

How do I book a field trip to the Idaho State Museum?

At least two weeks prior, identify the date you wish to schedule a program and fill out and submit the [Field Trip Request Form](#) on our website. We take reservations on a first-come-first-serve basis, so the earlier you book, the more likely you are to get your requested date. To ensure an engaging Museum experience, we can only accommodate one group for each field trip slot.

After you complete the form, a Museum staff member will be in touch within 5 business days to confirm details, and a confirmation email will be sent to you. **Your booking is not confirmed until you have received a confirmation email.**

If you have any questions, please contact shseducation@ishs.idaho.gov or our education staff at 208-780-5195.

What field trip programs are you offering?

We offer in-person field trips. Please check under our On-Site Programs tab for more information.

How much free time will my group have?

The amount of free time will depend on the program you register for. If you are interested in more free time, we suggest registering for a self-guided visit.

What days and times does the Idaho State Museum offer field trips?

Both virtual and on-site field trip programs are offered Tuesdays-Fridays, with programs available from 9:30am-11:00am, 11:15am-12:45pm, and 1:00pm-2:30pm.

What if my group shows up and we don't have a field trip reservation?

Unscheduled groups are subject to regular admission rates for all individuals. Regular admission can only be facilitated with a payment in full upon arrival and is dependent on current admissions capacity.

Field Trip Cancellation Policy

- More than two weeks from scheduled visit: No fee assigned.
- Less than two weeks from scheduled visit: 50% of projected total due, invoiced.
- No show: Full amount projected total is due, invoiced.
- Weather policy: If severe weather interferes with scheduled programs at the Museum, we will contact the person who booked the visit about cancellation. If you are not contacted, please assume that the program will take place as scheduled.
- If you are unable to attend the field trip due to weather conditions (i.e. school cancellation or delay, etc.) please contact us as soon as possible at shseducation@ishs.idaho.gov or 208-334-2120 to reschedule. Failure to contact us is considered a "no show" and the full invoice will be due.

What are the Museum's Health and Safety policies?

Group sizes and offerings are subject to change at any time for the health and safety of students, teachers, and Museum staff.

I received a confirmation email, but now I need to make changes. How do I do that?

If you need to make changes to your attendance numbers to accommodate more or fewer students, chaperones, or teachers, please confirm these changes with the education staff at the museum at least **two weeks** prior to your field trip.

You can contact us at shseducation@ishs.idaho.gov or at 208-780-5195.

How do I pay for a field trip?

The field trip programs vary in price depending on what you select. Prices are listed on our On-Site Programs tab. To pay for your visit ahead of time, you can call 208-334-2120 and pay with a Visa or Mastercard. Payments can also be made on the date of your field trip. Please make checks out to Idaho State Historical Society. If you require an invoice, please email shseducation@ishs.idaho.gov. If paying as a classroom or group, teachers are responsible for collecting payment from students.

Payment should be received either prior to or on the day of your field trip.

If you are a Title 1 school, please visit the Title 1 Admission Rates tab for more information on reduced or free admission. Title 1 Admission Rates are funded by the Ray Knight Field Trip Fund.

If you are interested in receiving bus funding, please visit the Ray Knight Transportation Funding tab.

What if my school qualifies for Title 1 funding?

We have a limited amount of funding for Title 1 classrooms, who can receive programming at reduced rates or no-cost. It is first-come-first-serve. Please fill out and submit the [Field Trip Request Form](#) on our website and indicate if your school qualifies. For more information, please see the Title 1 Admission Rates tab.

What should I do to prepare for a field trip?

To prepare for your field trip, please review the museum etiquette rules with your [students](#) and the chaperone role with your [parent](#) volunteers.

Please divide your students into groups with chaperones before their visit. Chaperones should be in charge of groups of 5-10 students (we require 1 chaperone for every 10 students) and will need to stay with their student group, help students navigate the galleries, and complete Museum activities. We ask that teachers and chaperones help encourage students to follow museum rules. It is essential that students stay in their supervised groups for their safety, the safety of the artifacts, and the safety of all other Museum patrons.

Is there a place for us to eat lunch?

The Museum is located next to Julia Davis Park, which offers plenty of seating and space for groups to eat lunch. The Museum's outdoor Pioneer Village Pavilion is also an option for school groups to utilize. Please let the Museum staff know at least 2 weeks in advance if you are interested in using the space.

What does the day of the field trip look like?

Please plan to arrive at the Museum 5 minutes early for your field trip. Bus drivers should drop off students at the loading zone in front of the museum. Buses can park in Julia Davis Park during the program. There is school bus parking behind the [bandshell](#).

Museum educators will greet you at the front of the building and start your field trip. For self-guided groups, a museum staff member will give a brief welcome and orientation before sending your students in their assigned groups with chaperones to explore.

What if we are running late?

The Idaho State Museum understands that many factors may cause your transportation or bus to be late. As we accommodate multiple schools each day, it is essential for us to honor our scheduled commitments. While we will always try and accommodate, late arrivals may cause necessary changes to the programs. Due to other group reservations, we won't be able to extend your visit past your identified reservation time.

If you are running behind or need to reschedule, please contact our education team at 208-334-2120.

What if there is inclement weather?

Please see our updated Cancellation Policy.

What if we are early?

If you arrive more than 10 minutes early, please have a teacher check in at the front desk. If there are other school groups with reservations in the Museum, please plan to explore Julia Davis Park for the additional time until your field trip starts.

We're visiting more than one site on our field trip day. Is there anything we should know?

We understand groups are visiting multiple sites on the same day. Please let staff at sites know what time you need to leave to arrive at your next location on time.

What can students bring with them to the Idaho State Museum?

Students may only bring a notebook and a pencil in the Museum with them. No pens or markers are allowed, in order to protect our exhibits. No backpacks, food, drinks (including water bottles), or gum are allowed in the museum. Please note, we do not have a place to store students' belongings. Please leave them on the bus or at school. The Museum offers 2 rolling bins. We cannot guarantee they will hold all your students' belongings, so we encourage students to leave items on the bus or at school.

More questions?

Please contact our education staff at shseducation@ishs.idaho.gov if you have any more questions or concerns.