

SCIENCE AND NATURE FIELD TRIP REPORT

2018 SUMMER SCIENCE EXPLORATIONS & THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR FIELD TRIPS

Learning is at your fingertips, beneath your feet and all around you at Columbia Springs! We offer a variety of programs for elementary students at our beautiful 100-acre outdoor classroom.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Columbia Springs hosted **6,943 participants** and **249 classes** for field trips, from **59 different schools**. Students came from four school districts, four private schools, five day-care centers, two home school groups, one preschool and an ecology youth corps organization.
- The number one reason teachers chose to attend a field trip was because **the program aligns with their curriculum and with the Next Generation Science Standards**.
- However, teachers thought the most valuable part was the **opportunity for students to be outside, in nature** and engaged with hands-on learning.
- Our field trip team included five environmental educators and 17 volunteers and interns. Volunteer hours **increased by over 20%, from 808 hrs to 1,050 hrs** including 80 hours attending training events.
- 1,168 adults attended field trips. Of those who signed in, **60% had never been to Columbia Springs** and 76% signed up for our e-mail list.



"I think the most valuable part of this field trip was the opportunity that the students have to get out in nature. This is sometimes the first time that they have experienced anything like this." - Shawn Cunlisk, Marshall

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

We made a ton of improvements to better serve our diverse student body, and teachers noticed!

- "I have now attended the field trip 15 years in a row and **it keeps getting better!** I love all the new visuals in the classroom and the rain jackets were a great addition this year!" - Allison Straker, Marshall
- "My students thrived with the increase of structure in instruction. I noticed that the stations had more language support in the way of pictures and labels. **This was especially helpful for my English language learners.**" - Crystal Brandenburg, Hazel Dell
- "The efforts you made since our last year's visit were noticeable: the additional signs & visuals, **the instruction seemed more focused and intentional.** We had a great time. Thanks!" - Cynthia Geddes, Hazel Dell



"My students were so engaged during the "bug hunt" as we hiked around the lake, and even more engaged when we were catching water bugs. The instruction done before these activities set them up to be really engaging. It was cool even as a grown up to find a real water boatman after learning about it in the classroom!" - Corinne Contreras, Mill Plain

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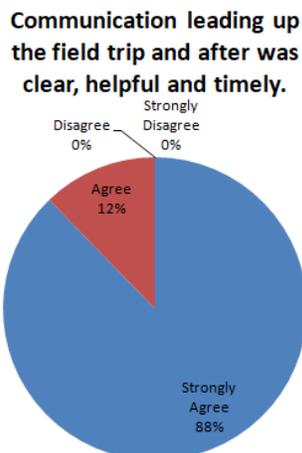
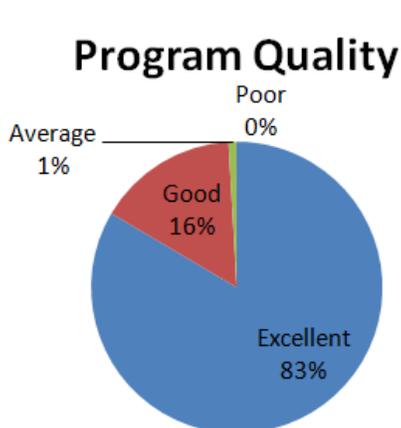
WELL ORGANIZED & ENGAGING

One barrier to getting kids outside is that field trips can be stressful for teachers and managing student behavior outside the classroom is challenging. The more engaged students are, the less behavior issues we see. Our teachers agree: **field trips to Columbia Springs are extremely well organized and engaging for students.** Our team is laser focused on clear, concise instruction that provides students **the maximum amount of hands-on and active learning.**

First Lady of Washington State, Trudi Inslee joined 3rd graders from York Elementary on their Salmon-focused field trip!

- “This trip was **organized, engaging and educational.**” - Kim Williams, Harmony
- “I clearly understood my role as a teacher and how to prepare for coming to Columbia Springs.” - Nichole Pratap, Ogden
- “I have a very active group of students so keeping them moving throughout the day was helpful. I was very impressed with **how well they behaved and I attribute that to the fact that they were highly engaged.**” - Alysia Aldred, Green Mountain School
- “Everything was perfect.” - Travis Gunn, Sarah J Anderson

Field trip follow up survey results:



59 teachers (22%) reporting.

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FROM OUR STUDENTS...



Dear Mr. Lars
 Thank you for being an awesome field guide and helping us test water quality.
 My favorite part was finding different creatures and life in the water. I learned that certain animals and insects are sensitive and also not sensitive to the water. During that I was glad to find out that the water being taken care of was actually pretty good.
 Thank you again for being an awesome field guide.
 Sincerely,
 Shelby

4th graders from Cornerstone Christian Academy raised \$105 to donate to Columbia Springs



"I like my ipad, but I LOVE the outdoors!" - Gwen, 5th grader

Thank you sooo much for being there for us! I learned a lot of things but here are 3 of those things:
 ① Fish might not taste great but they're interesting.
 ② I like my iPad but I love the outdoors.
 ③ Even though electronics have a lot of information, they will never give you the true experience of being outside yourself! Even if your in the cold, wet, pouring down rain. Next time my family wants to get out of the house and they don't know where to go, I will recommend going and having a great experience at Columbia Springs! I had my time learning there!
 Love always,
 Gwen from Mrs. Clabkey's Class.



Our field trip to Columbia Springs was awesome nature is awesome so are the animals my favorite part is when we did the macroinvertebrates with my team mostly got left sided the same and I can't wait to visit for my fifth time there I loved the feeding part I seen ducks one was white it was cute so I like the trip there. (Love Nature)
 from: Pashon ☺
 #AF11



"This is the best field trip I have ever been on because we were able to learn and walk and talk. I learn best like this." - 5th grader from King Elementary

"I am going to ask my parents to bring me back here on the weekend because we always try to do fun stuff, but all I want to do is come back here and show them everything." - 5th grader

"Wow. The air smells better here." - 5th grader

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VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

During this school year **17 volunteers contributed 1,050 hours to the science and nature field trip program!** Their efforts make all the difference for student experience. From engaging individual students, leading small groups and managing materials between programs, volunteers are essential to our program success!

Columbia Springs would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to the science and nature field trip program:

Linda Leighton, Christine Ye, Ellen Wilson, Rachel Kolafa, Cliff Anderson, Dodie Minor, Brian Minor, Joseph Albright, Susan McLaughlin, Jana Grote, Pam Porter, Dave Leonhardt, Trish Tindbaek, Madison Thibado, Scott Solberg, Meg Evans and Mary-Fe Gipe



THANK YOU FROM OUR TEAM!



Jenna Kallestad,
Education Coordinator



Lars Olson,
Environmental Educator



Luisa Eding,
Environmental Educator



Katie Woollven,
Salmon in the Classroom



Apryl Corey
Education Program Assistant

"It is a true honor and privilege to take some of these kids on their very first outdoor/dirt/bug/life science experience. You never forget the "why" in this job because **the magic happens every single day.**"

- Apryl Corey, Education Program Assistant

"One of the best parts about being an educator at Columbia Springs is watching students have an "Ah-ha!" moment when they learn about something cool or experience a part of nature for the first time.

Just being outside with kids is a real joy." - Lars Olson, Educator