

MEEA 2018 Conference Professional Development Field Trips

*All field trips and trainings will be held in the Great Falls Area
and are subject to change without prior notice.*

Registration will open winter 2018. Space is limited.

Thursday March 22, 2018

Dams on the Missouri River

Clark Carlson-Thompson, Giant Spring State Park

12 participants

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40.00

Bring your own bag lunch/Carpooling to various sites/Dress for outdoors and moderate hiking

6 OPI Credits

Join Giant Springs State Park staff to learn about how the dams in Great Falls came to be and how they impact the environment along the Missouri River as it passes through Great Falls.

SciGirls: Engaging Girls in STEM

Lauren Rivers, ExplorationWorks Science Center

20 Participants

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$40.00

Bring your own bag lunch/Indoor program

6 OPI Credits

This awesome hands-on training will offer engaging science, tech, engineering, and math based activities for upper elementary to middle school kids! SciGirls curriculum works well in formal or informal settings and uses accessible and simple materials to create exciting science investigations for kids! SciGirls also offers research based strategies for engaging girls and underserved youth. The SciGirls 7 strategies are proven to excite kids of all kinds about inquiry based science.

Tough Teaching Topics in Weather: Water and Climate

Megan Syner, National Weather Service Great Falls

20 Participants

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

Lunch is provided/Indoor program

4 OPI Credits

Come visit the National Weather Service in Great Falls! We will give a tour and then discuss tough teaching topics, such as weather, water, climate and climate change and share ideas of how we can work together to increase awareness and knowledge.

Friday March 23, 2018

Birds of the Missouri River Corridor

Upper Missouri River Audubon Society

20 Participants

7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.

Cost: \$10.00

Dress of outdoor program

1 OPI Credit

Enjoy a morning guided bird hike along the Missouri River before starting your day at the MEEA 2018 Conference.

Saturday March 24, 2018

The Corps of Discovery's Search for the Great Falls

Duane Buchi, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

25 Participants

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00

Carpooling to Dam site/Dress for outdoor program and moderate hiking

3 OPI Credits

Join Duane Buchi for a "walk & talk" interpretive program set to take place at Ryan Island, just below the Great Falls of the Missouri river. During this presentation, Duane will highlight some of the struggles the Corps of Discovery encountered as they made their way up the Missouri seeking to carry out the vision of President Jefferson "to find an inland passage to the Pacific Ocean." His program will highlight two remarkable days on their journey, wherein Captain Lewis first lays eyes on the Great Falls of the Missouri on one day and then on the subsequent day undergoes one of the worst days he'd encounter on the entire expedition. Participants will need to be prepared for inclement weather and a walk across a suspension footbridge to get to Ryan Island.

Flying Wild at Freezeout!

Kurt Cunningham & Laura Hajek, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

20 Participants

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40.00

Lunch provided/Dress for outdoor weather and moderate hiking

6 OPI Credits

The Flying Wild workshop will focus primarily on migratory birds as well as other FWP issues in Central Montana such as grizzly bears. The workshop will provide educators with the tools to bring Flying Wild into their classrooms. The program will be held at Freezeout Wildlife Management Area, which is located 40 miles west of Great Falls. March is a peak time for the migration of geese, ducks, and swans so there will be an opportunity to view the birds and tour the WMA.

Great Falls Public School STEAM Expo

Self Guided - No instruction

Expo is open 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

No OPI credits offered

STEAM EXPO (science, technology, engineering, art, math) is an event designed to encourage the interaction and collaboration between our Great Falls Public School students and community professionals. The purpose is to apply knowledge and understanding of science, technology, engineering, art, and math to conduct in-depth "real-world" investigations. The process will include mentorships, demonstrations of classroom science explorations, and extensions of the inquiry process posed in student note-booking journals. The exposition itself will offer a venue for students to demonstrate the results of their STEAM studies, professionals to show how STEAM is used to better our communities, and spectators to participate in hands-on experiments. The STEAM EXPO event will connect our schools to the community, our students to professionals, and generate interest and excitement for science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics.