A Shorter Festival Fundraiser

If you’re watching our great programming during Festival, you might notice something a bit different! More gray in my beard? Nope! You’ll see that our on-air fundraising campaign is only 10 days and not the normal 16 days.

This doesn’t mean that we don’t need your support. We do—we always need your support! Festival has been a long-time fundraising campaign where we would pop balloons, celebrate your support, and look to the change of season. But it’s only one part of our giving campaign at this time of year.

This year we are trying to balance our viewing audiences who enjoy the special spring programming with our audiences who enjoy our core programs without interruption, so we’re trying to pack everything into a shorter time period. And when you hear us say, “We need to hear from you,” we really mean it!

Besides being part of a major fundraising campaign, it’s also an opportunity to involve many of our corporate partners and our volunteers who like to offer help and support in addition to financial support.

If we can get the same amount of financial support in a shorter time span, we may be able to repeat it next year. This would save us time and money, and it saves you from having your favorite programs put on pause. I’d call that a win–win!

In the Community

“Idaho’s Nuclear Navy” Screening in Boise

Idaho Experience “Idaho’s Nuclear Navy” is a fascinating look at how, back in the 1940s and ‘50s, nuclear propulsion for U.S. Navy submarines and ships was developed and prototypes were built and tested in Idaho. Training of the Navy’s nuclear fleet began on the grounds of what is now Idaho National Laboratory.

IdahoPTV, the Idaho State Historical Society, and the USS Idaho Commissioning Committee will present a free screening on Monday, March 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Egyptian Theatre in Boise. Register online at https://www.idahoptv.org/events/#upcoming. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the presentation and Q&A begin at 6:15 p.m.
“Nature as Classroom” Screening in McCall

Join IdahoPTV and the University of Idaho’s McCall Outdoor Science School for a screening of Outdoor Idaho’s latest episode, “Nature as Classroom.”

The screening will take place on Thursday, March 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Alpine Playhouse, 1210 Roosevelt Ave, in McCall. A panel discussion will follow, providing insights into the local outdoor scene. No registration required.

“Idaho’s Hidden Gems” Screening in Ketchum

The newest episode of Idaho Experience features the only Frank Lloyd Wright structure in Idaho, Teater’s Knoll. Located in Bliss, Idaho, Teater’s Knoll was commissioned as a studio and home by the painter Archie Teater and his wife Patricia in 1952.

Join The Community Library and the Sun Valley Museum of Art for a screening of the Idaho Experience segments on Teater’s Knoll and early Idaho photographer Clarence Bisbee. The screening will take place on Wednesday, March 20, from 6 – 7 p.m. at The Community Library, John A. and Carole O. Moran Lecture Hall, 415 Spruce Avenue in Ketchum.

Following the screening, Henry Whiting, who owns and lives in Teater’s Knoll and has overseen two extensive restoration projects on the building, will join Brent Hale, son of stonemason Kent Hale, who completed much of the studio’s meticulous stonework, in a conversation moderated by IdahoPTV producer Andy Lawless.

Register at: https://thecommunitylibrary.libcal.com/event/11979825


Idaho Public Television is thrilled to announce its partnership with LifeOutdoors, an environmental education, research, and advocacy nonprofit, along with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and Idaho Press to introduce an exciting opportunity for Idaho teens ages 13-18. The “My Life Outdoors: Teen Multimedia Contest” invites young explorers to share their outdoor adventures through written essays and video submissions. This initiative aims to celebrate the profound connection between Idaho’s youth and the environment while encouraging others to embark on their own outdoor journeys.
Running from Feb. 8 to March 27, 2024, the contest encourages participants to reflect on the theme “My Life Outdoors.” Whether recounting the triumph of conquering a challenging hike, the excitement of reeling in a big catch while fishing, navigating the exhilarating whitewater rapids of a river, or simply embracing the serene beauty of a mountain sunset, all encounters with nature are welcomed and celebrated.

Dick Jordan, executive director and founder of LifeOutdoors, is passionate about the importance of connecting kids with nature. “Having worked with teenagers for almost 45 years, I’ve come to realize that teens crave content that is rich in relationships and adventures. I’ve seen young people blossom when they are empowered and challenged, so that’s why I’ve tried to create those kinds of opportunities,” says Jordan.

The contest is an interdisciplinary fusion of STREAM, where STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) partners with language arts to create compelling narratives about our environment and its significance to our well-being. Research has conclusively shown that spending time outdoors is crucial for our mental health. Young individuals who immerse themselves in nature, whether in their living spaces, workplaces, or recreational areas, inherently grasp these benefits, and now they have the platform to share this understanding with the world. “I want to give them a mic, a voice, a stage to tell the world that nature nurtures,” Jordan explains. “They are better able to deal with the stresses of our complex society after those experiences.”

Embracing the vision of individuals like Jordan, who tirelessly advocate for the profound importance of connecting adolescents with nature, this contest represents more than just a mere competition; it symbolizes a gateway for young adventurers to discover the transformative power of outdoor expeditions. Through their unique outdoor odysseys, these teenagers not only celebrate their bond with nature but also ignite inspiration, underscoring the vital message that nature grants us resilience and joy amid life’s complexities.

Participants can submit their entries via Google Form on the contest’s official website, https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/outdooridaho/lifeoutdoors/, where they will also find detailed guidelines and the Official Contest Rules and FAQs. Join us in celebrating the adventurous spirit of Idaho’s teens by participating in the “My Life Outdoors: Teen Multimedia Contest.” Get ready to inspire and be inspired by the great outdoors!

A new program serving North Idaho families of pre-kindergarten children is launching in early spring 2024.

Encompassing townships in Latah, Benewah and Kootenai counties, the effort is based in Potlatch and funded by a two-year Ready to Learn grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to Idaho Public Television’s family and community education arm.

Partnering with Idaho Public Television’s education team are several local organizations, including The Garden and Lil Moe’s childcare centers, the Harvard Homeschool Co-op, Potlatch Public Library, and the Potlatch Historical
Society; Moscow-based organizations IdahoSTARS, Gritman Medical Center, and the Latah County Library system; Woodbridge Real Estate; as well as Parents as Teachers and Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children.

The goal of the North Idaho project is to build a Learning Neighborhood, a network of partners and material supports that enhance the education of young children and their families.

According to the PBS KIDS Ready to Learn 2023-2024 Update “Learn Together: Connecting Children’s Media and Learning Environments to Build Key Skills for Success,” 41 public media stations across the country are creating Learning Neighborhoods by “working with community partners in low-income neighborhoods to identify local assets and needs and develop learning opportunities to support children, families, and educators. Building upon the extensive reach of PBS KIDS content across digital platforms, Learning Neighborhoods foster a community-wide culture of learning together at home, in the neighborhood, and at schools, libraries, museums, and local businesses. These collaborations empower parents and families through direct engagement with educational resources from PBS KIDS and experiences that have a measurable impact on learning.” The report highlights the work being done in North Idaho.

“The work focuses on building family relationships,” says program manager Lenea Pierzchanowski, an education specialist at Idaho Public Television. “And the skills and resources created by the grant will be sustainable long after the program is complete.” Through a combination of community engagement, family involvement and professional development, the North Idaho Learning Neighborhood will create learning priorities of functional literacy, critical and computational thinking, executive functioning, and career readiness.

Some of the planned activities include family and community learning workshops, a pint-sized career fair, a Parent University family experience, and mini camps for children and families throughout the spring and summer of 2024.

Molly Clark, director of The Garden daycare and preschool in Potlatch, says, “I am thrilled to be part of the Learning Neighborhood project sponsored by Idaho Public Television. This initiative promises to make a significant and lasting impact on the children in our community. I believe it will bring invaluable resources, enhancing the quality of education in our small, rural town.”

For more information, contact IdahoPTV education specialist Lenea Pierzchanowski at (208) 912-4485 or lenea.pierzchanowski@idahoptv.org.

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Nominate a Fellow Educator Today!

Do you know an innovative educator who finds creative and effective ways to better engage their students and enhance learning by integrating technology or digital media into their work?

Nominate an Idaho educator as the 2024–2025 Idaho Digital Innovator visiting our website, https://www.idahoptv.org/di. The nomination period is March 11 to April 12, 2024.

IdahoPTV is dedicated to supporting educators throughout the Gem State by fostering collaboration and providing professional development opportunities.

Each May, we select one IdahoPTV Digital Innovator. The winner receives a free, all-expenses-paid trip to the Northwest Council for Computer Education Conference, a Classroom Innovation Kit of their design (worth up to
$1,000), and the opportunity to work with Idaho Public Television’s team of educators to help Idaho teachers integrate technology into their classrooms and educational spaces and to explore new teaching strategies.

Rupert Elementary fourth-grade teacher Christine Peargin says serving as the 2023–2024 IdahoPTV Digital Innovator “has challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and try new things. It has allowed me to connect with others and grow as a teacher. My students will get access to technology that will help them learn and grow for years to come. I would definitely recommend teachers nominate their peers for this program.”

Nominees must be K-12 educators holding a current teaching certificate and currently teaching in an Idaho classroom or working in an Idaho school.

The winner could also be selected for the national PBS Digital Innovator All-Star program, which brings together a community of pre-K to 12th-grade educators who are hometown thought-leaders and classroom change-makers for ongoing professional learning and growth.

Our IdahoPTV Productions

“Nature as Classroom”
– Airs Sunday, March 10, at 7 p.m.

Whether you are a preschooler, an aspiring teacher or a retiree, there is plenty that Idaho’s outdoors can teach you. The Outdoor Idaho crew proved that, spending 11 months visiting outdoor schools from Ponderosa State Park to Stanley to deep in the Frank Church Wilderness.

Producer Bill Manny and videographer Mya Long watched 3- and 4-year-olds take ice samples from frozen Payette Lake, and they hiked, camped and cooked with college students at Taylor Wilderness Research Station. The University of Idaho says it is the only college campus that exists in a designated wilderness.

Situated not far from the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, Taylor Ranch is 30-some miles from the nearest trailhead. That walk to school is something these students will tell their grandkids about.

“Idaho’s Hidden Gems”
– Airs Sunday, March 10, at 6 p.m.

The interesting thing about history is that it can be found everywhere. But sometimes it requires digging deep to discover it.

Producer-director Forrest Burger sums things up this way: “We work with historians, museums, libraries, and state institutions across Idaho. And it would be simple to just cover easy-to-find stories. But that’s not who we are at IdahoPTV. We believe our viewers deserve more.”
So, Forrest and Idaho Experience lead producer, Andy Lawless, went to work and uncovered three worthwhile Idaho stories: a photographer named Clarence Bisbee who helped promote the Magic Valley in the early 20th century; the only Frank Lloyd Wright structure in our state; and Lawson’s Legacy, a unique pioneer museum out in the high desert.

“The createid Collection”
– Airs Sunday, March 3, at 6 p.m.

“The createid Collection,” Season One showcases some of the most popular stories from the inaugural season of Idaho Public Television’s new online art series, createid (https://www.idahoptv.org/createid).

From the traditional arts to more recent innovations, the program celebrates the spirit and talents of Idaho creatives.

It’s been an exciting first year of createid, as director Troy Shreve and I have experimented with different styles of online storytelling,” says Marcia Franklin, the lead producer of the series. “So it’s fun to be able to now share some of those pieces with our broadcast viewers.”

You can find even more createid videos on the series’ YouTube channel and social media pages. Just search for @createidahoptv.

“Television”

Americans average more than 33 hours a week in front of a television or other streaming devices. This month’s videos from Science Trek show how images get to those screens, explain the difference between broadcast and streaming, and reveal the role of an Idaho inventor in creating television.

Each month, Science Trek explores subjects with short videos available on the website (sciencetrek.org), YouTube, and PBS LearningMedia. The website has facts, games, and lesson plans correlated to Idaho and national science standards. Look for Science Trek: The Podcast with hosts Evie and Garrett wherever you find your podcasts!