

# Summer Stories in Stone 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 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 11:10 am, we will break for lunch. 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 tour***—on this 20-30-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.
  - ***Ring Toss*** (for younger students)—easier for younger students to master, Celebration Park "ring toss" 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 at 11:10. 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. **Finally, we recommend that you come to the visitor center during lunch to book future field trips. Slots fill up fast. Booking now will ensure that you get your pick.**
- ***Native American Ceramics*** (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.
- ***Native American Lifeways*** (both programs)— students explore the hunting, fishing and survival strategies of the earliest residents of Celebration Park. They will also get a chance to use our replica pump drills, a tool that has been in use for thousands of years!

### 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 station. Since we run two stations 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 208-455-6022 or email [parksprograms@canyoncounty.id.gov](mailto:parksprograms@canyoncounty.id.gov) 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.

### 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!

For the purposes of this chart we will call your two student groups “Group A” and “Group B”. Outdoor activities are scheduled first so that students may participate in lower temperatures.

### Example Schedule:

| Time Block  | Group A                  | Group B                  |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10:00-10:30 | Petroglyph Tour          | Ring Toss or Atlatl      |
| 10:40-11:10 | Ring Toss or Atlatl      | Petroglyph Tour          |
| 11:20-11:50 | Lunch                    | Lunch                    |
| 12:00-12:30 | Native American Ceramics | Native American Lifeways |
| 12:40-1:20  | Native American Lifeways | Native American Ceramics |
| 1:20-1:30   | Bathrooms and Water      | Bathrooms and Water      |

### 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, scholars, and 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>
  - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/lei/archeological-resources-protection.php>
  - <http://www.preservationnation.org/information-center/saving-a-place/public-lands/>
- **Leave No Trace**
  - <http://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/OutdoorEthics/LeaveNoTrace.aspx>
  - <https://Int.org/our-work/youth-education/youth-educator-library/>

### **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:**

Parks Programs

Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources  
1115 Albany St.  
Caldwell, ID 83505  
[parksprograms@canyoncounty.id.gov](mailto:parksprograms@canyoncounty.id.gov)  
208-455-6022 (office)

*Thank you for your interest in our field trips!*