

Auschwitz virtual tours coming to Palm Beach County schools

Tours will be given by a guide from the camp in Poland

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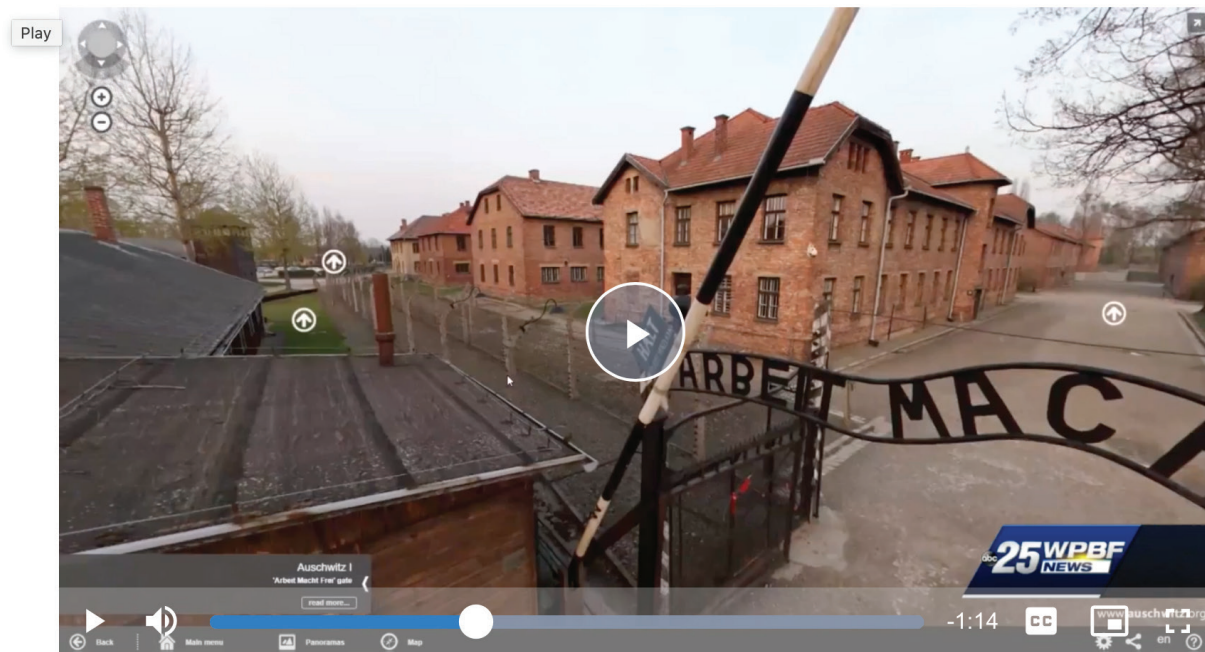


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Reporter



BOCA RATON, Fla. — It's the site of some of the world's most horrific atrocities.

The Auschwitz concentration camp is well known as a symbol of the evil of the Nazis.

It's a place Todd Cohn wants everyone to know about.

"It is absolutely our responsibility to make sure that things like this can't happen again," Cohn said.

Cohn is the executive director of Southern NCSY, an organization based in Boca Raton that develops programs mostly for Jewish teens.

Boca Raton is also the place where a high school principal, William Latson, told a parent he couldn't say for sure if the Holocaust was a real event.

“Then it became very sobering,” Cohn said. “And the question was, ‘How is this happening?’”

That’s when NCSY began working more with the Palm Beach County School District to better its Holocaust education.

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For many students, their next lesson will come straight from Auschwitz.

“It was really important for us to be able to bring that experience to them, to their classrooms,” Cohn said.

And Jerzy Wojcik is the man who will bring that experience.

“I can reach every corner of the globe,” Wojcik said. “I can reach every country today with a message from Auschwitz.”

Wojcik was born and raised in the town of Auschwitz.

He’s been a tour guide at the camp for 14 years.

The pandemic ended in-person tours, so Wojcik made it all virtual.

Wojcik uses photos and videos from the war and combines them with images from what the camp looks like today.

He can show you where the gas chambers were located and where prisoners were confined to barracks.

In the next moment, he can show you an aerial view of the camp today followed by an aerial view of the camp on the day it was liberated.

While you look, Wojcik talks, educating about the site where more than a million people were killed.

So far, NCSY is working with nine schools in Palm Beach County.

One of those schools is Spanish River High School, the school where William Latson was principal.

The other seven schools are Suncoast High School, Polo Park Middle School, Wellington High School, St. Andrews, John I Leonard High School, Atlantic High School, and Woodlands Middle School.

Wojcik is also offering tours to the public several times a month.

For more information, you can go to his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/memorialpartnership>.