

From “Field Trip” to “Field Work”

Reimagining the Student Experience

An experience at our hands-on science center may be different from the classroom experience, however, there is one important constant between the two: as educators, we are committed to creating a learning experience guided by goals and rooted in a sense of purpose. This planning guide is a means to share those goals and help your students meet them.

Why Field Work?

Just like scientists, students benefit from spending time in the field making observations, inspiring curiosity, and researching a concept. What we can offer at the Center is more than a field trip. The Center can be a place for you and your students to do field work; to become apprenticed as scientists with a sense of purpose who delight in discovery, if we prepare them accordingly.

How do I Transition from taking a Field Trip to doing Field Work?

We strongly encourage you and your team to visit the Center prior to your field work for a brief planning visit with Center Educators. Together, we can create an experience that meets the unique needs of your group. Planning visits are FREE for educators and can be scheduled to occur Mon-Sun during normal business hours. We require at least two days advanced notice for planning visit. To schedule, please contact 208-287-4224.

Discovery Center of Idaho Field Work Planning Guide

Please complete the planning guide prior to your planning visit with Center Education staff.

STEP ONE: DEFINE YOUR GOALS

What do you hope students will be curious about when they visit the Center? What do you hope students will take away from this experience?

STEP TWO: IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

In the boxes below, please describe the learning experiences you have imagined for your students and organize them according to when they will occur. What field work will your students do while they are at the Center? What will your students do before and after your field work to connect what they learn about?

Before	During	After

STEP THREE: COLLABORATION

Below, please write any remaining questions or concern you have about your upcoming field work to discuss with Center Educators during your pre-trip visit.

What Does Field Work Look Like?

Examples of the creative ways that the Center has been used for field work.

1. **Model your field work in the classroom prior to visiting the Center.** See an [example](#) of one inquiry-based questioning technique your students could practice at school and use at the Discovery Center of Idaho.
2. **Use the Center for a hands-on lab.** See how one 8th grade teacher used Superstruct: Some Assembly Required to design a [forces and motion lab](#) for her students.
3. **Explore the intersections of science and literacy.** See how one elementary education resource teacher used [a storytelling heuristic](#) and a visit to the Discovery Center to help her students integrate science into a narrative.
4. **Use the Featured Exhibition Packet to generate ideas for your visit.** Click [here](#) for a resource packet on the electricity exhibit for May-November of 2016.