



Idaho State Museum Field Trip Programs Descriptions

On-Site Programs

Guided Tours

Museum Highlights

The people of Idaho have shaped the land, and in turn, the land has shaped the people. In this tour, students will explore the Idaho State Museum and discover artifacts and stories that represent the ever-changing landscapes and populations of the Gem State.

Native American Stories

There are five federally recognized Native American Tribes in Idaho, which include the Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock, and Shoshone-Paiute tribes. In this tour, students will learn about each of the tribes through their artifacts and associated cultural practices.

Innovation Idaho

Innovation involves introducing new methods, ideas, or products to something existing or established. This tour analyzes innovative products developed for land management, irrigation and agriculture, and power in Idaho. Students will learn about the causes and effects of innovations in Idaho through the study of related artifacts.

Fighting for Rights

For more than 100 years, many Idahoans have fought for rights denied to them. In this tour, students will analyze historical events to build historical empathy and use that knowledge to make informed and responsible choices when crafting the future.

Roots of Wisdom (January-May 2023)

Students will discover the Museum's temporary exhibit examining Indigenous knowledge and lifeways. The exhibit connects traditional knowledge and contemporary scientific perspectives, displaying how both are applied to improve our world.

Guided Tour + Hands-on Activity

Eye Spy Idaho

Resources affect the way people live and their relationship with the environment. Students will investigate how different peoples at different times used natural resources in Idaho. Students will then participate in a collaborative game that challenges them to solve problems and create solutions in the Idaho wilderness.

Drawn to Idaho

Students will explore art throughout Idaho's history examining methods, mediums, and subjects. Students will understand the relationship between artists and their experiences. Students will then create a piece of artwork that reflects their own identity.

Roots of Wisdom (January-May 2023)

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Virtual Programs

Distance Discoveries

Idaho's Native Peoples

Students will explore the history and unique cultures of the five federally recognized Native American tribes of Idaho through interactive artifact and photograph investigations. Students will examine the effect of non-Native settlement on the tribes and review the current roles of the tribes.

Oregon Trail

How did the choices people made on the Oregon Trail affect Idaho's history? Students will learn about the trials and tribulations of traversing the Oregon Trail by following along with a journal written by a traveler on the Oregon Trail and artifacts from the Museum's collections.

Gold Rush

Students will examine what role mining and the gold rush has played in Idaho through interactive artifact and photograph investigations. Students will also learn about different forms of mining, life as a miner, and the importance of mining in Idaho becoming a state.

Activity Add-ons

Gold Panning

Placer mining was one of the easiest ways to find gold if you were patient! In this add-on activity, students will work in groups to pan for “gold.”

Boat Builders

Students will test if they could ford a river by building a boat out of popsicle sticks, foils, and straws. They will try to make their boat float, and then see if it can hold weight by adding marbles.

Paper Parfleche

People use various bags to carry their belongings. Some Idaho tribes carry food and supplies in a container called a parfleche. Students will make their own parfleche out of paper and decorate it with their own unique design.

Design Your Own State Seal

Students will imagine that the Governor has asked them to create a new state seal that represents Idaho today. They will design a seal with words and images that symbolize Idaho to them.

Create Your Own Compass

Explorers need to know where they are going. The first navigational compasses used on ships were a magnetized needle floating in a bowl. In this activity, students will make their own basic compass.