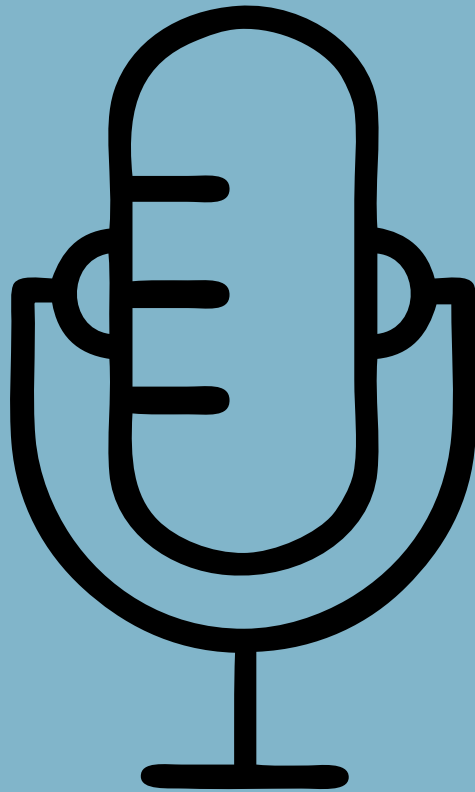




IDAHO  
CONSERVATION  
LEAGUE

# YOUR GUIDE TO HOSTING A STORYTELLING EVENT



**HEARING YOUR VOICE ON IDAHO'S  
ENDANGERED, WILD FISH**

This storytelling guide was inspired by True Story.  
You can find their storytelling guide here [truestorytime.org/party/](https://truestorytime.org/party/)



We believe every Idahoan has an important story to share...

**Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead are on the brink of extinction.**

At ICL, we can't imagine an Idaho without these incredible, iconic fish—and we hope you can't either. We want to hear **your** stories about fish so that they can be shared, recorded and compiled for people everywhere who have been touched by the legacy of Idaho's fish.

Although we would love to hear stories about any fishing in Idaho, **we'd particularly like to spotlight stories about Chinook salmon, sockeye salmon, and steelhead trout.** Even though the wild fish are on the endangered species list, we are also concerned about healthy populations of hatchery fish and will include those stories in this project as well. All of the stories submitted will be recorded into the Library of Congress through the StoryCorps app. This means you will be an important part of contributing to the preservation of Idaho's history.

We encourage you to utilize this guide and adapt it to your own setting, social groups and personal style. It is our goal with this storytelling guide to make sure you have everything you need to host so that you're can focus less on the details of the night and more on the fun and creative aspects of being a storytelling host.

## We're Here for You!

**We look forward to your stories, and we are excited you get to tell them!**



**If you have any questions, concerns, or apprehensions about hosting we're here to support you.**

**Contact Dagny Deutchman, ICL conservation fellow at [ddeutchman@idahoconservation.org](mailto:ddeutchman@idahoconservation.org).**



# THANK YOU FOR HOSTING!

## BEFORE THE PARTY...

Send out invitations 2-3 weeks in advanced. We call ours "storytelling parties" but you can call them whatever you wish. Be sure to include your theme so that your tellers can prepare their story. Review our "Invitations" card.

### Create a Team

These parties are always more fun when you're with your friends. Decide who will be doing the main three jobs:

- sending invitations
- MCing the event
- recording the stories

### Pick a Theme

This is often the most fun part of the prep. It sets the tone for the whole storytelling party. Don't be afraid to get creative!

### Find a Venue

We recommend someone's living room as it creates the right kind of intimacy. Aim for a space that your tellers will feel comfortable in.

## THE PREP

Create good lighting on your teller and dimmer lighting on your listeners. Have some fun background music for before, after and between stories. Don't forget comfortable seating! Remember to review our "How To Record & MCing" instructions.

Although the storytelling team is running logistics, don't forget this is your chance to tell a great story, too! Have a plan to make sure that the MC, invitation guru and recording artist all have a space to tell their story.

## DURING THE PARTY...

Relax and have fun! This is your event and your chance to get to know your group better. As the hosting team, don't forget to give your tellers moral support. Thank each person for sharing their story and remind them how much it matters.

### Create Your Invitations

Make sure your invitations clearly state location, date, theme, ground rules, contact information and a place to check out other stories!

### Encourage Your Tellers

Some people will be nervous—be supportive! Remind tellers that their story is important, fun, and that this setting is very low-pressure.

### Sign Ups

Don't forget to have a way for people to sign up to tell their story. Maybe it's a whiteboard, or start with someone and work clockwise, or draw names.



## THE GROUND RULES

- This is a **story**. (This is not a poem, rant, philosophical musing, political stance or stand up comedy routine.)
- The story must be *true* from the teller's own life.
- The story must be approximately 10 minutes.
- The teller should not have any notes or pre-written materials.

## SOME LAST MINUTE NOTES

### Time Keeper

Assign a guest or two the job of time keeping. We have provided time cards to keep you on track. Remind the time keeper that we don't actually cut anyone's story off.

### R\*E\*S\*P\*E\*C\*T

Let the storyteller have the spotlight without any audience commentary.

*This is paramount.*

### The Recorder

Review our "Sound Team" card. We recommend the recorder greet the guests at their arrival to the venue to get important information ahead of time.



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**We're here for you!**

**For more information about salmon and steelhead visit our website at [idahoconservation.org](http://idahoconservation.org)**

**Contact Dagny Deutchman, ICL conservation fellow at [ddeutchman@idahoconservation.org](mailto:ddeutchman@idahoconservation.org).**



## INVITATIONS: SETTING THE STAGE

### Be Creative!

- Before you send out invitations, make sure you and your team have picked out a venue as well as a theme.
- **Don't overthink it!** Invitations can be as simple as sending a group text to your closest friends, a Facebook invitation, or as elaborate as sending out handmade cards.
- Make sure you have all the right information: Date, Time, Place, Theme, Ground Rules, Contact Information
- Make sure the invitations give your tellers enough time to prepare a good story. We recommend 2-3 weeks beforehand.
- If tellers want to listen to examples send them to: <https://archive.storycorps.org/communities/stories-of-idahos-fish/>

### Picking a Theme...

The theme is going to determine what kind of stories you'll end up with. Are you telling stories with a bunch of avid anglers? Maybe choose a more specific theme. Not so much? Choose one that is more broad that more people can relate to it. Below are some of our best suggestions!

- Hooked
- Caught in the Net
- Fish Out of Water
- Something Smells Fishy
- Dangerous Wading
- The One That Got Away
- Bigger Than Yours
- Returning Home
- Fighting Upstream
- Cast and Blast

**Remember:** Themes should sound specific but are actually very broad and open-ended. If you choose your own theme, just remember to make sure it's relatable!

**ProTip:** Ask your guests if they can find a picture of themselves from the time of the story to share at the event!



## SOUND TEAM: HOW TO RECORD

### Before the Event...

- 1) Download the free "StoryCorps" app from your app store
- 2) Follow the prompts to create a StoryCorps Archives account
- 3) Once you've created a StoryCorps account click the menu button
- 4) At the bottom of the menu screen should be a round profile button next to your name. Click there.
- 5) Click "Apply a Community Code"
- 6) Enter IDSALMONANDSTEELHEAD

Great! Now your system is all ready to go.

### The Recording Process...

- 1) Click the Menu Button in the top left hand corner
- 2) Go to "My Interviews"
- 3) Tap the (+) to create a new interview
- 4) Click "Prepare an Interview"
- 5) Title your interview: Teller's Name & Event Location.
- 6) Click "Save" in the top right corner.
- 7) Tap "What Questions will you ask?"
- 8) Make sure you're under the "Storytelling Party Questions"
- 9) Add (+) the question "Can you tell me..." > Save.
- 10) Tap "Who will you interview?"
- 11) Add new participant & follow the prompts to enter their contact information. Make sure to get their email. > "Save."
- 12) Tap "Share this interview". Add (+) "Stories of Idaho's, Wild Iconic Fish" > "Save"
- 13) Hit "Record this Interview" then "Record"
- 14) Make sure the microphone is 6-10 inches away from the MC's mouth.
- 15) Have the MC introduce the storyteller and ask the prompted question.
- 16) Hit "Pause. Transition the microphone to the teller. Hit "Resume."
- 17) Listen to a great story!
- 18) Click "Done" when teller is finished, followed by "Yes."
- 19) Take a photo with/of the participant.
- 20) Enter in the required information fields—one word answers will do!
- 21) Click "Save..."
- 22) If you have Wifi click "Publish Immediately" or click "Save to Device" and upload all of the stories after the event.
- 23) Repeat for each storyteller.
- 24) Make sure the teller gives their storytelling consent!

*Don't forget to figure out what you will be using for a microphone. We recommend borrowing an earpiece with an included microphone from a friend.*

**Make sure to practice with the StoryCorps app beforehand so you feel comfortable navigating it the night you record!**



# MASTER OF CEREMONIES

## Running the Show...

You are in charge of running the main part of the event. Whether it's in your own living room or in a local brewery, don't forget to have fun with it! Your main duties include:

- Welcome everyone to the event.
- Encourage tellers to sign up.
- Establish the ground rules at the start of the night.
- Introduce each teller at the beginning of their story.
- Thank everyone for participating at the event.
- Encourage people to listen to other stories across the state.

## The Ground Rules

- This is a **story**. (This is not a poem, rant, philosophical musing, political stance, stand up comedy routine, etc.)
- The story must be *true* from the teller's own life.
- The story must be approximately 10 minutes long.
- The teller should not have any notes or pre-written materials with them.

## Connecting to Other Stories...

Don't forget to let your storytellers know a couple of things about their participation in this event:

- These storytelling events are happening all over the state of Idaho—to listen to other stories they can go to <https://archive.storycorps.org/communities/stories-of-idaho-fish/>
- All stories will be stored in the Library of Congress archives and tellers can opt out of their stories being public if they wish.
- We also have a way for anyone to participate in one-on-one interviews about Idaho's fish. Ask event-goers if they are interested in a more intimate storytelling session!

**For more information on connection, consent, or continuing your story—  
email [ddeutchman@idahoconservation.org](mailto:ddeutchman@idahoconservation.org).**



**Ready, Go!**



**5 minutes left**

**2 minutes left**



**Wrap it up!**

# THANK YOU

We appreciate you taking the time to help us gather important stories about Idaho's iconic, fish.

If you found this experience positive, please pay it forward and pass this kit along to someone you think has an exceptional story to tell.

You can also learn how to conduct a more personal one-on-one interview about Idaho's iconic fish.

For more information on how to turn your story into powerful actions please visit our website at [idahoconservation.org](http://idahoconservation.org) or contact [ddeutchman@idahoconservation.org](mailto:ddeutchman@idahoconservation.org)



## ONE-ON-ONE: A PERSONAL INTERVIEW

### Is There Something Else I Can Do?

#### Maybe Storytelling Parties Aren't Really Your Thing...

Or maybe you loved hearing about people's relationship to Idaho fish so much you'd like to know more. Maybe you just love interviewing people. Or maybe, you just really want to help us hit our goal of 300 stories.

The answer is yes, you can  
do something else!

It's basically a normal conversation.  
*You just have to record it.*

#### It's a Very Similar Process

- Identify someone you know—particularly someone with a great relationship to Idaho's fish—ask them if you can interview them.
- Download the free StoryCorps App.
- Follow the prompts to make a StoryCorps Archives account.
- Click the menu button in the top lefthand corner of the app—Click on the round profile button next to your name.
- Hit "Apply a Community Code"
- Enter: **IDSALMONANDSTEELHEAD**
- Follow the prompts of the StoryCorps App and utilize our community questions titled "One-on-One Interview Questions" to conduct an authentic interview about Salmon and Steelhead in Idaho.



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If you have any questions, concerns, or apprehensions about  
conducting an interview we're here to support you.

Contact Dagny Deutchman, ICL conservation fellow  
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