks prior to your event

ACTION suggestions for your EVENT

After experiencing Camp Darfur, many people will ask, “What can I do?”

This is the very moment where your group’s efforts to raise awareness turn into an opportunity to change the fate of the Darfur people. Below are various levels of action that people can take at Camp Darfur.

- ✓ Very Important: **Have a sign up sheet** for your group, club, or class so that they can remain involved locally and long-term!
- ✓ Very Easy: Encourage visitors to Camp Darfur to **tell 5 friends about Darfur**. Encourage them by emphasizing that their friends and family will become involved because of them.
- ✓ **Letter(s), Petitions and/or Postcards** to your local government officials! You can find out how active your leader is at <http://darfurcores.org/how-members-of-congress-are-graded>. Use their score to demand they take action today for Darfur. Ask Katie-Jay at ktj@iactivism.org for current political asks and petitions being used by Darfur advocacy groups
- ✓ Have volunteers demonstrate how to **call their elected officials using 1 800 GENOCIDE** (between 9am-5pm EST).
- ✓ Other ways to contact the administration:
 - White House Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WhiteHouse>
 - White House Twitter: <http://twitter.com/WhiteHouse>
 - Online Comments for President: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>
 - Department of State Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/usdos>
 - Department of State Twitter: <http://twitter.com/dipnote>
 - Department of State Blog: <http://blogs.state.gov/>
- ✓ **Stay connected to i-ACT, Stop Genocide Now, and Camp Darfur**. Our i-ACT teams visits the refugee camps regularly and we upload same-day videos, photos, and blogs from the field. Stay connected by following us at <http://twitter.com/iact> and on facebook at:
ACTIONS: <http://www.facebook.com/StopGenocideNow>
REFUGEE VOICE AND STORIES: <http://www.facebook.com/iactivism>



Day of Camp Darfur CHECKLIST

- Provide Camp Darfur team members with a name and phone number for a contact, specific address and directions to the location of Camp Darfur**
- Confirm Parking Arrangement** for Camp Darfur team members
- 6-8 volunteers for set up**
- 6-8 volunteers for breakdown**
- At the camp site: sand bags or hammer/mallet, safety pins, permanent markers to write on tents, tables, duct tape, pens for actions (if using petitions/letters)
- Volunteers signed up throughout the day to be at the Camp, encourage action, answer questions, peer educate
- Do you have what you need for your other activities: art, petitions, etc
- Print:** Flyers or Posters about evening program or arranged speakers (with the location and time). Have these at the Camp and around campus/community. It's also a good idea to have flyers about the next meeting or event if it's already planned!
- Print:** Action items
- Print:** Sign up sheet for your group
- Print:** Camp Darfur Booklet
- DVD players and/or computers if you want to use DVDs inside the tents (must be requested for inside Camp Darfur exhibits)
- Confirm with speakers: time, location, and parking instructions
- Confirm with professors and teachers when they will be attending so CD team member can be present for quick intro to camp along with local host group representative
- If CD team members are giving a presentation, confirm the room and AV equipment reservation

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