

Be Outside: 60 Possible Program Ideas and Activities for Idaho Libraries



BE OUTSIDE

IDAHO CHILDREN IN NATURE

- Host a gardening program – grow plants in little cups then plant them outside.
- Learn about animal tracks.
- Invite a cartographer to speak.
- Host a “hike through Idaho” program for families.
- Explore the neighborhood around the library/take a library walk.
- Make a paper bag back pack.
- Explore local biking and hiking trails.
- Present a camp-out theme program – tell camping stories around a make-believe fire, eat camping food & treats, set up a small pup-tent in the library, play camping games, sing camp songs.
- Learn and tell shadow stories.
- Host a storytelling picnic program – spread out a picnic blanket, pull books about picnics & the outdoors out of picnic basket, have teddy bears & bear puppets join in.
- Have a Smokey Bear program.
- Host a program about wild turkeys.
- Set up tents in the library's lawn and have a library camp-out/have a telescope to look at the stars, tell stories, read nature poetry by flashlight.
- Make trail mix or gorp.
- Host a nature crafts program.
- Host an “animals in winter” program. If possible share some of their furs and talk about hibernation.
- Make a collage from things found in nature.
- Create rainsticks.
- Host a program about recycling at the library. Promote your library's recycling program and take it one step further this year.
- Host a program about building igloos.
- Make a compass at the library. Encourage them to test it out – outside.
- Host a program about Idaho rocks.
- Invite an environmentalist to speak at a library program.
- Host a Lewis & Clark or Sacagawea program.
- Host a journaling program for teens: display books about journal writing, talk about journaling, provide notebooks for beginning writers; host regular drop-in “writers’ groups” for beginning writers.
- Host a nature book discussion group for older kids and teens.

- Have a rock climber talk to teens (show photos, talk about safety, etc.).
- Host an orienteering program (See [Orienteering for the Young](http://www.us.orienteering.org/OYoung/) -- www.us.orienteering.org/OYoung/)
- Create a map of the library and have a scavenger hunt in and outside the library.
- Play games that involve making maps.
- Learn about geocaching (See the [Official Geocaching site](http://www.geocaching.com) -- www.geocaching.com).
- Host a program about snakes at the library.
- Host a program about bats at the library.
- Host a program about bears at the library.
- Host a program about birds at the library. See if you have any local Audubon Society members who can help.
- Make a bird-feeder.
- Read books and tell stories about animals.
- Learn about animal tracks.
- Have a local speaker talk about extreme outdoor sports and display extreme outside sports books & magazines.
- Host a rappelling demonstration.
- Host an Idaho Nature Photo Contest will test the artistic skills of amateur local photographers.
- Host a program about spiders at the library.
- Host a virtual tour of Idaho state parks.
- Invite kids to present on outdoor topics – camping, 4-H animals, fly tying and fly fishing, recycling, bird watching, etc.
- Host a program about Idaho wildflowers.
- Host a program about hummingbirds and butterflies and how to grow a butterfly garden.
- Plant a tree or flowers near the library with help from kids.
- Host a gold-panning program at the library.
- Host a program about fish and fishing in Idaho.
- Have an activity where kids identify the trees, flowers and other vegetation growing on library grounds.
- Host a program about deer at the library.
- Host a "Monarchs, Milkweeds and More" presentation.
- Have a Idaho nature poetry or story contest.
- Host and facilitate a "Be Outside" meeting in your library. Brainstorm ways you can promote Be Outside in your community.
- Host a Nature Club or Be Outside kid's group in your library. Co-sponsor the club with at least one other organization to make it easier and think of some fun ideas.
- Put a Be Outside booklist and logo on your library's web site and link to www.beoutside.idaho.org.
- List any of your "outside" events on the Be Outside web site.
- Put up a display of nature books and Be Outside information.
- Volunteer to serve as a local "Be Outside" ambassador. Contact Stephanie Bailey-White at the Commission for Libraries for more information. Stephanie.bailey-white@libraries.idaho.gov