



## It's never too cold for Cold Stone Creamery

by Lindsey Parker

Culture Writer



photos by Alice Scully / the aRbiter

With several locations in the Treasure Valley, Cold Stone Creamery offers the ice cream enthusiast a wide variety of flavor options no matter the weather.

Idaho is one of those oddball states where college students wear shorts and flip flops throughout the year, even in winter. Eating ice cream here is about the same. There are several choices when eating ice cream in the valley.

Dairy Queen is famous for blizzards, McDonalds is famous for McFlurries, and "Cold Stone Creamery" is famous for ice cream and waffle cones made fresh every day at every location around the country.

Boise has two Cold Stone Creameries both within 10 minutes from campus. The nearest "creamery" is located at 276 8<sup>th</sup> Street, but is closed for the season until March 23. The second location is 3640 South Findley Street and is well worth the short drive one afternoon between classes.

After arriving inside the store, the smell of waffle cones and endless amounts of candy, is heaven on earth. Shortly, the ice cream artist offers a friendly "hello," and says "what can I help you with today?"

That's a great question. There are so many choices at Cold Stone. The combinations are humorous with titles like "Nights in White Chocolate," which is white chocolate ice cream with double white chocolate chips, caramel and whipped topping. "Monkey Bites" is banana ice cream with pecans, coconut, Nestle crunch bar, and bananas. "Cookie Dough't You Want Some" is French vanilla ice cream with choc

olate chips, cookie dough, fudge and caramel. "Berry Berry Berry Good" is sweet cream ice cream with raspberries, strawberries, and blueberries. "Rocky Road Trip" is chocolate ice cream with roasted almonds and double marshmallows.

There are far more combinations to choose from, which aren't listed above. Cold Stone also offers milk shakes, ice



cream cakes, and yogurt. The full list of products may be found at [www.coldstonecreamery.com](http://www.coldstonecreamery.com).

The exciting part of going to Cold Stone is not the freshly made ice cream; it's watching the ice cream artist add in one of the different mix-ins to the ice cream of choice. Ice cream flavors at every Cold Stone are: banana, cake batter, cheesecake, chocolate, coffee, French vanilla, Italian sorbet, mint, strawberry, sweet cream, sweet cream yogurt, and white chocolate.

There are 12 different types of candy mix-ins such as Butterfinger, Kit Kat, M&M's, Snickers, and Oreos. For the nut lover there are six mix-ins, including Macadamias, pecans, roasted almonds, walnuts, pecan pralines and sliced almonds.

There is also an array of fruit mix-ins such as apple pie filling, black cherries, and banana, make great additions to any flavor of ice cream.

After finally choosing ice cream and mix-ins, there are three sizes offered at Cold Stone. "Like it," "Love it," and "Gotta Have it" are small medium and large sizes. Based upon past experience, the "Like it" strawberry ice cream with chocolate chip mix-in in a fresh waffle cone will be plenty of ice cream. The artist takes a good sized scoop of ice cream and chocolate chips, plopping them down on the Cold Stone to mix together. In less than two minutes the ice cream has been blended and scooped into the waffle cone. The total for this seemingly excellent treat is \$3.97, which excludes the \$1.00 tip the ice cream artist receives for being so polite. Wow, he doesn't



even know he's being reviewed. Sitting alone at a small table, spoon in hand, the first bite of sweet strawberry blended perfection is taken. Yum, it's so delicious - the perfect blend of strawberry and chocolate chips. This really beats store-bought Breyers or Nestle, no offense to those corporations. Understandably, sometimes it's tough to go out to a sit-down ice cream shop, and more convenient to buy ice cream in a grocery store with all the other food items in the shopping cart. Cold Stone ice cream really tastes fresh as does the crispy lightly sweetened waffle cone. Who wouldn't want to eat this everyday? The only downfall to the whole experience is that the ice cream is so incredibly rich in calories.

But the next time you get a craving for delicious freshly made ice cream, head out to "Cold Stone Creamery," because it's never too cold for ice cream.

Cold Stone is open Sunday-Thursday 12 p.m. until 9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 12 p.m. until 11 p.m.