

Teachers guide to  
**The Lake Lowell Field Trip**  
A Field Trip Experience for Grades 1, 2 and 3  
**Presented by:**

Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources and Idaho Fish and Game

**Note from the Director:**

*Canyon County Parks, Cultural and 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. Good luck with the fishing!*

*-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 1, 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.canyonco.org/field-trips](http://www.canyonco.org/field-trips) Contact Juli McCoy at 455-6022 or [jmccoy@canyonco.org](mailto:jmccoy@canyonco.org) if you have any questions. Make your reservations early as we schedule field trips on a first come, first serve basis. We will accept bookings one year in advance of your visit.
- Field trips are available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during the month of 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. **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 fishing!” Dress accordingly and please leave your personal fishing equipment at home—we have plenty for everyone. 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. The archery program complements our Lake Lowell fishing program, with a discussion of wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation uses of wildlife refuges, as outlined by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation).
- **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.
- **Fishing:** During the fishing program, students and teachers get to put their casting and reeling skills to the test, while benefiting from expert instruction in the art of angling. We provide all of the equipment.

*You do not have to keep anything that you catch but if you wish to do so, you will need to come prepared with anything you need to transport the fish back to school. Students and parents are encouraged to photograph their catch!*

- **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.

### **Guide to the Lake Lowell Field Notebook**

This document is intended to be used by the teachers and students prior to and after their field trip. You should receive your books at least one week before your scheduled trip. Please specify how many guides you will require when you make your reservation. There is no charge for these guides.

- Pages 2 through 9 are intended as pre-visit exercises and information to set up anticipation for the fabulous fishing field trip and that may be useful when investigating fish at Lake Lowell.
- Pages 10 through 12 contain pre-visit information that will be very useful for preparing your students for several of the programs they will encounter during their Lake Lowell field trip.
- Pages 13 through 17 are your guide to birds that you are likely to see during your Lake Lowell field trip.
- The remaining pages, 18 through 23 are post-visit activities.

***It is not necessary to bring your field notebooks to the field trip. We encourage everyone to leave this notebook in the classroom.*** There is a lot to do, touch, hold and examine on this trip and field notebooks get in the way.