

**Chicago: City as a Classroom**  
**Field Experience Designed by Jacob Gourley ('94 Scholar, '10 Fellow)**

The following field trip was originally inspired by Fellow Jan Yourist, who compiled a document dubbed "The Chicago Menu" for Scholars attending Summer Institute 1994. That year, Scholars were asked to visit three significant locations and reflect on their experiences in writing. In school year 2001-2002, I started the AP U.S. History program at Thornton Fractional South High School and created an architectural/historical photo scavenger hunt based on many of Yourist's sites. The trip, which has become almost an institution in my school, has been improved in various capacities through the years.

Prior to the day of the trip, students are assigned to groups of 4 or 5. Each team member is responsible for researching a number of sites/locations/buildings ahead of time and preparing a 5x8 notecard detailing the cultural or historical significance of each place. On the day of the trip, the team is given a map of downtown Chicago and set free with a digital camera to capture the "perfect shot" of as many locations as they can manage in a few hours. As they make their way to each location, one of the group members becomes the "tour guide" and shares his/her learning with the rest of the group. In the afternoon, students gather at Harold Washington Library and compile their historical research with their photographs into group journals detailing their experiences and knowledge gained from the day. The photo scavenger hunt is book-ended with a morning walking tour of the Pullman Historic District, a visit to the Chicago History Museum, and an evening dinner at Tommy Gun's Garage, a re-created 1920s speakeasy where the students are entertained (and well fed) during a musical comedy revue.

Below is a sample page from one of the group journals.

Old Chicago Water Tower

According to popular legend,  
the architects of this building  
chose its dark green and  
gold colors based on  
a gold-foiled



Champagne  
bottle seen at an  
office holiday party.

It is one of the most-distinctive  
features on the Chicago skyline.

The building was designed by Daniel  
and Hubert Burnham, sons of the  
legendary architect and city planner  
Daniel H. Burnham. Built in 1929  
by Burnham Brothers Inc.