

## Summer Field Trips at Celebration Park

(offered weekdays, June through August)

### Overview:

Our summer program at Celebration Park is designed to provide a safe, fun and hands-on space for Idaho youth to engage with their home landscape. Our field trips introduce elementary-age students to the archaeological legacy of southwest Idaho, with lots of opportunities for hands-on interaction with ancient artifacts and for immersion in the natural environment. We offer place-based programming that is steeped in the cultural and natural heritage of Idaho's first archaeological park.

**Summer Stories in Stone** is a summer-friendly variation on our classic "Stories in Stone" field trip.

This program is tailored to summer weather in the Idaho desert, with two short outdoor programs that run concurrently during the relative cool of the morning. By 11 am, we will break for a chance for students to eat lunch and participate in fun games and teambuilding activities provided by your staff and chaperones. At noon, we will retreat to the shade of the Canyon Crossroads Museum or our covered deck for two programs oriented around Native American and Archaic life.

### Program Descriptions:

- **Petroglyph hike**—on this 30 minute interpretive hike, students will explore the petroglyphs etched into the boulders at Celebration Park, while learning about the cultural and natural processes that have shaped these stones over thousands of years.
- **Atlatl**—students test their hunting skills using modern replicas of a 30,000 year-old weapon in this memorable Celebration Park experience on the only public atlatl range in the western United States.
  - **Hoop and pole** (for younger students)—easier for younger students to master, Celebration Park "hoop and pole" is a variation on a traditional Native American game used to build skills and introduce children to basic hunting techniques.
- **Lunchtime** —summer programs break for an hour between 11 and noon. During this time, students will be able to eat lunch and use the park restrooms. Make sure to have students refill water bottles during this timeframe! Also, **come prepared with a few games, activities, and/or teambuilding activities**: this is time for your staff to engage with participants and develop friendships among your students and connections between kids and their natural environment.
- **Native American Pottery** (both programs)—in this hands-on lesson, participants get to play with clay as they learn about Native American pottery. We use dry-hard clay so that students will be able to take their artwork with them when they leave the park.
- **Lifeways** (both programs)—during Lifeways, students explore the hunting, fishing and survival strategies of the earliest residents of Celebration Park. Students will also get a chance to use our replica pump drills, a tool that has been in use for thousands of years!

## Preparing your students for their field trip:

Before your visit to Celebration Park, it is important to familiarize your participants with expectations for proper conduct while visiting archaeological and cultural heritage sites. **For the safety of your participants and our cultural and natural resources, please remind students to be respectful of ancient cultures, park staff, and future visitors during their time at the park.**

**Participants should come prepared to follow Celebration Park rules, as well as any directions given by park staff.** Remind students to always be courteous—Celebration Park is a public park, and field trip participants will be sharing the site with other visitors and archaeological tourists, as well as wildlife. You can use the following resources to help familiarize field trip participants with park etiquette and to encourage them to protect our natural and cultural resources.

- **Archaeological Site Rules and Historic Preservation**
  - <http://www.nps.gov/petr/learn/historyculture/takecare.htm>
  - <http://www.fs.fed.us/lei/archeological-resources-protection.php>
  - <http://www.preservationnation.org/information-center/saving-a-place/public-lands/?referrer=https://www.google.com/#.VrjcGfkrLIU>
- **Leave No Trace**
  - <https://Int.org/teach/teaching-resources>
  - <http://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/OutdoorEthics/LeaveNoTrace.aspx>

## Schedule:

Our guided field trip programs run from **10 am to 1:30 pm**. Plan to arrive at Celebration Park a few minutes early to give everyone time to use our visitor center restrooms before the field trip begins. Our start and end times can be flexible, depending on your travel times and requirements. However, be aware that the later we start, the hotter it will be!

## Logistics:

This field trip is structured as a morning and afternoon session. Both sessions consist of two concurrent programs. **Please divide your students into two groups of approximately equal sizes prior to arriving at the park.**

Due to safety considerations, we can accommodate no more than 20 students per program. Since we run two programs concurrently, **please restrict your total group size to a maximum of 40 participants**. If you have more than 40 participants in your group, consider bringing smaller groups on multiple days, or call or email Juli McCoy to discuss options.

Please be prepared to help park staff enforce park rules. Park staff are not responsible for supervising the students during lunch time, between programs, or before or after the field trip.

## Safety:

Summer in the Idaho desert can be hot and dry, with temperatures at Celebration Park reaching over 100 degrees by afternoon. All participants need to be dressed accordingly, and in clothes that will keep them safe and comfortable while hiking and exploring the park. **Close-toed shoes, hats, and lots of sunscreen are a must! You will also need to bring, or have participants**

**bring, lunches, snacks, and water bottles** (bottles can be refilled at our visitor center, so encourage students to stay well-hydrated throughout the day).

**Contact:**

Juli McCoy, Programs Manager  
Canyon County Parks, Recreation and Waterways  
Celebration Park, 6530 Hot Spot Lane  
Melba, ID 83641  
jmccoy@canyonco.org  
208-455-6022 (office)  
208-870-7358 (cell)