MEDIA ADVISORY

TO: ALL MEDIA/VIDEO CREWS/PHOTOGRAPHERS

DATE: MARCH 30, 2023

RE: 54TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE AND 2023 MANZANAR AT DUSK PROGRAM - APRIL 29, 2023

LOS ANGELES — The 54th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2023, at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California’s Owens Valley, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, approximately 230 miles north of Los Angeles.

Kyodo Taiko at UCLA will begin the Pilgrimage program at 11:30 AM PDT, while the main portion of the program begins at noon.

The popular Manzanar At Dusk program follows that same evening, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium, located at 538 South Main Street (U.S. Highway 395), in Lone Pine, nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site, across the street from McDonald’s.

For further details on these events, please follow our press releases on our web site, https://manzanarcommittee.org.

We encourage those covering these events to pre-register via e-mail so that we can provide whatever assistance you may need with your coverage.

To register, please send e-mail to communications@manzanarcommittee.org no later than 12:00 PM PDT on April 24, 2023.

Please note that our media “packet” will be distributed online via our web site at https://manzanarcommittee.org/2023media. This link will go live 24-48 hours prior to the event.

*The Manzanar Committee has also established guidelines that all print, broadcast, and Internet media, along with any film/video crew or commercial photographer, must follow while covering the 54th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and/or the 2023 Manzanar At Dusk program (see attached).*

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Be advised that the National Park Service (NPS), which administers the Manzanar National Historic Site, has established guidelines for media, and generally requires permits for filming. The guidelines for coverage of the Pilgrimage do not supersede those of the NPS. Rather, they are meant to complement NPS guidelines for the afternoon Manzanar Pilgrimage event only. Please be sure to review their guidelines at https://www.nps.gov/manz/planyourvisit/filmand-specialusepermits.htm, and file the necessary permit requests before making the trip to Manzanar.

For further information regarding film permits, please contact the Manzanar National Historic Site at (760) 878-2194.

If you have questions, or if you need further information prior to the events, please send e-mail to communications@manzanarcommittee.org.

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The Manzanar Committee, sponsor of the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and Manzanar At Dusk program, the youth education project, Katari: Keeping Japanese American Stories Alive, and the Sue Kunitomi Student Awards Program, is dedicated to educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and to the continuing struggle of all peoples when Constitutional rights are in danger. A non-profit organization that has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs, the Manzanar Committee has also played a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

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54th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage
Media/Video Crew/Photographer Guidelines

Most people attending the Manzanar Pilgrimage do so to reflect, to solemnly remember, and to honor the past. Many have relatives who were unjustly incarcerated at Manzanar, at one of the nine other American concentration camps, or other confinement sites, during World War II. The event is deeply personal and emotional for the vast majority of participants, regardless of their ties to Manzanar. As such, we expect those covering the event to respect this, and allow attendees to participate without disruption.

- All media, video crews and photographers must sign in at the Manzanar Committee media table, located under the tents/canopies (stage left).

- During the speakers portion of the program, media and video crews may conduct interviews with attendees outside of the tented area, or in the cemetery, as long as the interview does not disrupt the program, or our attendee’s participation in the program, in any way.

- During the speakers portion of the program, the stage area (including the steps leading up to the stage) and the area between the stage and the tented seating area are off-limits to all media, video crews and photographers (Manzanar Committee’s official photographers are exempt).

- During the interfaith service, media and video crews may conduct interviews outside of the cemetery area only, but are prohibited from approaching interfaith service participants to request interviews. Photographers and video crews may shoot inside the cemetery, but must do so without disrupting the service in any way.

- Media and film crews may conduct interviews during the ondo dance portion of the program, but must do so without disrupting the dancing (or any individual participant’s enjoyment of it) in any way.
Most people attending the Manzanar At Dusk program do so to learn from former incarcerees who were locked up behind the barbed wire at Manzanar, or one of the other camps and confinement sites. Like the Manzanar Pilgrimage, attendees come to reflect on what they learned that day, and to solemnly remember and honor the past. Also like the Pilgrimage, this event is deeply personal and emotional for the vast majority of participants. As such, those covering this event are expected to respect this, and allow attendees to participate without disruption.

- All media, video crews and photographers must sign in at the Manzanar Committee media table, located inside the north entrance to the Lone Pine High School gymnasium.
- Prior to the start of the program, media and video crews may conduct interviews inside the gymnasium or outside on the school grounds.
- Once the program begins, media and video crews are prohibited from soliciting interviews from program participants and interviews are prohibited during the program. Photographers and video crews may shoot in the gymnasium, but must do so without disrupting the program.
- During the small group discussions, interviews are prohibited in the gymnasium, auditorium, classrooms, the library, or outside on the school grounds. Under no circumstances are small group participants to be solicited for interviews during this time, nor should they be pulled out of a small group. Photographers may shoot during small group discussions, but must do so without disrupting them.
- Video crews are prohibited from recording the small group discussions in order to maintain the free, uninhibited flow of the discussions. Filmmakers who require footage from a small group discussion must contact the Manzanar Committee at communications@manzanarcommittee.org for permission no later than 12:00 PM PDT on Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Permission requests submitted after that time, including those made during the event, will not be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Media/video crews may not ask questions or participate in the small group discussions in any way. NO EXCEPTIONS.