

KOOTENAI CREATION FEST HUGE SUCCESS

MODEL EVENT FOR COMMUNITIES TO FOLLOW TO MAXIMIZE EXPOSURE OF THE TRUTH OF HIS WORD,
CREATION SCIENCE, AND GIVING THE CREATOR GLORY!

August 2025



Proclaiming Jesus as Creator,
Savior, and Hope in the Gospel

WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 5

Creation Story Time at public library
Free Family Movies at local movie theater

Friday, June 6

Free Community Pancake Breakfast
Kootenai Falls Field Trip #1 and #2
Free Community Spaghetti Dinner
Genesis Experience!

Saturday, June 7

Creation Fair with booths, activities, games,
free food, drawings, etc.
Creation Conference
Free Community Lunch and Dinner
Worship/S'mores

Sunday, June 8

Free Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls
Sunday Morning Worship
and Church Service
Kootenai Falls Field Trip #3
Continued Conference Sessions
Evening Worship/Service and Conference



The Institute for Biblical Authority

Special Newsletter Edition

Conference and Festival Conception

by Mike Mueller in collaboration with Kimberly Sloan and Jessica Bumpus

The Kootenai Creation Fest was a four day community wide conference, fair, and event in Libby, MT. The weekend was packed full with interactive presentations, field trips, live music, games, free food, worship, and much more. There was something for everyone.

God carefully crafted every single detail

and orchestrated an impactful and memorable weekend.

Mike Mueller said, "I walked out of the Maki Theatre on Saturday at noon after presenting a couple youth programs on dinosaurs, and I could not believe my eyes: it was the most impressive display of a community getting involved in sharing the truth of God's Word I have ever

seen in my 15 years of doing this. I had joked with the organizers that I expected maybe a few food trucks...the joke was on me. It was a glorious site!"

The hope is this newsletter can be shared with other communities, churches, and families so others can emulate such an event and go big for Jesus and His creation.



All photograph credits belong to Mike Mueller and Mary Geer.



Event organizers Kimberly Sloan, Jessica Bumpus, and Mary Geer (Left to Right)

“My experience was truly amazing from kind hosts helping you where ever you needed it, to amazing lectures all throughout the day. The diverse group of speakers really added to the experience. Including Pat Roy from the Genesis Experience, speakers from the Institute for Biblical Authority, and of course Michael Oard. On the second day we began worshipping God in an outdoor church service. It truly was a divine experience. Later on we even got to go on a hike in the mountains learning about the global flood in the time of Noah. At the end of the day we ended with singing worship songs in the church followed by two amazing lectures to round it off. Overall my experience was absolutely amazing from meeting a bunch of new friends to learning all about God’s wonderful creation. Shout out to the hosts of KCF and IBA for organizing such an amazing event.”
-John Mason, Age 16, Cody, WY



Never underestimate the power of prayer and obedience. A summer prayer meeting at the local park sparked the passion for this special event.

After a few phone calls, Kim was directed to IBA as a group that would be interested in doing such an event in Libby, MT.

Once Mike Muller said IBA was on board, Kim and Jessica immediately began fervently praying, dreaming big, and contacting local churches and ministries.

Planning Details

Planning efforts were around 11 months and involved ten Libby and Troy churches, five Christian organizations, and several businesses.

The Institute for Biblical Authority, IBA777.org, met with the planners in early December of 2024 and began collaborating. It was obvious back then to me they had a vision like no other creation conference I had seen before. IBA

had monthly calls with them to share plans and notes, and then as the conference approached a month out we had weekly calls.

We began with a rough schedule and made modifications as the event took shape. Jessica and Kim recruited volunteers for the many different jobs needed. Individuals started coming out of the woodwork and sharing their diverse talents and spiritual gifts.

Thursday—Story Time and Movie Night

The first event began on Thursday, and was a story time for kids at the Libby Library featuring creation books read by a local mom. Over thirty children enjoyed coloring and creation account crafts.

Night at the Creation Museum and *Ark Encounter* by Answers in Genesis, and

Night at the Discovery Center, by Institute for Creation Research played on the big screen Thursday night at Libby’s local DOME theater.

Kids and families nearly filled the theater and enjoyed the short films, movie treats, and a surprise out front greeting participants.



Kootenai Falls Field Trips with Michael Oard

We traveled to the beautiful Kootenai Falls and hiked the trail to the bridge. During the hike, Michael Oard, author and presenter, explained the geology of the area and the surrounding Belt Formation.

He reviewed ripples in rocks, rock layers laid down by Noah’s Flood, and evidence of Noah’s Flood all from a Biblical Worldview.

We examined the supposed stromatolites which are said to be billions of years old and some of the first life forms and why we think the Bible has a better explanation. There were a total of three field trips during the weekend.

We limited each trip to around 50 participants, gave a safety talks, signed liability release waiv-

ers, provided a bus donated by Camp Elohim, gave snack bags with snacks donated by Farm to Market and decorated by children from KVCS.

A portable microphone made it possible for all to hear.



“The Lord was in this event in every way. I just can’t say enough about it. I felt all of the teaching was top shelf, outstanding teaching. This is one of the best community events and outreaches I have ever seen. I really appreciate IBA, Genesis Experience, and Michael Oard for coming here and making the event everything it was.” -Pastor Dave Donnerberg

Friday Night Kick-Off

A free community spaghetti dinner was provided at the Memorial Center lawn by Faith Bible Church. Local cello player, Andy Rising complemented the meal with his worship music making the evening feel classy.

To provide complimentary community meals sponsored by local churches is a brilliant outreach and drew more crowds.

Friday evening featured a special kick off

family event: Genesis Experience, CreationQuest.net. Pat Roy and Zachary Paramo set the stage and the mood for the rest of the weekend with their fast paced interactive creation science show for all ages.

It was thought-provoking, humorous, and kept the audience on the edge of their seats.

IBA has seen this kickoff event with other conferences and it is always a

great way to start the conference. Great idea KCF. Ask your presenters if they have room in their schedule to give presentations to other locations. Genesis Experience was able to serve two other venues in Missoula prior to the festival.

IBA tries to get their creation science presenters to speak at local area churches on Sunday mornings, so keep that in mind as you plan your event.



"I had the privilege of attending the 2025 KCF in Libby MT as a volunteer with IBA. The KCF was conceptualized by several members of the Libby community who wished to provide their community with presentations of scientific evidence supporting the narrative history laid out in the Book of Genesis. These organizers reached out to the IBA for its expertise with Creation Science events. While the IBA brought programming and speakers, the community took care of the details; the level of community involvement was incredible from beginning to end - a remarkable demonstration of cooperation between organizers, sponsors, local businesses and churches. This was a tremendously satisfying experience not only for myself but (judging by the feedback), also for the attendees. The community has laid the cornerstone for encouraging persons of faith within the community as well as for those who attended from other states. I look forward to what this community does next!"

-Brent Donnell, IBA

Saturday Conference and Fair

Early Saturday morning was setup for the Creation Fair on the city park lawn next to the conference venues.

Saturday featured many sessions by IBA's Dr. Kevin Horton, Michael Oard, and Genesis Experience in the larger Memorial Hall venue. IBA's Mike Mueller presented concurrent youth programs in the Maki Theatre next door with topics on dinosaurs and Noah's flood including a IBA fossil and dinosaur display.

The Libby Christian Church youth group sponsored a free community hotdog lunch.

The creation fair on the Memorial Center lawn had at least 15 booths sponsored by different

churches and organizations including International Messengers, Gideon's, Love's Journey, and Kootenai Valley Christian School. The lawn was full of creation science and Bible related booths with youth activities. Families had a blast being entertained and learning the truth of God's Word and how science supports the creation account and the Bible.

Activities included a jumbo bounce house, a dunk tank, cotton candy, bubble tea, slushes, snow cones, and so much more.

The booths featured creative educational activities such as dino eggs to break open, science demonstrations, strong man competitions, ice-age videos, live music, and other booths that promoted pro-life, area

churches, and games sponsored by Camp Elohim.

Everything was free for all participants. And the activity on the lawn drew crowds from the community.

The evening featured another free community dinner sponsored by Troy Community Baptist Church. Troy, MT is about 15 miles west of Libby, and it was super to see churches from other communities involved.

After the last two evening sessions the day had a climatic ending with worship, s'mores, and hot cocoa outside on the lawn.

What a day that glorified Jesus as Creator, Savior and the truth of His Word and the Gospel. The event over the entire weekend probably included a several hundred participants.



Sunday Morning Service

Sunday morning included fresh cinnamon rolls and coffee provided by a local Libby 7 Seeds Coffee and Mustang Bakery.

The event was located outdoors on a spectacular morning at the Libby Fred Brown pavilion beautifully located along the turquoise colored rushing Kootenai River originating in Canada and then rolling across the western US.

As Dr. Kevin Horton, IBA, delivered a moving message, bald eagles, great

blue herons, and other examples of His Creation showed off for His glory over the river. Folks brought their own lawn chairs, and the worship was outstanding provided by a worship team from several local churches.

We always plan for inclement weather, and if that happens direct everyone to an alternate indoor facility. This weekend, however, God was in control as usual when doing His will and blessed the weather. It was glorious all weekend.

Sunday Afternoon and Evening

Sunday featured a final field trip in the afternoon and two presentations from Mike Mueller at Faith Bible Church on Scopes Monkey Trial and Adam or Apes - Made in His Image. Dr. Kevin Horton and Michael Oard concluded with two more presentations in the evening.

If you would like to see the conference speaker topic schedule or listen to the live streamed main talks, go to IBA777.org. And yes, IBA tries to live stream all of its conferences so folks all over the world can join in.

In conclusion, Faith Bible Church and the KCF organizers were thanked by IBA for their outstanding efforts and given a rare photo of Montana landscapes taken by a drone flown by Dr. Horton, IBA. We all said our goodbyes and hugged and took our memories and what we learned back home with us.

You will find these creation conferences give you rare opportunities to meet national caliber creation science speakers and make new friends and contacts with others interested in strengthening their faith in God's Word as written who traveled from all over the country to be there with you.

If you are interested in hosting a conference in your area call IBA at 406-531-8297, email Mike Mueller at mikemueller56@outlook.com, or visit IBA777.org.

Depending on your location, there are national creation science organizations that send speakers to churches and events, such as ICR, AIG, CMI, and others.

Get out there, have fun, be bold, and spread how science supports the Bible like never before. God bless you and peace be with you.

Top 12 Tips

I asked Kim and Jessica to provide you with a list of the most important things they learned hosting and organizing this creation festival and conference to help you in the event you want to host one of your own in your community or region:

#1 Pray, Pray, Pray

Ephesians 6:18-We earnestly prayed for God to take care of all the details, to protect our church body, and friendships. We established a prayer group manager who created a prayer group and managed it for 11 months. Together we prayed for every concern of the event.

#2 Dream Big

We dreamed what the ideal event would look like without any constraints.

#3 Ask Big

We were not scared to ask for big things like having IBA and Genesis Experience come. While many turned us down, God opened the doors for the right people to come.

#4 Follow God's Lead

We delightfully worked out a rough draft of our dream (God's plan), and we started pitching the idea to different churches, business, ministries and friends. Again, God opened and shut the right doors.

#5 Build The Right Team

We found individuals to be our powerhouse team. Most of them were our project managers who could get things done and make important decisions. These were people who could oversee the fieldtrips, organize meals, plan music, etc.

#6 Let the Body of Christ Shine

We continually sought to find Christians to volunteer in jobs they loved and enjoyed. We began asking from the beginning and continued until the day before the event began. God filled every spot with people he had prepared in advance for such tasks from many different churches!

#7 Let God Provide

We didn't worry much about cost. We prayed God would take our fishes and loaves and multiply them. He did! We had so many individuals donate time, money, and resources. And we ended up having just what we needed.

#8 Work a Little Every Day

We each worked on the event projects doing a little bit every single day. This kept planning stress to a minimum and manageable.

#9 Brand Your Event

Create a logo and be consistent with your advertising colors, typefaces, and materials. Find talented individuals who can make everything look professional. Then advertise in every possible: on the radio, in magazines, at different churches, hanging banners, through social media, and online. We sold t-shirts at cost in advance, and that was some of the best advertising we had.

#10 Plan Something for Everyone

Part of what made the event a success is everyone had something to do and learn from toddlers to 94 year olds.

#11 Plan like you have not prayed, and pray like you have not planned.

#12 Allow God to use the unexpected.

"You are just two women from Libby," is a quote we received from someone who doubted us. This was a true statement, and that is exactly how we can humbly say this was God's event!

A QUICK SNAPSHOT OF THE WEEKEND.

