

Summary

The Lewis and Clark Caverns field trip is an opportunity for all freshmen at our high school to apply the skills and knowledge of their freshman year in a Montana setting. The cross-curricular field trip will create opportunities for students to forge stronger connections with their classmates and teachers.

Section 1:

A. There is an on going need to strengthen the ties between high school students and their school, especially for the freshmen. A significant connection can be made between success in high school and the degree of belonging that students feel. There is no all-encompassing class experience for freshmen at our high school.

B. The purpose of this field trip is for students to apply the skills and knowledge gained during their freshmen year to a tour of the Lewis and Clark Caverns and the adjacent Nature Loop trail. Students will be experiencing an area they have studied and working in groups as they engage in outdoor recreation- Physical Education, collect information, apply identification and classification skills- Math and Earth Science, learn about Native American medicinal plants and activities of the area- World Cultures.

A major goal in all curricular areas as well as for the school is for students to make connections with the world they live in. A surprising majority of our students have never been to the caverns. A school wide and district goal is for students to become invested in their educational experience. We feel this field trip is an excellent way for these connections to be made and strengthened.

Section2:

A. There is no freshman experience that attempts to provide a collaborative experience between all curricular areas. We are developing a program that will encompass elements/skills from all curricular areas although it takes students out of the regular classroom for a school day. This will be an opportunity to experience the connections that exist between all the areas a student must engage in during their school day. Physical Education emphasizes lifetime fitness, and hiking is a very popular recreation in Montana. The formation of the caverns is a topic in Earth Science as is learning how to identify something using a scientific key. There are elements of math, reading and writing in all scientific endeavors. As the Native Americans used this area historically, there is a connection to World Cultures as we study these cultures. This daylong field trip will be a cross-curricular event.

B. The entire project takes learning out of the classroom and into the students' greater neighborhood of Montana recreational opportunities and experiences.

C. All the freshman level teachers will be involved on some level. Involvement will range from planning activities and pre-field trip instruction to accompanying students on the tours. Lynette Kemp-Park Manager, Rhea Armstrong-Asst manager and Tom Forwood-Park Biologist will be coordinating and helping with activities at the caverns. Joe Anderson will be consulting on the Native American history of the area. Parents will accompany the groups as additional chaperones. Partners were included for their expertise and enthusiasm for developing a meaningful experience for the students. Students will have assignments in many classes so the students left will be responsible for class work determined by the classroom teacher.

D. There were no other funding sources found within the building or the district for an all class field trip. Cross-curricular experiences are encouraged, although here is no funding source.

Section 3

A. All year long activities have taken place in each curricular area to prepare students' for this trip. Over two days in May, students will be bussed to the Lewis and Clark State Park. There will be two to three chaperones with each group of students. Half of the students will hike the Nature Loop trail and the remaining half will tour the caverns. As each group finishes, they will engage in the other activity. There will be activities to go along with each segment.

The district currently has GPS units that may be used; these are the only pieces of equipment needed aside from transportation, admission fees and substitutes. Representatives from the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks will be working with the teachers on the caverns area, as this is their expertise. Joe Anderson, Helena School District educator with the Indian Education for All Act will be a consultant.

B. Budget-

Item	Cost
400- student cavern admissions (\$4)	\$1600
36- chaperone caverns admissions(\$8)	\$300

Section 4:

A. There will be a set of activities for each of the two tours to be completed and returned to the various curricular area teachers. Representatives from all curricular areas will meet to design these activities and to determine how they will be assessed. All curricular area state standards speak to real world application of course work.

B. Information about the field trip will be published in the school newsletter and hopefully the IR. This could serve as a model for an all class field trip for other schools to modify, regardless of grade level. Any historical site or geographic feature has potential as a field trip site. This information can be easily shared with others via web sites, in-services and conventions.

C. As all freshmen students will have the opportunity to go on this field trip, we hope to offer this each year to the freshman class. If funding sources can be found, all freshmen in the Helena School District would benefit from such an experience. We will determine if this is a worthwhile experience after the trip to determine if funding for future years is desired. After the discussion with freshman teachers, alternative funding sources for future years will be discussed.