

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington, D.C.

REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY ARE PERMITTED TO LEAVE RELOCATION CENTERS

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Any person of Japanese ancestry evacuated from a military area in the West and now living at a relocation center may receive permission to leave such a center and take up residence elsewhere upon meeting requirements prescribed by the War Relocation Authority, the federal agency in charge of the relocation program.

Such leaves for indefinite residence outside a relocation center are granted after review and approval by the director of WRA in Washington. These are the requirements the applicant must meet to be eligible:

1. There must be no evidence of disloyalty to the United States.
2. He must have an offer of employment or some other means of support.
3. There must be reasonable assurance that the attitude of the community to which he is going will not endanger the individual, cause a public disturbance or jeopardize the relocation program.
4. The applicant must agree to advise the War Relocation Authority of any change of employer or place of residence.

The person requesting leave makes application to the director of the center in which he lives. After interviewing the applicant, the center director or leave officer may make such further investigation as may be necessary, and the application form and any other information is then submitted to the director in Washington, with the recommendation of these project officials.

Officials of the WRA in Washington review the application, the project director's findings, letters from persons given as references, and check the applicant's name against the records of FBI and other federal intelligence agencies. If satisfied from this investigation that the applicant meets the requirements, the director authorizes the granting of indefinite leave. If the application is denied, specific reasons must be given, and the applicant has the right to ask for a re-hearing of the case if he has additional information to present.

Where the wife, or children over the age of 17 years, expects to accompany the applicant outside a center if indefinite leave is granted, separate applications must be filed for each member of such family. Indefinite leaves will not be granted to go back into an evacuated area. Applications from persons wishing to take jobs or reside in places within the Eastern Defense Command or the Gulf States will be submitted for the time being to the War Department for review.

It is expected that evacuees will be employed at prevailing wages and WRA will advise each worker as to whether or not prevailing wages are offered. The evacuee may accept or reject any offer of employment, and after being employed will have the same status as other wage earners and may be discharged or may take another job.

Residents of relocation centers may be granted advance leave clearance, which establishes their eligibility to take outside employment when offered. When the Authority and agencies cooperating with it are able to find employment for such persons, a leave permit can be authorized immediately by the director if the job is satisfactory and the attitude of the community not antagonistic.

Both citizens and alien residents of relocation centers are eligible for indefinite leave. In case such leave is granted to aliens, notification is sent to the U.S. District Attorney of the area in which the alien will reside, and the latter must have the permission of the District Attorney before he may travel or change his place of residence. Leave permits may be revoked by the director of WRA at any time.

Another purpose for which indefinite leave may be granted is enrollment at a college or university. In general, the student must meet the requirements previously cited but his enrollment must be at one of nearly 300 colleges which have been approved for attendance by evacuees of Japanese ancestry.

In addition to indefinite leave, there are two other types of leave, both granted by the director of the relocation center: The temporary leave (30 days) to attend to business or personal matters away from the project but not in the evacuated area; and the group-work leave which permits the applicants to be recruited in groups to work outside the center in approved areas for a stated period of time.

December 3, 1942.

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*Return to E. Bird
2666 So. Downing, Denver*

THE NATIONAL BOARD
OF THE
YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

600 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y.

RESETTLEMENT OF THE JAPANESE

Resettlement
Order

The resettlement order of the War Relocation Authority (copy attached) was issued in September, but for many reasons actual re-employment of the Japanese has proceeded slowly. Although successful re-entry into normal community life cannot be a mass movement after the pattern of the evacuation from the West Coast, it is officially recognized as highly desirable that as many as possible of the evacuees have the opportunity to come out quickly to join their compatriots in the ranks of manpower and women power in the struggling months ahead.

Regional
Offices

To expedite the process and increase the volume of placement, the WRA is now in process of setting up regional offices and sub-stations. The five principal offices so far established are in Chicago, Cleveland, Kansas City, Denver and Salt Lake City. Sub-stations are opening in Minneapolis, Detroit, St. Louis. A temporary list of known address is attached for your use until an official list is issued. The headquarters address of the WRA is Barr Building, Washington, D.C. Address the Director of Employment.

Source of
Manpower

Of the 104,000 Japanese in Relocation Centers about 70,000 are not only American born but are culturally Americans as well. However, resettlement is not restricted to citizens. They are all given "indefinite leave" only after investigation by the WRA and a check by the FBI. They then come out as free citizens and residents. In the relocation centers are persons who have engaged in or are trained for practically every type of work from unskilled labor to the professions. They should be paid the standard wage in any locality. The regional offices of the WRA will have files of all possible employees as they are progressively cleared.

Community
Cooperation

The success of resettlement will depend upon the willingness of communities to receive the Japanese. Some communities are already working on the problem. If your community happens to be one of them, it would be advisable to get in touch with your nearest regional office to make sure that what you are doing is in line with the plans of the WRA. If you know of definite job openings, notify the WRA. If you are thinking of organized effort in your community, it would be well to consult the WRA before making plans because at any time they might have as large a work load as their limited staff could carry and the best results can be obtained if you work closely with and under the guidance of the WRA, thus assuring effective coordination of public and private endeavor.

Interpre-
tation

Although every community may not participate in actual placement, every American has a stake in understanding and interpreting the meaning of evacuation and resettlement. Your attention is called again to the release on resettlement of the National Y.W.C.A. Public Affairs Committee on December 16, 1942. Also, the Pacific Citizen

(weekly newspaper published by the Japanese-American Citizens League, 25 Beason Building, Salt Lake City, subscription \$3.50) is an excellent source of current information. At the present time, however, it is still not advisable to hold large public meetings on this subject or to give newspaper publicity to it.

Followup

When Japanese actually arrive in a new community they may need assistance on such problems as housing and the opening of normal channels of social intercourse. The Y.W.C.A. will want to join other agencies in offering such assistance.

If you desire fuller information on any of these matters, address Annie Clo Watson, Secretary for Nationality Community Interests, National Board, Y.W.C.A., 600 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Annie Clo Watson

Temporary List of Regional Offices

War Relocation Authority

Chicago, 226 West Jackson Boulevard
Mr. Elmer Shirrell

Cleveland, 944 Union Commerce Building
Mr. Harold S. Fistere

Kansas City, Meulebach Hotel (temporary)
Mr. Theodore Waller

Salt Lake City, War Relocation Authority
Mr. H. Rex Lee
318 Atlas Building

Denver, War Relocation Authority
Relocation Supervisor
Mr. J. H. Curtis, Acting in Charge
Midland Savings Building

Minneapolis, Metropolitan Insurance Building
Mr. Clement L. White

St. Louis, 1122 Paul Brown Building
Mr. Theodore Waller (or assistant)