

Winter Desert Program

Overview: The Winter Desert field trip at Celebration Park is brought to you by Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources and by the Bureau of Land Management's Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. The field trip is offered on Thursdays and Fridays in November, January and February, to groups that do not exceed 50 students total. The field trip combines themes of natural and cultural history and is structured so that students are indoors for 2 of our 45-minute programs and are outside during the 2 remaining 45-minute programs. Be sure to dress in warm layers and come ready for a day of experiential learning and discoveries in Idaho's Celebration Park!

Grades: 5-12

Timeframe: 10 am to 2 pm

Contact: Parks Programs: parksprograms@canyoncounty.id.gov

Program Descriptions

Morning Session—

Native American Lifeways

The Lifeways program, hosted in the beautiful Crossroads Museum classroom, introduces students to the cultures that have inhabited the Great Basin region for the past several thousands of years. Students will get to examine Native American artifacts and replicas while they learn about strategies for hunting, fishing, and tool-making.

Winter Ecology Hike

Students will explore Celebration Park while learning about some of our native plants and animals and their adaptations for winter in the high desert. This program will educate students on what ecology is and the relatively new field of winter ecology and will include discussions about hibernation, migration and other winter survival strategies.

Afternoon Session—

Birds of Prey

This indoor program will consist of one of two birds of prey-themed options:

Option 1: Students will get to meet live birds of prey during a presentation by staff and education raptors from the BLM's Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. Students will learn about raptor adaptations and the specific characteristics of different raptor species, and will have a rare opportunity to have a close encounter with these flying predators!

***Option 2:** Students will engage with raptor adaptations during a laboratory in which they will learn about common raptors of the Celebration Park area and their diet through the dissection of sterilized owl pellets.

**The raptor lab (option 2) will be delivered by Celebration Park interpretive specialists when BLM education raptors are not available.*

Optional atlatl or bridge hike (weather and time dependent)

If the weather is favorable students will have the opportunity to experience a hunting lesson on the atlatl range. Or, get a glimpse into the boom-and-bust of local mining towns and railroads during a scenic walk across the historic Guffey Railroad Bridge, built in 1897.

Program Logistics

How many students may we bring?

This winter field trip program is geared towards smaller groups of students. Our cap is 50 students total per field trip.

How will our day be structured?

The Winter Desert field trip consists of a morning and an afternoon session. We usually run 2 concurrent programs before lunch and 2 programs after lunch. The morning session will allow students to experience a Native American lifeways program inside the Canyon Crossroads Museum and an educational hike through the park's ecosystem outside. The afternoon session consists of an indoor program about native birds of prey or the dissection of sterilized owl pellets. The afternoon will also include a chance for target practice on the atlatl range or a hike to Guffey Bridge if weather and time allow. ***Please split your students into 2 groups of approximately equal sizes before the field trip so that we can fit them into our program rotation!***

When should we arrive at Celebration Park?

The earlier the better! To benefit fully from the field trip experience, it's ideal for you to have 3-1/2 to 4 hours in the Park. We recognize that the mode of transportation used by schools may dictate your arrival and departure times but we encourage you to arrive as close to 9:30 a.m. as possible. Our staff and our programs are very flexible. We will accommodate your schedule and the time that you have and strive to provide the best programs within your time frame.

How should I prepare my students for their day at the Park?

Facilities—We have modern restrooms, picnic tables and drinking water available; however it's always a good idea to have the kids bring their own water bottle.

Clothing—The temperatures at Celebration Park can vary by several degrees from urban areas, and weather changes can happen quickly. Winter at the park is often windy and cool, and can be snowy or rainy. Warm clothes, gloves and hats are recommended as

well as sunscreen and comfortable hiking shoes. Students and chaperones should always have winter layers (heavy jackets and/or raincoats) with them for the outdoor portions of this field trip. Keep an eye on the weather forecasts as your field trip day approaches and have the kids prepared. Always feel free to give us a call for any questions you might have!

Safety—Just like you do at school, we have some rules at Celebration Park that are intended to keep the kids safe. We want everyone to enjoy their field trip and have a great outdoor experience. Our Interpretive Specialists will begin each program with just a few safety rules and guidelines.

Chaperones—Our Interpretive Specialists are accustomed to leading field trip programs for a variety of group sizes and grade levels of students. If possible, we request that schools bring at least one adult chaperone per every 10-20 students.

Can you give us directions to the Park?

The enclosed map should assist you in finding your way to the Park. Be sure to share it with your bus driver(s) and parent chaperones. If you use a GPS or mapping app, make sure it takes you via Warren Spur and Sinker road, NOT Victory Lane as this is an unimproved lane. We strongly encourage you to take a printed copy of the map just in case you need it.

Schedule

Indoor programs are marked in yellow, outdoor programs are marked in green.

Time	Group 1	Group 2
9:30-10	Arrive and unload buses, restroom break	
10-10:45	Petroglyph/Ecology hike	Native American Lifeways
10:45-11:30	Native American Lifeways	Petroglyph/Ecology Hike
11:30-12	Lunch	Lunch
12-12:45	Atlatl or Bridge Hike	Birds of Prey
12:45-1:30	Birds of Prey	Atlatl or Bridge Hike
1:30-2	Restroom break, load buses and leave park	