

The Lake Lowell Field Trip

Teacher's Guide

A Field Trip Experience for Grades 2 and 3

Presented by:

Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources

Note from the Director:

Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources has been offering educational opportunities to the youth of the Treasure and Magic Valleys for nearly twenty years. Simply, we are trying to create the brightest possible future for Idaho's students and we believe that field trips that enhance the hard work of our teachers in the classroom will help. Lake Lowell is one of those field trips. This is a fun, academically stimulating, and memorable experience for early elementary grade students. Teachers and parents have a great time too!

-Nicki Schwend

Why a field trip at Lake Lowell Park?

Canyon County Parks recognizes that the presentation of fundamental concepts in a beyond-the-classroom context, via unique outdoor experiences and exercises, may enhance student comprehension, retention, and overall learning engagement.

*The goal of the **Lake Lowell Field Trip** is to provide a wholesome field trip experience that is of academic value to young students and an outdoor experience that aids teachers in their effort to create student proficiency in mathematics, language arts and scientific inquiry.*

The Lake Lowell Field Trip is a four-hour field experience for students in Grades 2 or 3, designed to enhance and reinforce the math, language arts and science curricula typically adopted by public, parochial, or home schools in Idaho.

Logistics:

- Field Trips are available by reservation only. You can use our online booking tool to make your reservation: www.canyoncounty.id.gov/field-trips. Please contact us at 208-455-6022 or parksprograms@canyoncounty.id.gov with any questions you might have. Make your reservations early as we schedule field trips on a first come, first serve basis. We will accept bookings up to three years in advance of your visit.
- Field trips are available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in mid-March, April, and May.

- Programs start at 10:00 a.m. and typically end at 2:00 p.m. Bus scheduling may require adjustment to the timing of your trip and we are happy to adjust our programs to meet your school's needs.
- The programs are held at Lake Lowell Park, 12996 Iowa Ave. Nampa, ID 83686.

DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 84, take Exit 33A, to ID 55/Karcher Road. Travel west on ID 55/Karcher Road for 3 miles. Turn left onto Lake Avenue, and travel 3.4 miles. Continue onto Iowa Avenue. Lake Lowell Park is on the left, across from the Upper Dam/boat ramp. ***Be sure to share these directions with your bus driver(s) and parent chaperones.***

- Transportation to and from the field trip site and lunches are not provided by Canyon County Parks.
- Field Trips meet in the parking lot of Canyon County's Lake Lowell Park at 12996 Iowa Ave., Nampa.
- There is no charge for this field trip.
- All materials and equipment are supplied by Canyon County Parks.
- We suggest that participation be limited to 80 individuals (students + teachers + parents = 80), but we will accommodate larger groups if bus scheduling and cost or other logistical issues require larger groups. If you plan on bringing over 100 students, we ***require*** that you book two field trip dates so that you can bring half the group on one field trip day, and half on a second field trip day.
- If possible, we request that schools bring at least one adult chaperone per every 10-20 students. ***Please split your students into 4 groups of approximately equal sizes before the field trip so that we can fit them into our program rotation!*** (Note that we occasionally divide smaller schools into just one or two groups, depending on staffing availability).
- Remember, you are going to be outside all day. Dress accordingly, a light jacket, raincoat or sweater may be appropriate for field trips scheduled in early spring. Hats and/or sunscreen are encouraged and insect repellent might also be a good idea.

What will we do on this field trip?

There are four concurrent educational sessions at the Lake Lowell Park field trip, described below. All sessions last about 45 minutes. All students, teachers and parents participate in all sessions. There are three sessions before lunch and one after lunch.

The Sessions:

- **Archery:** The Lake Lowell archery program introduces students to safe and responsible use of youth-model bows and blunt-tipped arrows. Students will get to hone their archery skills through target practice, while learning about the replacement of older projectile point hunting technology (the atlatl) by the bow in western North America.
- **Feeding Frenzy:** In this adaptation of a classic tag game, students take the roles of predators (trout) and prey (aquatic macroinvertebrates such as dragonfly and mayfly nymphs and leeches) to model the relationships between predator and prey populations, and the impact of water quality on aquatic creatures. Students will understand that Lake Lowell, and other bodies of water, are habitats for a variety of animals, including macroinvertebrates. Students will learn that aquatic macroinvertebrates are often an important source of food for fish, and that both fish and macroinvertebrates can be affected by the quality of the water in their habitat. Students will be able to recognize the basic requirements of good water quality (both for macroinvertebrates and for humans)—relatively cold, clear, unpolluted water.
- **Macroinvertebrate Sampling:** In this hands on, interactive experience kids will be given the opportunity to expand upon their knowledge and understanding of the macroinvertebrates that inhabit Lake Lowell by collecting and analyzing water samples taken at the shoreline. This session will also reinforce the importance of water quality in sustaining life forms in the lake.
- **Atlatl Range:** During this activity, students will learn about the history, function and cultural significance of this ancient weapon. Students will practice the art of atlatl dart throwing at the atlatl range during their field trip to Lake Lowell Park. The atlatl activity consists of instruction concerning the safe and correct use of the atlatl and dart and a generous period of individual practice time. The history, construction and physics of the atlatl and dart are also presented during the field trip.

Note: Sessions are run concurrently so the order in which you participate will vary from group to group.

You have been provided with Lake Lowell Field Notebooks. These notebooks contain lots of information that we'll cover during your field trip. In it, you'll find activities you can do with your students both before and after the field trip.

It is not necessary to bring your field notebooks to the field trip. We encourage everyone to leave this notebook in the classroom.

We do recommend doing the pre-field trip activities before your field trip. There are also post-field trip activities in the book to do afterwards. There is a lot to do, touch, hold, and examine on this trip and field notebooks get in the way.