

Volcano Adventure Camp

Sample Youth Camp Itinerary

The following itinerary is intended as a sample only. You can design your trip by choosing from a variety of ranger programs or self-led activities. This is a “Five Day” itinerary. Your trip may be either shorter or longer.

Day One- Arrival (Morning/Afternoon)—Park sites: Volcano Adventure Camp

Upon arrival at Lassen Volcanic National Park, the Youth Camp Ranger will meet you at the Volcano Adventure Camp (or another specified location) and provide an introductory experience for you and your campers!

Welcome to Your National Park—Youth Camp Ranger-led Activity: The group will learn what a national park is and why Lassen is protected and preserved as an important natural and cultural resource. The group will participate in an activity related to Lassen’s volcanic identity.

Volcano Adventure! *The Four Types of Volcanoes at Lassen.* Youth Camp Ranger-led Activity: *For 6th graders and under, this will consist of a volcano demonstration where the ranger engages the kids with a model depicting various types of eruptions. *For sixth graders and older, the campers will participate in an activity where the whole group is divided into volcano teams. They will use models to share what they learned with their fellow campers.

Get acquainted with the Volcano Adventure Camp and Lassen! The Youth Camp Ranger will provide orientation information and/or directions as needed (this will also be communicated prior to your arrival at the park). Depending on what time you arrive at the park, you may just want to unpack and get set up in your tent cabins, utilize the pavilions to make a meal, or even go and enjoy a self-led hike on a park trail!

Day Two—Park Sites: Devastated Area, Bumpass Hell, and Volcano Adventure Camp

Morning—Youth Camp Ranger-led Activity: Campers will participate in a ranger-led activity at the Volcano Adventure Camp, or another unique park site!

Example: “Devastated Area—Rock Cycles”

The Youth Camp Ranger meets your group at the Devastated Area and they participate in an activity where they learn about how the Devastated Area was formed through dramatic volcanic eruptions and other geologic processes.

Late Morning/Afternoon—Enjoy Your Own Hike! Group leaders will be provided with information and materials related to the site you choose for your self-led hike.

Example: “Bumpass Hell Trail”

Group leaders will utilize materials and waysides to provide campers with a nature hike and first-hand experience of boiling pools, fumaroles, and mudpots. *This 3 mile round-trip hike would be an example of a “moderate” hike.*

Evening—*Campfire program offered at the Volcano Adventure Camp for all campers. Campfire program topics will reflect natural and/or cultural resources of Lassen, and will include: Campfire songs, Dramatizations (campers become part of a performance), Storytelling that includes campers, and other evening fun!

**Evening campfire programs will only be offered as optional activities on select weekday evenings at the Volcano Adventure Camp. Evening programs are also offered at other park sites for the general public, and your group can participate as well—driving may be necessary.*

Day Three—Park Sites: Lassen Peak, Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center

Morning—Enjoy Your Own Hike! Group leaders will be provided with information and materials related to the site you choose for your self-led hike.

Example: “Lassen Peak Trail”

Group leaders will utilize materials and waysides to provide campers with a rigorous nature hike, and an opportunity to summit one of the largest plug dome volcanoes in the world! *This hike is a strenuous 5-mile hike with a 2000 ft. elevation gain to a summit of 10,400 ft.*

Afternoon—Not far from the Lassen Peak trailhead is our southwest entrance and the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. Explore this visitor center, have a snack at the café, or even attend a scheduled ranger program.

Example: “Can You Dig It?” (Location: Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center)

Dig into Lassen’s new augmented reality sandbox with a ranger and discover how watersheds work and what topographic lines are all about.

Evening—Enjoy dinner at the Volcano Adventure camp and your own campfire with the kids! *Note: Fire restrictions and the collection and burning of wood will be clarified by the Youth Camp Ranger.*

Day Four—Park Site: Manzanita Lake, Reflection Lake/Lily Pond Trail

Morning—Youth Camp Ranger-led Activity: Campers will participate in a ranger-led activity at the Volcano Adventure Camp, or another unique park site!

Example: “Ecosystems”

This ranger-led activity consists of a walk around Manzanita Lake and an investigation and discussion of the animals, plants, and other natural aspects of this ecosystem. *Approximately 2 miles, an “Easy” hike.*

Late Morning/Afternoon—Enjoy your own activities at Manzanita Lake, Reflection Lake, or take a stroll on the gentle, beautiful Lily Pond Trail (*an easy, 3/4 mile loop*). *At Manzanita Lake, you may rent a kayak, paddle board, or simply wade in the water.

**Note: Water activities must be led by group leaders and will not be facilitated by a National Park Service ranger.*

Evening—Manzanita Lake Evening Program—*Fridays and Saturdays only*. Ranger talk (natural and cultural topics “to be determined”) at Manzanita Lake Auditorium. Your group will participate along with other members of the public who attend.

Day Five— **Departure (Morning/Afternoon)** Park Site: Volcano Adventure Camp

The Youth Camp Ranger will meet you and facilitate a discussion with your campers that will be focused on their trip to Lassen and how they can bring what they experienced and learned back home with them. Campers will be reminded that Lassen is one of over 400 national park sites, and each park belongs to them as well as all other visitors. A discussion of how best to actively preserve nature and culture will be included in this closing activity using a method called “facilitated dialogue.”

An evaluation survey will be provided by the Youth Camp Ranger or the Lassen Park Foundation.