

Whatcom's Wonders

Exploring Cultural Sites of Whatcom County



In this camp, participants will visit a variety of cultural sites throughout Whatcom County with an eye on how they present history, art, and science. Students are offered a behind-the-scenes peek at how museums and cultural sites operate, and just might find a new favorite spot! This camp is highly mobile and involves off-site visits every day.

Day 1

- What's a museum? Students learn about different aspects of museums by exploring downtown Bellingham. Beginning at the Whatcom Museum, we'll look at collections, exhibitions, education, and preservation, then we'll visit the Spark Museum of Electrical Invention, Mindport Exhibits, and the Bellingham Railway Museum.

Day 2

- What's a historic structure? How do we research and learn about these buildings and what makes them so special? Starting with a walking tour of downtown Bellingham, we'll examine various buildings and how the history behind them is presented.

Day 3

- How do galleries and archives relate to museums? Students will explore how art galleries and museums are similar to one another by visiting the Western Gallery and the outdoor sculptures that dot Western Washington University's campus. Then we'll see how archives help inform history at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies.

Day 4

- How do we interpret and display the past? This day takes us into Whatcom County's pioneer past, as we visit the Lynden Pioneer Museum and Ferndale's Pioneer Park.

Day 5

- How does natural history and science fit into museums? On our final day, students will consider how the environment is incorporated into cultural venues. Visits to the Marine Life Center and Tennant Lake show students how museums can teach about the natural world.