



Raid Cross

What is it? Raid Cross is a role-playing simulation activity that helps students understand the basic rules of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) – and recognize that even war has limits. During the simulation, participants play the roles of civilians, soldiers, prisoners of war and humanitarian aid workers. By taking on different roles, participants see conflict situations through various key perspectives. Raid Cross can be conducted on school and college campuses and in community centers.

How does it help? The Red Cross strives to raise awareness about IHL and the laws of conflict. By organizing Raid Cross, you will help the Red Cross fulfill its mission and at the same time, help others learn that war is much more complicated than what is seen on television, movies and video games.

Get started Before beginning, contact your local Red Cross unit for assistance. You can search for your local unit by zip code on redcross.org – when you call, ask to speak to someone who works with volunteers. They will be able to guide you to available resources that can make this an impactful and successful event. Once you have established contact with your local unit, there are three steps you should complete:

- 1.** Watch the Raid Cross promotional **video**, and read the Raid Cross Manual and the list of materials needed for organizing the simulation. When you contact your local Red Cross unit, request that they give you the **Raid Cross Manual**.
- 2.** Find other students who are interested in planning and facilitating Raid Cross with you.
- 3.** Speak with your school, college administrators or local community center representative to secure a location for Raid Cross. The Red Cross can help provide guidelines for the location and assist you with other useful suggestions.

Want more information?
Email us!

youthinvolvement@redcross.org

DID YOU KNOW?

A national International Humanitarian Law survey showed that nearly 50% of youth interviewed have never heard of the Geneva Conventions or International Humanitarian Law.

What's Next?

Before Raid Cross

- Select Raid Cross participants to play the various roles needed for the event. Talk to your friends, community members or Red Cross Club members, or create a Facebook page for the event. It is important to present this as an exciting and meaningful opportunity for selected and motivated participants. A minimum of eight participants are required to complete the activity.
- Identify volunteers to play the different roles in the Raid Cross activities.
- Prepare all needed materials for each activity.
- Contact all selected participants and make sure that you have a waiting list in case participants drop out at the last minute.
- Send the “**IHL questionnaire**” to each participant to find out how much they know about IHL before participating in Raid Cross.

Day of Raid Cross

- Have fun!
- Take photos of the event.
- At the end of the day, send the post **Raid Cross questionnaire** to all participants to find out how much they have learned about IHL.

After (your successful) Raid Cross

- Make sure you thank all of the volunteers and participants. Give participants thank-you cards at your next Club meeting or the next time you see them.
- Post photos of the event on your favorite social media sites and send the best photos to **IHLyouth@redcross.org**.
- Think about facilitating Raid Cross again!

Conclusion

By following all of these steps, you planned a successful Raid Cross event and informed people about the importance of the rules of war and the role the Red Cross plays in educating people in IHL.

Don't stop with just this event! Organize more events and activities about IHL including flash mobs, film festivals, and discussion forums. Your efforts could reach hundreds of people.

If you are interested in completing another activity, download more activity guides on redcrossyouth.org.

Before beginning, contact your local Red Cross chapter for assistance. You can find chapter information at **redcross.org**.

Shake it up!

- » Write a blog post about your Raid Cross experience to share on your school website or on local news blogs.

Resources

- » Raid Cross Manual – request from Red Cross unit
- » Raid Cross promotional **video**
- » Raid Cross instructional **video**