

NWBIO 2025 Field Trip Information

Guided Field Trips:

- **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)**

The U.S. National Science Foundation Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (NSF LIGO), was designed to open the field of gravitational-wave astrophysics through the direct detection of gravitational waves predicted by Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. Our multi-kilometer-scale gravitational wave detectors use laser interferometry to measure the minute ripples in space-time caused by passing gravitational waves from cataclysmic cosmic events such as colliding neutron stars or black holes, or by supernovae. NSF LIGO comprises two widely-separated interferometers within the United States—one in Hanford, Washington and the other in Livingston, Louisiana—operated in unison to detect gravitational waves.

- **The Reach Museum**

At the REACH Museum we inspire learning by sharing the stories of the Mid-Columbia River Region, its people, and its impact and contributions to the world. Our vision is to be an indispensable educational resource and premier cultural destination that serves as a gateway for understanding the natural and cultural significance of the region, for present and future generations.

We accomplish this by providing learning programs, outreach, teacher training, and curricula that complement Washington States K–12 Learning Standards/Next Generation Science Standards with an emphasis on K–8 students and their families. We also do so by being an epicenter for tourism specifically for learning about Ice Age Floods, Mid-Columbia River Basin history, and the Hanford Reach National Monument. So, bring your curiosity and explore our galleries and outdoor learning areas while enjoying breathtaking views of the Columbia River. From the Ice Age to the Atomic Age, and Beyond—come and discover the wonder of your back yard!

- **Columbia Basin College Department of Agriculture & Planetarium**

Here at CBC we have a wonderful Agriculture program. Designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the foundational science of modern agriculture, our award-winning faculty have generously donated some of their valuable time to give us a tour of their facilities. So, have a pleasant walk around the newly planted fields and greenhouses then relax in the Planetarium, it's a win-win.

- **Planetarium Show:**

For those who don't want to walk around or have time after their self-guided field trip, there is plenty of space in the Planetarium. Scheduled to start after the Agriculture tour, come join us as we delve into the mysteries of the cosmos!

- **Columbia National Wildlife Refuge:**

Birdsong by day, coyote chorus by night. Dramatic cliffs and rimrock sit side-by-side with lakes, potholes, and marshes. Desert denizens and waterfowl sharing the same rugged landscape.

Comprising nearly 30,000 acres, Columbia National Wildlife Refuge is a scenic mixture of rugged cliffs, canyons, lakes, grasslands and sagebrush. The combination of lakes and surrounding irrigated croplands, combined with generally mild winters and the protection provided by the refuge, attracts large numbers of migrating and wintering mallards, Canada geese, tundra swans and other waterfowl.

The tour will also include a presentation on the Northern Leopard Frog (WA State Endangered Species) Project site.

Be aware, this is located near Othello, WA. There will be a significant drive time, total travel time, 2 hours (there and back). Those wishing to take this journey should select the box lunch and will be leaving very soon after the days workshops. Also, there will be hiking so dress accordingly.

- **Wine Tasting**

In keeping with NWBIO tradition, there will be an alcohol related field trip. We have arranged a wine tasting at Anelare Winery in Benton City, WA. From their website, "Anelare is located on the Kiona hillside, overlooking Red Mountain, Rattlesnake, and Badger Canyon. In the beginning years, Anelare had a small tasting room in South Kennewick. It was our dream to be in the heart of wine country... vineyards and orchards. A true destination. We believe that wine is about the journey, from when you get in the car to when you taste the wine in your glass. Come join us for the incredible views and elegance of Washington wine. Moreover when you return home and uncork a bottle from Anelare and tell the story... cheers!" For those who choose to partake of the tasting, you have the option to also enjoy their amazing pizza, if you do please be sure to check the appropriate box in the lunch section of the registration form for our records. Enjoy!

Self-Guided Field Trips:

- **Bicycling along the Columbia**

The Tri-cities literally has hundreds of miles of bike trails and paths. I myself routinely bike along the Columbia and can tell you that there are some amazing sites. From the wonderful wildlife (the various birds, including bald eagles, to the adorable mammals, the yellow-bellied marmot) to the interesting sites like the USS Triton monument, bicycling along the Columbia is one of the Tri-cities more amazing past times.

- **Lamb Weston Innovation Center**

Recently Lamb Weston opened an Innovation Center in Richland. This dream facility for Lamb Weston is state of the art, processing plant in miniature with co-creation spaces, fully functioning kitchens, and a pilot line—in short, a place where ideas are imagined, tested and presented to customers. Take a tour, and maybe score some fries.

- **Master Gardner's Demonstration Garden**

The Demonstration Garden is an ongoing project of the WSU Extension Master Gardeners of Benton and Franklin Counties. The garden is supported by WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers and is funded entirely by donations from individuals, organizations, and local businesses. This community asset has:

- More than 26 distinctive and theme gardens.
- 50 trees
- 800 roses
- 100 shrubs
- Children's garden at the serene 2.5 acre site

Have a peaceful stroll, take some pictures, bring a lunch, relax in the shade. Consult and visit with the WSU Extension Master Gardeners!

- **Many of the Tri-Cities' wonderful golf courses**

We have a bunch of golf courses. There is one right down Argent Road from CBC. It's a small Par 3 course called Pasco Golfland (reasonable rates and super close to CBC). There are many others, swing a cat and you'll hit a golf course. So, if golf is your thing, feel free to use the field trip time to get in 9-18 holes.

- **Hiking Badger Mountain:**

This mountain is a fan favorite here in the Tri-Cities. Located in Richland there are a few hikes up the mountain of varying difficulty. If you would like to know more, here is a helpful link I found: <https://friendsofbadger.org/trail-faq/> Go nuts!

- **Other:**

- There are a lot of things to do in the Tri-Cities. Take some time, explore the region. Want to try your hand at some Axe Throwing, there's a place for that. Interested in microbrewing, there's a place for that. Do you enjoy paddle boarding, there's a place for that. Here's a link for ideas on what to do if none of the field trips strike your fancy: <https://www.visittri-cities.com/things-to-do/>