



# 2026 Amache Pilgrimage

## Weekend Schedule



Photo by Julia Popham



# Amache Volunteer Day on May 15<sup>th</sup> Friday Morning

Supporting APS & NPS for the Annual Amache Pilgrimage

## Set up and preparation tasks

- Granada High School gym for the Saturday potluck lunch
- Granada HS auditorium for the Friday evening program
- Historic old Newman's Drug Store building for the Sat. evening dinner
- Amache Site: Cemetery set up for ceremony and NPS tasks

**Schedule: 9:00am - 2:00pm**

- Meet at the **Community Center**
- Lunch at Shorty's Café (cash only)
- After lunch, Amache site tasks
- Friday afternoon Amache tour
- Friday eve. Program at the Granada High School



Granada High School Gym set up



2024 Volunteers



NPS set up help

## Volunteer Organizations



**Volunteer paperwork and check in at the Community Center (9:00am)**



# 2026 Amache Pilgrimage Weekend

Friday, May 15

## Friday Morning & Afternoon Museum Open

Staff by the Granada High School's Amache Preservation Society

## Friday Special Program Schedule: 2:00pm Registration Open at High School

**2:30pm:** Amache site: Self-Guided NPS lead (2-3 rangers), meet at 12H Barracks across from the guard tower

**4:30pm:** Meal – Hamburgers, Salads at Granada High School  
\$10.00 / person. Served by Amache Preservation Society & community

**6:00pm:** Presentations at the Granada High School Auditorium

- ***Greetings***  
by Julianna Ellis, Amache National Park Ranger
- ***Amache Overview & Summer Field School***  
by Dr. April Kamp Whittaker, CSU Chico, DU Field School, Amache Alliance
- ***Amache Projects & Site Updates***  
by Chris Mather, Amache National Historic Site Manager
- ***Grassroots Preservation "The Afterlife of Amache"***  
by Natasha Varner, PhD
- ***Community Connections***  
by Rachael Storm, PhD from History Colorado and Tracy Coppola, NPCA
- ***Reflections***  
By Derek Okubo, Mitch Homma
- ***Closing Musical***  
by Julia Shizuyo Popham and Erin Aoyama, PhD
- ***Announcements***  
- Mitch Homma & Kirsten Leong, Amache Alliance

**7:30pm:** Social with Celebration cake in the Granada H.S. Gym





# Saturday May 16, 2026

**Pilgrimage Registration at Amache.org** <https://amache.org/pilgrimage/>

**Block of rooms available in Lamar, CO: (Make reservations by May 1)**

**Holiday Inn: (719) 931-4010 POC: Rachel Rate: \$147/night Suite: \$162/night (+ taxes) Ref: "Colorado Preservation, Inc. and the annual Amache Pilgrimage"**

**Historic Cow Palace Inn: (719) 691-6167 POC: Dolores Rate: \$100/night rate under "Amache Alliance" Cow Palace has a restaurant. Limited number of rooms.**

**Days Inn: (719) 249-3928 Rate \$109/night; ask for the rate under "Amache Alliance." Book by April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

## Pilgrimage Denver Bus Schedule – May 16<sup>th</sup>

Bus Registration: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/amache-pilgrimage-copy>

**6:00 Pickup Simpson United Methodist Church**

**6:30 Pickup Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple**

**8:00am Break - Limon Refreshment Stop**

**11:00am Arrival at Amache for Memorial Ceremony**

- Welcome by Nikkeijin Kai
- Hoji & Oshoko
- Benediction Floral Offerings: JA Community Organizations

**12:30pm Lunch at Granada High School**

- Proceed to food line
- Lunch Presentations
- Meet Book authors
  - Evelyn Iritani - Safe Passage:
  - Jolene Gutiérrez – Unbreakable:
  - Linnaea Stuart – CU Amache Project
  - Natasha Varner - Grassroots Preservation

**2:00pm Amache Museum Tour**

**2:30pm Return to Denver**

**6:30pm Denver Arrival**

Hosted by:



## Self-Visit Schedule – May 16<sup>th</sup>

**9:00am Meet at Amache entrance kiosks for family block visits to: 6G, 7E, 7K, 8G, 9E, 10E, 10H, 12E, 12K, 10G (high school). NPS available in Block 12H.**

**10:00am Shuttle from high school to Amache Cemetery**

**11:00am Participate in Pilgrimage Ceremony at Amache Cemetery (after bus arrives)**

**Shuttle back to Granada High School**

**12:30pm Lunch at Granada High School**  
Book authors meet and greet

Guests are welcome to bring food to share or donate to help cover costs at [Amache Alliance donation page](#)

**Please allow Denver bus participants to get their food first**

**2:00pm Amache tour or family block visits; meet at Amache entrance. Blocks: 6E, 7F, 7H, 8E, 8K, 9K, 11G, 11H, 12H, 12F.**

**3:00pm Meet at Amache entrance. Block visits to 6F, 6H, 7G, 8F, 9H, 9L, 11E, 11F, 11K, 12G**  
NPS available in Block 12H from 2-5pm.

**After 3pm: Activities at the Community Center**  
Social gathering; movies, small group discussions, Amache project tables

**5:00pm Dinner hosted by Shorty's – 1<sup>st</sup> seating**

**6:30pm Dinner hosted by Shorty's – 2<sup>nd</sup> seating**

**Cost \$20.00 Prepay at Amache Alliance website**

**24 N Main St, Granada, CO 81041**

**About a block west from the museum**

Dinner is at the historic Newmans Drug Store where Amache families went to shop, have ice cream or a soda. Next door was the Granada Fish Market started by Frank Tsuchiya. Using his Los Angeles connections, he brought in sashimi grade fish to Granada and sold Japanese food.

**Don't forget to visit the Amache Museum in Granada**



**Saturday Afternoon May 16, 2026**

**Granada Community Center**

**103 S Main, Granada, CO, United States, 81041**

Open: 3:00pm – 8:00pm

**Interactive activities and Rest & Social area (air conditioned & restrooms)**

- Author & Project tables
  - Evelyn Iritani - *Safe Passage: The Untold Story of Diplomatic Intrigue, Betrayal, and the Exchange of American and Japanese Civilians By Sea During World War II*
  - Jolene Gutiérrez – *Unbreakable: A Japanese American Family in an American Incarceration Camp*
  - CU Denver College of Architecture & Planning Project Table
  - Ross Ishikawa - *We Hereby Refuse* by Frank Abe and Tamiko Nimura
- National Park Service. Amache General Management Plan process.
- National Park Conservation Association – Tracy Coppola. National Parks and ways for advocates to get involved, including an overview of current threats to park nationwide.
- History Colorado - Rachael Storm, Amache 1945 HS Year Book
- Amache – Sand Creek Youth Ambassador - Program updates, crane folding (for Sand Creek Massacre visit) and snacks.
- Display - Amache Photo album
  
- Film Area
  - **Amache Rose** by KPBS 27 mins.  
*A rose grows in the high desert of Colorado, planted 80 years ago by internees of the Granada Relocation Center, Amache.* <https://www.pbs.org/video/amache-rose-1bp67p/>
  - **Injustice Forever: The Story of Amache** by 9News 27 mins  
The Japanese internment camp in southeastern Colorado will become the nation's newest national park. It's an effort to keep the story alive.
  - **Amache: An American Injustice** by North Shore Productions (TBD). 27 mins  
*For years, archeologists and survivors have been digging into the past and discovering how the community built a life behind barbed wire and created beauty in the desolation of the desert.* <https://www.pbs.org/video/amache-an-american-injustice-LuiWRA/>

# Town of Granada



**Remember! We are guests so please watch your vehicle speed in town**

### Block Detail and Barrack Numbering Convention



Blocks: 6, 8, 10, 12

Blocks: 7, 9, 11

W Amache Rd

Parking and Honor Roll

W Amache Rd

Cemetery  
Columbarium

Recreation Hall

Water Tower

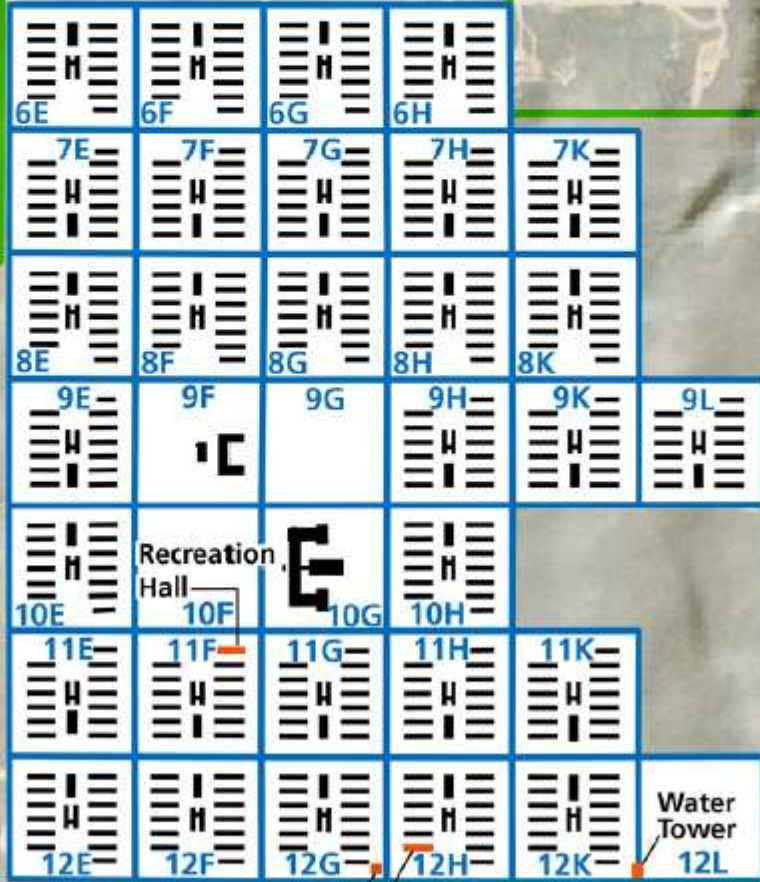
Guard Tower Barrack

North

0 125 250 500 Meters

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

- Building (existing)
- Foundation Remains
- Block Boundary
- Park Boundary





# 2026 Amache Pilgrimage Weekend



**Sunday, May 17**

- **9:00 am:** Meet at Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site at **55411 County Rd W, Eads, CO 81036 [Gates open at 8:30am]**  
**(Not the Research Center & Office in downtown Eads)**
- 9:15 am: Opening Prayer & Cedar Ceremony – Bobbie & Dale Hamilton
- 9:30 am: Welcoming Message: National Park Service
- Guest Recognitions by Derek Okubo, Amache Alliance and Tracy Coppola, NPCA
- History of the Sand Creek site by Bobbie and Dale Hamilton
- 10:30-ish Interpretive ranger short (1/2 mile) and long walking tours
- **There are no food/beverage concessions available at the Sand Creek Massacre NHS**
- **NOTE: The Denver Airport is a little over 3 hours away.**

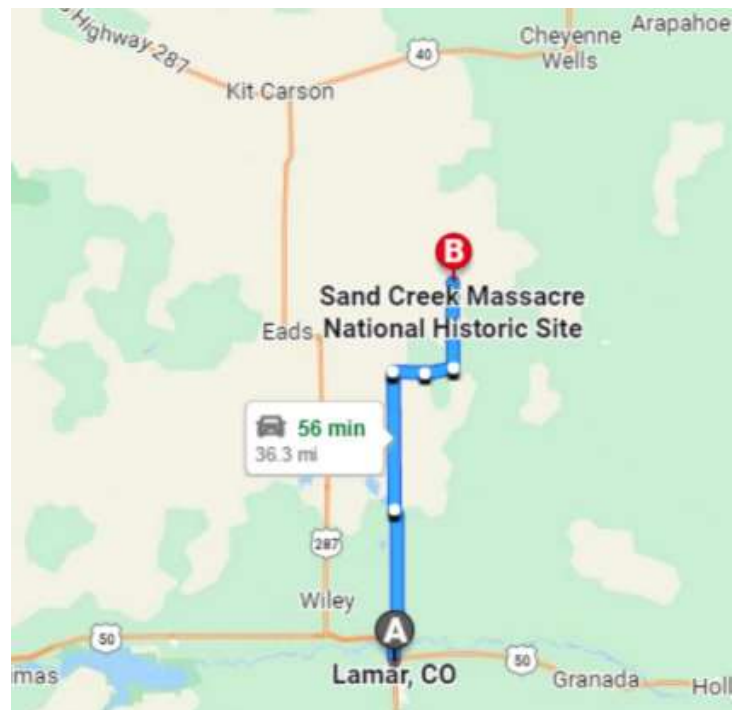
The Sand Creek Massacre is one of the most emotionally charged and controversial events in American history, a tragedy reflective of its time and place. It stands as a testament to a brutality that should be learned from and never repeated, a lesson of what the rejection of conscience in the face of fear and hysteria can lead to, and the suffering that this betrayal has imparted on generations of Arapaho and Cheyenne people.

The Amache community has the opportunity to share and learn from the Sand Creek Massacre community. We humbly and very respectfully honor their history and life on their lands in Southeastern Colorado.

## **Start: Lamar, Colorado 81052**

1. Head east on W Elm St toward S 5th St
  - 34 sec (443 ft)
2. Take Co Rd 8 and Co Rd 49 to County Rd N in Kiowa County
  - 26 min (24.1 mi)
3. Turn right onto County Rd N
  - 3 min (2.6 mi)
4. Slight right onto CO-96 E
  - 2 min (2.4 mi)
5. Continue on Co Rd 54 to your destination in Chivington

**Please do not block gates or park along the county road**



Amache National Historic Site was designated by Congress on March 18, 2022 (Public Law [PL] 117-106) to preserve, protect, and interpret resources associated with the incarceration and military service of civilians of Japanese ancestry during World War II at the Granada Relocation Center—more commonly known as Amache. The act also directs the National Park Service (NPS) to interpret the public reaction to the incarceration of Japanese Americans in Colorado and the transition and resettlement of incarcerated and their descendants after the closure of the camp. Amache is also included in the Japanese American World War II History Network established on December 29, 2022 (PL 117-328, Division DD—Public Land Management, Section 645).

Before World War II, Granada, Colorado, was a small farming community on the high plains of Colorado with a population of 342 in 1940. Incorporated in 1887 in territory historically associated with the Ute, Cheyenne, Apache, and Arapaho peoples, Granada served as a stop on the Atchinson, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway and, for a short time, was one of the largest towns of the Colorado High Plains. Railroad reroutes and two major fires in the early 1890s decimated the population and business community, but by the 1930s, Granada was one of many rural, agricultural towns along the Colorado section of US Highway 50's transcontinental transportation corridor.

After Imperial Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, political leaders and the media urged government action against Japanese Americans, stoking long-standing racism and prejudicial policies against Asian Americans on the West Coast. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the military to forcibly exclude "any or all persons" deemed a threat to national defense from "military areas" within the United States.

Although Amache was the smallest of the 10 incarceration sites, with a capacity of 8,000 residents, the camp became the largest community in southeastern Colorado and the 10th largest "city" in the state based on 1940 population counts. Given its size, a separate postal designation was required to reduce confusion between the incarceration site and the Town of Granada. The name "Amache" was suggested by Mayor R. L. Christy of Lamar, Colorado, in honor of Amache Ochinee Prowers, a Southern Cheyenne woman who married the county's namesake John Prowers. Her name in Cheyenne is Ameohtse'e, which means Walking Woman. The land on which the camp was situated is part of ceded treaty lands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, and Comanche. These lands were also used for trade and traditional gatherings by other Tribes and are still significant to Indigenous traditions.

Since 1993, John Hopper and the Granada High School's Amache Preservation Society (APS) have led the grassroots effort to preserve and interpret the remains of Amache. The Amache Preservation Society was established by social studies teacher John Hopper and consists of student volunteers. With the support of other organizations, the students started to renovate Amache, particularly its cemetery, and to establish an Amache museum in town. When APS started, the site was being used for cattle grazing, which made restoration and interpretation of the site virtually impossible.

The APS students participate on archaeological excavations, undertake historic research, give tours of the site, run the museum, and share their knowledge with the NPS. They travel throughout Colorado and into nearby states to give presentations on Amache and the World War II internment camps. The Amache.org web site includes an audio driving tour of the site. APS has a partnership agreement with the National Park Service and will continue their programs.

**The Amache Community is forever grateful for the Amache Preservation Society and will continue to provide support and resources for them.**