

Create Your Own Spirited Pennant

Take inspiration from JANM's collection to make your own spirited pennant.





Top: Japanese American National Museum (Gift of Mori Shimada, 92.10.2BW) Bottom: Japanese American National Museum (Gift of Scott and Jennifer Yoshida, 2018.10.61)

Now it's your turn!

Cut a piece of paper into a thin triangle and decorate it to celebrate your neighborhood, school, or another favorite place. Write the name of the place nice and big so you can see it when it's hanging on the wall! You can also draw pictures of things that make that place special. If you have ribbon, add some flair by attaching it to your pennant like the ones pictured in Mori Shimada's photograph.

Share your creations with us on social media using the hashtag #JANMinspired

Collection Connection

A pennant is a flag used to celebrate a person, place or anything you're cheering for. Often, they are used to show school or team spirit.

In this candid photograph by Mori Shimada, Lillian Sugita smiles with several pennants hanging on the wall behind her from places like Cleveland, Chicago, and Hawaii. This photograph was taken at Heart Mountain, WY, where both Shimada and Sugita were incarcerated during WWII. Shimada was 22 years old when he and his family were forcibly removed from their home in Santa Clara, CA. While incarcerated, he took photographs of friends, family, and social and sporting events giving a view into daily life within the concentration camp.

Here's a pennant made in the silkscreen shop at Amache concentration camp. It serves as a souvenir of Amache, CO and it also helps us understand what types of things were created by the incarcerees while they were there. The ink is silkscreened onto paper and at the tip of the pennant, barracks and a guard tower are depicted.