Educate, Inform, Inspire

Idaho Public Television offers unmatched services to families throughout the state, including Idaho’s most rural communities:

- Five digital transmitters and 46 repeaters provide free high-quality educational and cultural broadcasts to more than 98% of Idaho’s population.
- We offer tremendous learning services online and in cooperation with local Idaho libraries, the State Department of Education, and others.
- We are highly efficient with our funding.
- Our local productions and services won 68 regional and national awards, including 7 Emmy nominations.
- Multiple channels, including our Idaho (HD), Plus (HD), Learn/Create, World and Kids, with a variety of educational opportunities to encourage life-long learning.
- Two full-time community teacher ambassadors on staff to train teachers and students.

In FY 2020, Idaho Public Television provided these key local services:

- Live statewide broadcast coverage of the Idaho Legislature.
- Live and archived video and audio streaming of meetings from the Capitol and Idaho Supreme Court.
- Classroom Idaho: Learn @ Home, connecting all students with certified Idaho teachers to finish learning for the school year.
- Extensive online teacher and student resources.
- Children’s educational events such as literacy and STEM presentations.
- Outreach and engagement events throughout the state of local and national productions such as Outdoor Idaho, Idaho Experience, American Experience “Chasing the Moon,” and Daniel Tiger.

Idaho Public Television’s local services had deep impact throughout the state:

- 66,915 users utilizing online Learning Media local and national resources.
- 63,531 for general audience streaming viewers.
- 58,815 for PBS KIDS audience streaming viewers.
- 80,331 children watched our broadcasts each week.
- 4,359,279 pages were viewed on IdahoPTV’s website by 1,635,238 unique viewers.
- 84,942 users accessing Idaho In Session online.
- More than 500,000 weekly viewers.
- 72 literacy and STEM presentations attended by a total of 16,609 participants throughout the state.
- 5 educational technology trainings attended by a total of 125 teachers and 100 students.
Idaho Public Television’s Mission
We harness the power of public media to encourage lifelong learning, connect our communities, and enrich the lives of all Idahoans. We tell Idaho’s stories.

Idaho Public Television Educates

IdahoPTV uses the power of television and the internet to enhance the lives of thousands of Idaho families each week. Community engagement ranges from locally produced events and workshops to children’s events, such as science workshops, program screenings and discussions, a literacy contest, educator workshops, online educational resources, access to government activities, and statewide political candidate debates.

Idaho Public Television brings learning resources to classrooms and homes across Idaho empowering Idaho schools, teachers and students.

Science Trek

Science Trek is an integrated web and broadcast project designed to: introduce science topics to elementary-age schoolchildren; provide educational materials for teachers and parents; and inspire students to investigate science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career potentials. Each month of the school year, Idaho Public Television releases new video shorts and several “60 Seconds With Science Trek” spots on a specific scientific topic. Topics during FY 2020 included: hearing, magnets, mountain goats, the moon, trees, measurement, geology, eyes, ocean & rivers, and butterflies & animal migration.

During the spring of 2020, there were thousands of Idaho students without a computer at home or a way to connect to the internet so they could learn remotely during the coronavirus pandemic. But nearly every family in Idaho has a television set and can watch Idaho Public Television. That is where IdahoPTV’s Classroom Idaho: Learn @ Home programming connected students with certified Idaho teachers. For households with access to TV but not internet, Idaho Public Television and certified Idaho teachers provided a multitude of educational Classroom Idaho: Learn @ Home programming for students in third through sixth grade.

15 students participated in an online book club for 3-6 grade students reading “The Bridge to Terabithia.”

Literacy and STEM Presentations and Teacher Trainings

IdahoPTV’s education staff made 72 literacy and STEM presentations in communities around the state to 16,609 participants. Our teacher ambassadors held 5 educational technology trainings throughout the state that were attended by 125 teachers and 100 students.
Idaho Public Television Educates (continued)

IdahoPTV continued the PBS Teacher Community Program in Idaho. IdahoPTV’s education manager, Kari Wardle, leads the efforts. The project builds community and provides support to teachers around the state with a special focus in FY’20 in two rural communities: Payette and Weiser, while continuing to provide support to Gooding, Wendell and Buhl.

On October 19, 2019, IdahoPTV hosted Edcamp at Snake River Elementary School in Nampa. PBS KIDS Edcamp is a local gathering of PreK-3 grade educators connecting through shared experiences and peer-led conversations with a PBS twist. An idea conceived by teachers eager to challenge the status quo and take control of their own professional learning, the Edcamp model was initially sparked by informal conversations between educators on social media. Across the country, educators were connected on Twitter to discuss topics of interest and learn new ideas. These conversations inspired educators to continue the dialogue in person as participant-driven, peer-led gatherings. A virtual PBS KIDS Edcamp was held on February 10, 2020.

Between November 2019 and January 2020, Idaho Public Television’s education team partnered with South Boise Women’s Correctional Center to offer weekly parenting workshops to incarcerated mothers. The program served 8-10 mothers at a time, and focused on building healthy relationships between mother and child(ren). The women participated in one workshop each week for eight weeks while also working toward applying skills learned during weekly visitation with their children. Workshops with the mothers, as well as family activities, were based on Sesame Street’s Brave, Strong, Resilient curriculum.

IdahoPTV provides Scout/PBS Learning Media, a resource for learners of all ages. It is available online @ your library from lili.org and at idahoptv.org.

Bright by Text Supports Healthy Child Development and Builds Strong, Resilient Families

To help parents navigate the latest information and recommendations to ensure the health of families, Bright by Text offers expert tips about community resources, safety protocols and at-home activities to engage children. Bright by Text is a free service offered in English and Spanish. Bright by Text collaborates with experts like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PBS Kids, Nurse-Family Partnership and others to provide an expert-backed health and wellness curriculum. IdahoPTV is excited to partner with Bright by Text to meet the needs of Idaho families. This gives us a greater opportunity to get our resources into the hands of parents who may not have the internet or the ability to attend activities with their kids.
Idaho Public Television Informs

Idaho Reports aired every Friday during the legislative session. Guest host Gemma Gaudette was joined by political and community leaders and reporters who gave their analysis of the week’s events. Discussion topics included: criminal justice reform, Medicaid, growth, budgeting, education policy, property taxes, and coronavirus funding. On January 6, IdahoPTV provided video pool coverage of the Governor’s State of the State and Budget Address.

After the legislative session, Idaho Reports aired programs every Friday featuring discussions with community leaders on local topics, including the coronavirus pandemic and education. Idaho Reports also aired 10 special programs, including coronavirus Q&As; aired Governor Little’s press conferences (onair and online); and produced local coronavirus updates each week that aired statewide and streamed online. IdahoPTV created a website with a list of resources from local and national sources, where you’ll be able to keep up with the latest updates on coronavirus at idahoptv.org/Coronavirus/.

Idaho in Session provided live gavel-to-gavel coverage of Idaho’s House and Senate floor session, audio coverage of hearing rooms, video streams of the Joint Finance — Appropriations Committee, court hearings and more from all three branches of Idaho’s government on idahoptv.org. This service allows residents in all parts of the state to participate in their state government and provides other broadcast outlets with footage, enhancing our commercial colleagues’ abilities to cover state government. Idaho in Session is a collaborative effort among Idaho Public Television, the Legislative Services Office, the Idaho Legislature and the Idaho Department of Administration.

In May 2020, Idaho Public Television aired The Idaho Debates, featuring primary candidates for Idaho’s congressional offices. This year’s primary election debates included Republican House District 1, Democratic House District 1, and Democratic Senate. The Idaho Debates is a collaborative effort among the Idaho Press Club, League of Women Voters Education Fund, McClure Center for Public Policy Research at U of I, School of Public Service at BSU, ISU Political Science Department, and Idaho Public Television.

IdahoPTV produced 26 interstitials for American Graduate: Getting To Work. These interstitials amounted to 48 minutes of content promoting high demand career pathways for youth through CTE programs, technical colleges, and apprenticeships. Six of the pieces produced also provided critical information to small businesses navigating the challenges of COVID-19.

IdahoPTV is the only statewide Emergency Alert System provider — while other entities reach portions of the state, IdahoPTV is the only outlet which can reach every community quickly and effectively.
Outreach Events
IdahoPTV partnered with institutions of higher learning and others for the following events:

Throughout July and August, IdahoPTV’s education team participated in *A Book and a Bite*, which provided access to free meals, books, STEM, and enrichment activities. Communities served included: Kuna, Nampa, and Caldwell. 2,486 attendees.

IdahoPTV partnered with the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls on July 11 at the Faulkner Planetarium for a screening of dramatic segments from *American Experience “Chasing the Moon”* along with other space-related short films that illuminate Idaho’s role in the space race. Rick Greenawald, manager of the Earl & Hazel Faulkner Planetarium, led a live tour of the night sky. 100 attendees.

IdahoPTV participated in the 50th anniversary celebration of astronauts walking on the moon (on the lunar surface and right here in Idaho!) on July 20 at Craters of the Moon with a screening of *American Experience “Chasing the Moon”* and an informational table. 170 attendees.

*Apollopalooza*, a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing and man’s first steps on the Moon was held July 20 at Idaho State University. Partners included ISU, Idaho National Laboratory, IdahoPTV, Marshall Public Library, and Portneuf District Library. 170 attendees.

On August 14, IdahoPTV’s producer Joan Cartan-Hansen moderated “Investing in a Decarbonized Infrastructure,” a panel discussion, at Idaho National Laboratory’s 70th Anniversary. 200 attendees.

*Daniel Tiger* made several visits around the state in September 2019. Daniel Tiger and Governor Brad Little encouraged kids and families to dream big for the future! The event at the Statehouse included a giant coloring mural, coloring sheet station, Plinko games, and tours of Idaho’s historic vault in the Treasurer’s office. Other locations Daniel Tiger visited around the state included the Boise Public Library, Albertsons Market Street in Meridian, Payette Primary School, and Weiser. A total of 1,387 attendees.

Idaho Public Television hosted a preview screening of the *Independent Lens* documentary “*Made in Boise*” on October 5, at the Egyptian Theatre in Boise. 430 attendees.


On November 12, IdahoPTV partnered with the Idaho Museum of Natural History in Pocatello for a free screening of *Idaho Experience “Out of the Shadows.”* The screening was followed by a reception that included a menu of indigenous food and an exhibit of Benedicte Wrensted photographs and historical Shoshone-Bannock tribal clothing. 200 attendees.

IdahoPTV participated in the *Boise State University Engineering & Science Festival* on February 1, 2020. Our education staff demonstrated a STEM activity and showcased many of IdahoPTV’s and PBS’s free educational resources. 5,000 attendees.

On February 4, IdahoPTV producer Bill Manny taught a 2-hour class and talked about the *Idaho Experience “Mail-order Messiah”* program for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Boise State University. 250 attendees.
Idaho Public Television Inspires

Memorial Day: In Honor of Our Heroes
IdahoPTV partnered with the Office of the Governor, Veterans Services, and the Idaho Military Division to produce two short videos honoring our veterans.

As a partner in the Idaho Resilience project, IdahoPTV focused our efforts on early trauma and resilience. On October 7, 2019, we broadcast the documentary Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope. Immediately following, we broadcast Resilient Idaho: Hope After Trauma, a three panel discussion that included guests from around the state who are experts in the field of human services, which focused on identifying and discussing complex problems caused by trauma and stress encountered in childhood and how this impacts us as we age.

Iconic Idaho’ Photo Contest.
The Outdoor Idaho Facebook page has proven invaluable in connecting us with thousands of supporters of Idaho Public Television. We have seen how social media can be a bridge between old and young and those interested in the outdoors. It has allowed folks to comment on our efforts and to offer suggestions. And it has made some real friendships. We are well-known for our monthly Iconic Idaho Photo Contest. Everyone can participate merely by posting a photo on the site; and some months we get literally hundreds of photos. The judges are the previous month’s winners.

Embracing Diversity: Anti-Racism Resources for Families, Educators and Students
In response to recent events, IdahoPTV created a website of resources from PBS and trusted partners to use as tools to support anti-racist learning and growth.

Local Content

Outdoor Idaho began its 37th year of celebrating the incredible richness of our state. Shot entirely on location in high definition resolution, Outdoor Idaho explores the beauty, the drama and the science of nature, while examining the significant environmental and resource issues facing the West. The following episodes were produced and aired during FY 2020:

“Crafting a Living” aired July 25, 2019. In this program we honor those who use their artistic vision and craftsmanship to make unique creations. Master bladesmith Bill Burke creates high performance Damascus knives. Ashley Delonas tracks down antler sheds for her unique creations. Cary Schwarz’s hand-crafted saddles are widely revered for their durability and artistic design.

“Living With Wildfire” aired October 24, 2019. Wildfires have been a way of life in Idaho for millennia. But, recently they’ve become more severe. Fire seasons are starting sooner, fires are burning hotter and they’re lasting longer. That has caught the attention of fire and climate experts from the University of Idaho. They warn that a warming climate is adding fuel to an already dangerous problem.

“State of Change” aired December 8, 2019. The changes in Idaho in the past three decades have been astounding, affecting everything from cities and towns to public lands and wildlife. We examine some of those changes, as well as the reasons for optimism, in the nation’s 43rd state, a state of change.
“Sawtooths on My Mind” aired March 5, 2020. We explore the attraction of this remarkable mountain range, from the point of view of people who are seeing it for the first time, and folks who have worked for decades to preserve the unique flavor of the region. They all speak from the heart about one of Idaho’s truly inspiring landscapes.

“Trailblazers” aired May 14, 2020. Long gone are the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the army of laborers shipped around the country during the Great Depression as our nation’s work relief program. The budget for all that labor is also long gone. Now Idahoans who value natural resources are filling the gap by maintaining trails on public land for free. They are this century’s CCC. We call them Trailblazers.

Idaho Experience brings to life the stories of the extraordinary people and defining events that have shaped Idaho’s past and present. The following programs were produced and aired during FY 2020.

“Out of the Shadows” aired July 25, 2019. Benedicte Wrensted and Jane Gay never knew each other. But both took images of Native Americans in Idaho at the turn of the 20th century. In this program, we bring their stories and their photographs out of the shadows. Descendants of those in the photos also discuss what the images mean to them today, and we introduce viewers to two female indigenous photographers practicing their craft.

“When Apollo Came to Idaho” aired September 5, 2019. Some of America’s best-known astronauts visited Idaho in 1969 to train for their moon missions. The training was part of a deliberate strategy by NASA to teach geology to the Apollo astronauts who were, after all, going on the grandest geology field trip of all time. The space-research relationship continues with NASA and Craters of the Moon National Monument.

“The Conquest of the Snake” aired October 24, 2019. This program reveals the story of how people in South Central Idaho labored together to build towns, plow land and build an irrigation system that would transform the desert and attract thousands of new settlers.

“Albion Normal: A Teachers College” aired December 8, 2019. In 1890, the State of Idaho opened Albion Normal School, a teachers college, in order to provide qualified grade school teachers to small communities in Idaho. Idaho Experience looks at how the old teachers college helped grow the state and how educating teachers has evolved over the years.

“Idaho’s Constitution Revealed” aired March 8, 2020. When the Idaho Constitution was written in 1889, it helped push Idaho to statehood. It created our government and established our rights as citizens. But after 130 years old, the Idaho Constitution is showing its age. Idaho Experience examines the Idaho Constitution in its time and ours – and how the Idaho State Historical Society is preserving the constitution for future generations.

“Remembering the Bear River Massacre” aired May 14, 2020. Archaeological work at the site where 350 Shoshone people were killed in 1863 aims to enrich the understanding of the Bear River Massacre in the southeast Idaho. Independent filmmaker Phillip Schoen explores the massacre and its aftermath.
Award-winning filmmaker Beth Aala and former surrogate Nicole Williamson discussed Aala’s documentary, “Made in Boise,” which looks at the growing phenomenon of surrogacy through the stories of four surrogates in the Boise area. Boise seems to be a hub for the trend. Williamson also runs a Boise-based surrogacy firm, A Host of Possibilities. Aired October 25, 2019.

Novelist Emily Ruskovich reflected on what it has been like to win the Dublin Literary Award. She also discusses the plot of “Idaho,” whose setting is based on the landscape of her childhood in northern Idaho. Aired November 1, 2019.

Historian Joanne Freeman talked about her book, “The Field of Blood.” In it, Freeman illustrates how the U.S. Congress, leading up to the Civil War, was a more violent body than previously thought. Freeman also discusses her next book, “Hunting for Hamilton” and the value of studying history. Aired November 8, 2019.

Author Brando Skyhorse talked about his life and works, focusing on his memoir, “Take This Man.” In the book, Skyhorse writes about what it was like to grow up thinking he was Native American and then find out that that was not true. Aired November 15, 2019.


Holly Yasui talked about a documentary she directed about her father, the civil rights activist Minoru Yasui. He had intentionally violated a curfew order for people of Japanese descent after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and spent 15 months in what was then known as the Minidoka Relocation Camp in Idaho. Aired December 6, 2019.

Author Michael Ames talked about his book, “American Cipher: Bowe Bergdahl and the U.S. Tragedy in Afghanistan.” Bergdahl was a soldier from Hailey, Idaho, who walked off his base in Afghanistan in 2009 and was captured by the Taliban. He was held and tortured for five years. Ames and his co-author delve into Bergdahl’s childhood and the politics surrounding the search for him. Aired December 13, 2019.

Poet Richard Blanco talked about a poem he had written for President Obama’s second inaugural and read at the ceremony. He discussed what that was like, the themes of his work, and the power of poetry to change lives. Aired December 20, 2019.


Former U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios (2009-2016) talked about her initiatives to honor American women in history, including placing a woman on a Federal Reserve note for the first time and teaching more students about women in history. Aired January 10, 2020.
Doing a “180” doesn’t have to mean failure. This online series shares the stories of individuals whose resilience and perseverance under pressure led to personal turnarounds that can inspire us now and into the future.

On April 12, 2020, three Idaho independent booksellers talked about how they’re trying to weather the COVID-19 lockdowns that have severely affected their businesses. Guests included: Carol Price, owner of BookPeople of Moscow, Laura DeLaney, co-owner of Rediscovered Books in Boise, and Melissa Demotte, owner of The Well-Read Moose in Coeur d’Alene.

On April 13, 2020, Storyfort co-founder Christian Winn talked about the event’s postponement due to COVID-19, and plans during the interim, including a podcast.

On April 24, 2020, Rebecca Kelada, the founder and executive director of Surel’s Place in Garden City talked about how the nonprofit, which serves artists and art lovers alike, is pivoting during the COVID-19 era. She shared some work done by artists for the group’s Panorama project, and about the value of art during this time.

On May 1, 2020, Tamara Cameron, the executive director of the Boise Farmers Market, talked about the quick pivot that group had to make after it became apparent that no large gatherings would be allowed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Cameron described the measures the group took to enable it to open as a drive-through, what that was like for her, and whether the market will open when it is allowed to.

On May 8, 2020, artist and Boise State University art instructor Erin Cunningham talked about a bone marrow transplant she had in 2015 to protect her from the same blood disorder that killed her father and her brother. She explained how that experience prepared her for the measures needed to avoid COVID-19, explained a series of paintings that were based on photos of her blood, and discussed an assignment she gave her students to make a visual account of the objects around them during this era.

On May 15, 2020, Dana Marsh, the spiritual director of Heart of the Dharma Compassion and Insight Center, talked about how mindfulness practices can help people stay centered during times of stress. She also talked about the 180 that led her to Buddhism.

On May 22, 2020, Jean Mutchie, one of the founders of the Idaho Resilience Project, discussed the goals of the initiative, which aims to educate the public about the role of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) in a person’s life, as well as ways to overcome them.

On May 30, 2020, Howard Olivier talked about the daily practices that have helped guide him through great challenges, including a serious illness and the death of his son by suicide. Olivier also shared his love of surprises, including how he arranged for an exclamation point to be put on the downtown Boise Public library sign.

On June 12, 2020, Jyoni Shuler talked about what it has been like to transition from identifying as male to a trans-feminine non-binary individual. Shuler, who graduated from high school in a suburb of New York City, now lives in Boise.
“So much beauty in God’s beautiful creation ... I have fallen in love with Idaho through Outdoor Idaho. This photography takes me there everytime.” –Terry

“Thank you Idaho PBS for airing this beautiful Memorial Day concert and program. A wonderful tribute to those who served, those who currently serve and the families who sacrifice so much as well. Thank you to the many veterans who have given so much. Thank you to the families of those who gave all.” –Kris

“Unquestionably, some of the finest video work and photography that I have ever seen anywhere in the world. This type of communication with the public is inspirational and uplifting. Wonderful!” –James

“You could spend a lifetime exploring this amazing state and still not see all of the beauty we have here. I’m so thankful to this page for giving me glimpses of places to go explore that Otherwise might not have known about. –Chad

“Thank you for all you and your station provide our community.” –Christine

“Thank you, IPTV, for educating, informing, entertaining, enlightening & broadening my perspective. I appreciate your efforts.” –Carole

“Special thanks to your outreach efforts to rural Idaho via the public libraries.” –Kendall and Tamra

“Way to go, Idaho! Thank you for your varied and wonderful programming.” –Sharon

“Thank you to Idaho Public TV for taking care of us really rural viewers!!!” –Carol

“Probably the best ‘Anniversary’ show yet. I can’t believe all the interviews, traveling and interacting with so many people and places. Thanks so much.” –Diane

“Your broadcasting is a sterling example of how television can educate, engage and energize us to be our better selves.” –Dell and Victoria

“Idaho Public TV’s 5 channels are the only TV programming that we watch at our house. It never ceases to amaze me how extraordinary these programs are and how much they add to the quality of our lives.” –Willemina

“We are proud to support such wonderful programming for us and our grandkids as well. So refreshing to have such a healthy and appropriate variety of programs for all ages. Keep up the great work!” –David and Valerie

“This was seriously one of the best, craziest, hardest, scariest, most worthwhile experiences of my teaching career. I learned A LOT about tech and videoing, and my own annoying habits when I teach ha ha. Thank you Kari Wardle for convincing me I could do it and bailing me out when the tech wouldn’t work, and thank you to Idaho PTV for coming up with such an amazing idea to help teachers reach as many kids across Idaho as possible.” –Stephanie

“I am so very thankful for the new classes on free public tv! I have been a homeschool mom for 10+yrs and having this available for our family is life-changing. Please continue this forever!!!” –Shamilee