

We are asking for a \$2,000 Mini-Grant from ThinkWY because we want to bring in Sam Mihara, a Heart Mountain Internment Camp survivor, to Northwestern Wyoming. Through Mr. Mihara's presentations, students and adults will gain a life-changing experience listening to his first-hand experience about his time in Wyoming and the events that lead up to this time in our history. Mr. Mihara's perspective, being a second-generation Japanese-American who survived his imprisonment in Wyoming, will give others a better understanding of American History.

Bringing in Sam Mihara is a project based in humanities. Adults and children will hear a first-hand experience of a survivor of Heart Mountain Internment Camp, along with other events in history. Mr. Mihara is well-educated on this event in history and is willing to share his knowledge with others. He also discusses different laws and their implications during this time along with their impacts on his personal life and those he knew. Mr. Mihara goes into detail on how his culture was affected by the events of Pearl Harbor and World War II. He also asks his audiences to consider how we can work to prevent this happening to other groups of people now and in the future.

This program will be for public events March 16th. In Gillette, Mr. Mihara will speak to two different groups of fifth and sixth graders and some high school students from various Campbell County Schools. Mr. Mihara will present an engaging talk complete with first-hand experiences of his life before, during and after his imprisonment as well as photographs and interviews with others who were forced to live at Heart Mountain during World War II.

Sam Mihara is our humanities scholar in the central role. According to his biography he is a second-generation Japanese American. His parents were born in Japan and immigrated to the U.S. in the 1920's. Sam was born in the early 1930's and raised in San Francisco. When World War II broke out, the United States government forced Sam and his family to move, first to a detention camp in Pomona, California, and then to a remote prison camp in Northern Wyoming, where they stayed for three years. After the war ended and he was released from camp, Sam returned to San Francisco. He attended Lick Wilmerding High School and graduated from U. C. Berkeley and UCLA graduate school with engineering degrees. He developed the Memories of Heart Mountain presentation to educate people and help ensure such civil rights violations don't happen again. In it, he tells the story of his family and what happened to them, why the camps were created and the important lessons that were learned from this experience. Sam is a member of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, a museum created in 2011 at the camp site in Wyoming. Sam has also told his story at numerous schools, colleges, and Department of Justice offices.