

Winter Desert Program

Overview: The 2017-2018 Winter Desert field trip at Celebration Park is a pilot program brought to you by Canyon County Parks and by the Bureau of Land Management's Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. The field trip is currently offered on Thursdays and Fridays in January and February, to groups that do not exceed 50 students total. The field trip consists of a cultural history component and a natural history component and is structured so that students are indoors for 2 of our 45-minute programs and are outside hiking 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: Upper elementary through high school

Timeframe: 10 am to 2 pm

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Program Descriptions

Morning Session—Cultural History

- 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 thousand years. Students will get to examine Native American artifacts and replicas while they learn about strategies for hunting, fishing, and tool-making.

- Petroglyph/Ecology Hike

During a guided tour of Celebration Park's petroglyph collection, students will learn about the symbols etched on the Bonneville Flood melon gravel boulders, and about the cultures that created this enduring rock art. While hiking to the petroglyphs students will explore Celebration Park while learning about some of our native plants and their adaptations for winter in the high desert.

Afternoon Session—Natural History

- 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 about 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 students will learn about common

raptors of the Celebration Park area. We will play a game to introduce the concept of adaptations, and demonstrate how different bird beaks can be specialized for different food sources. Students will dissect sterilized owl pellets as part of a learning activity about the owl food web. The raptor lab (option 2) will be delivered by Celebration Park interpretive specialists when BLM education raptors are not available.

- Owl Pellet Dissection

Students will learn about the adaptations, subsistence strategies and diet breadth of birds of prey through the dissection of sterilized owl pellets. These pellets are specially treated to be used for science classes and contain the bones of common prey. Through dissection students will extract and identify various skeletal remains that are contained within the pellets.

Program Logistics

- ***How many students may we bring?***
This winter field trip program is geared towards smaller groups of students. Our cap is no more than 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 is focused on cultural resources, with students experiencing a Native American lifeways program inside the Canyon Crossroads Museum and a hike through the park's ecosystem and petroglyph collection. The afternoon natural resources session consists of an indoor program about native birds of prey and the dissection of sterilized owl pellets in order to better understand the diet breadth and prey choices of birds of prey. ***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—warm clothes and hats (dressing in layers) are recommended. Sunscreen and comfortable shoes for hiking are also important. 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. Parents who are driving their own vehicles should also be alerted NOT to follow the directions from Mapquest, Google or their own GPS. Those directions are driven by our address on Victory Lane which is an unimproved road into the Park!

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	
Cultural History	10-10:45	Petroglyph/Ecology hike	Native American Lifeways
	10:45-11:30	Native American Lifeways	Petroglyph/Ecology Hike
	11:30-12	Lunch	Lunch
Natural History	12-12:45	Owl Pellet Dissection	Birds of Prey
	12:45-1:30	Birds of Prey	Owl Pellet Dissection
	1:30-2	Restroom break, load buses and leave park	