LASSEN NEWS

Road Opening
Hike & Bike the Highway
Reach the Peak Hike-A-Thon
Peak Experience Auction
Dark Sky Festival

SUMMER 2017
2017 DARK SKY FESTIVAL

2017 Dark Sky Festival
Friday through Sunday, August 11-13, 2017

“The Lassen Dark Sky Festival is a celebration of a couple of things. The most important is our dark night skies. [It’s a] tremendous resource and we’re finding that this resource is diminishing. There are fewer and fewer places that you can walk outside and see the Milky Way... see thousands of stars above you. What we’re hoping to do is raise awareness that it’s a resource worth protecting.”

- Kevin Sweeney, Lassen Volcanic National Park Ranger & Dark Sky Festival Coordinator

Join park rangers, astronomers, and astrobiologists in celebrating all that is out of this world during Lassen’s Dark Sky Festival. Special programs, presentations, hikes, and Junior Ranger Night Explorer activities will be offered during the festival.

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Event highlights include: nightly constellation tours and stargazing; astronomy activities including solar scope viewing, Junior Ranger Astronomy, and hands-on activities; discussions and demonstrations by National Park Dark Sky rangers, NASA, the International Dark Sky Association, RECON, and the Astronomical Society of Nevada.

Enjoy a sneak peak at Lassen Volcanic’s incredible dark, night sky and learn more about what the Dark Sky Festival is all about. For more information visit: https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/dark-sky.htm

"BUMPASS HELL" LIMITED EDITION PENDLETON BLANKET

The latest custom Pendleton blanket to be released by Lassen Park Foundation commemorates the park’s iconic Bumpass Hell (sample artwork on the right).

With the production of this limited edition blanket we begin a tradition of creating a new Pendleton Blankets each year to commemorate a different area of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

If you would like to order a blanket today please visit our website at lassenparkfoundation.org and go to the “SHOP” page. The blanket production will be completed and ready for mailing this winter. The blankets retail for $250 and can be shipped for $17.95 or picked up at our office located in Anderson, Ca.
Find Your Park continues this year with even more fun park events. Find your passion and join us today!

**JULY**

30th - Reach the Peak Hike-A-Thon  
First annual fundraiser to support LPF’s programs including the Youth Camping Program  
Register Online: www.LassenParkFoundation.org

**AUGUST**

11th - 13th - Dark Sky Festival  
will feature Starry Night ranger-led programs, presentations, hikes, and Junior Ranger Night Explorer activities.

21st - Solar Eclipse  
Visitors can view the partial solar eclipse through solar scopes at visitor centers.

25th - NPS Founders Day  
Fee-free park admission

27th - Lassen Association Guided Hike  
Join author Tracy Salsedo on a hike to Devil's Kitchen. ($10)  

**SEPTEMBER**

16th - Art & Wine Event  
celebrates local art, wine, and music at Lassen

30th - National Public Lands Day  
Fee-free park admission

23rd - Peak Experience Auction  
to support Lassen Park Foundation's projects and programs. Held at the McConnell Foundation in Redding, Ca.

The Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway will officially open to through traffic on Thursday, July 27. “This year’s opening of the highway will be the latest in park records dating back to 1931,” stated Superintendent Jim Richardson. “After four years of drought the park finally had a long winter season of great skiing and a snow pack that has persisted into summer.”

Challenges that delayed opening the highway included equipment repairs, fallen trees and rock slides across the roadway and two of our four heavy equipment operators left their positions for other employment opportunities.

“One of the vacant positions has recently been filled, but it has been the assistance Caltrans has provided to help us finally open up the road,” said Richardson. “We are grateful for all their effort to help us complete this operation.”

On Friday, July 21, the Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway opened from the Southwest Entrance to the Lassen Peak Trailhead parking area and from the Manzanita Lake Entrance to South Summit Lake Campground. Please note, there is very limited parking for day-use at the Summit Lake Campground. Lassen’s Hike & Bike the Highway event will be canceled this year due to the lateness and the incremental opening of the highway to accommodate visitor access to campsites at South Summit Lake Campground.

The North Summit Lake Campground is scheduled to open on July 28 and the Butte Lake Campground will be open to dry camping only for the remainder of the season. Juniper Lake Campground is scheduled to open Friday, July 28, but some sites may not be available due to the wet and muddy conditions that have not had a chance to dry out from the late snow melt. Please check the park website for updates on park facilities, roads, and trails.

The Lassen Peak Trail is open and most of the trail has melted out. There are still a few sections and switchbacks that are snow-covered and require over-snow travel. The park trail crew has marked these areas with wands to keep hikers on the trail route. It is also recommended that hikers use trekking poles to traverse these areas of snow since they become soft and slippery during daylight hours. The Bumpass Hell trail remains closed due to snow. Many other trails at lower elevations are clear of snow and available for hiking.
Sunday, July 30, the inaugural “Reach the Peak Hike-a-Thon” to the top of Lassen Peak will benefit causes at Lassen Volcanic National Park and provide some relief from warm summer temperatures. Organized by the Lassen Park Foundation (LPF), with assistance from Under The Sun Events, the hike is a five mile round-trip walk to the 10,462’ summit of Lassen Peak along the Lassen Peak Trail.

The route is considered to be moderate to strenuous with hikers encouraged to summit at their own pace. Despite the snow lingering around the higher elevations in the park, the trail is now accessible all the way to the peak. The park is encouraging sensible hiking shoes and trekking poles for balance over slippery spots when hiking the Lassen Peak Trail.

Snacks and water will be provided by LPF at the trailhead from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hikers are encouraged to carry reusable water bottles to cut down on waste. T-shirts and commemorative patches will be handed out to all participants. Create memories, enjoy nature, exercise your body and soul on a beautiful summer’s day at one of America’s most breathtaking National Parks!

Walk-in registration for the Reach the Peak Hike-a-Thon will be available the day of the event. To register early online visit lassenparkfoundation.org. Online registration will be available through this Friday. Hikers get to choose their start time ranging from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. The hike to the peak and back takes approximately 3-4 hours.

Cost to participate is a donation of $50 for adults, $20 for youth and free under 12, with additional opportunities to donate or fundraise. “This will be the first weekend of the season with access all the way through the park on Highway 89,” said LPF Executive Director Jennifer Finnegan. “It’s the perfect time to be some of the first visitors of the season to reach the peak.”
“Every Kid in a Park” is a federal public lands youth initiative to get all 4th graders and their families to experience the places that are home to our country’s natural treasures, rich history, and vibrant culture. At Lassen Park Foundation we believe so strongly in the importance of encouraging today’s youth to explore and enjoy these places that we are embracing “Every Kid in a Park” as our theme for this year’s Peak Experience Auction.

Lassen Park Foundation’s annual Peak Experience Auction will be held Saturday, September 23, 2017 at the McConnell Foundation at 800 Shasta View Drive in Redding. This evening event will feature dinner, live and silent auctions. Guests will enjoy learning more about Lassen Park Foundation’s youth programs as they interact with Lassen Park Rangers and Lassen Park Foundation board members.

This year’s Live Auction will feature a special item: The exclusive use of the Volcano Adventure Camp for Labor Day Weekend 2018. Just a small, private camping trip for you and up to 80 of your friends and relatives! (Proceeds from the sale of this item will directly benefit the Volcano Adventure Camp and Youth Camping Program.)

Funds raised at this event will benefit the Lassen Park Foundation which supports youth camping, interpretive and research projects in Lassen Volcanic National Park. Over 900 underserved youth from California, Oregon, Nevada, and Florida are camping at Lassen Volcanic National Park this summer thanks to Lassen Park Foundation’s Youth Camping program. We invite you to attend the Peak Experience Auction and be part of this amazing endeavor to get Every Kid in a Park! For more information about the Peak Experience Auction visit www.lassenparkfoundation.org.

Images from last year’s Peak Experience Auction...
A contribution to the Lassen Park Foundation will be used towards supporting youth programs, enhanced interpretive and educational activities, trail restoration, wildlife research, park improvements and cultural resource development. Those who contribute to the Foundation support the Lassen Volcanic National Park and surrounding region, helping to preserve its unique beauty for generations to come, as well as enriching the experience of today’s Lassen visitors.

Go to www.lassenparkfoundation.org or call us at (530) 378-2600 to make a donation today. Or you can fill out the form below and mail to: PO Box 33, Anderson, CA 96007. You make our Foundation possible!

□ YES! I would like to help support the Lassen Park Foundation by making a donation.

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