



# 2023 YOUTH GROUP LEADER RESOURCES & TRIP PLANNING INFORMATION



*The Winter of 2022-2023 brought significant snow to Lassen Park. Many roads, trails, other features, or activities may not be accessible during your scheduled stay. Check Lassen Volcanic National Park for current conditions before your trip.*

[Alerts & Conditions - Lassen Volcanic National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/laas/alerts-conditions)

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*The Volcano Adventure Camp was built through a partnership between the **National Park Service** and **Lassen Park Foundation** with special thanks to **The McConnell Foundation** and the **Volgenau Foundation**.*

## ***Welcome and Important Background Information***

Congratulations on scheduling a reservation and/or receiving a Youth Camping grant from the Lassen Park Foundation! We are so glad your youth group will experience Lassen Volcanic National Park.

## ***Welcome to the Volcano Adventure Camp!***

[Volcano Adventure Camp - Lassen Volcanic National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/lavo)

Your group will be staying at the Volcano Adventure Camp (VAC). The VAC is a youth camping facility inside Lassen Volcanic National Park (LVNP) located 5 miles east of the Manzanita Lake entrance station. This designated facility provides opportunities for a wide range of youth organizations including school groups, other educational groups, and scouting organizations to introduce young visitors to their national park. The facility was completed in 2016—just in time to celebrate the 100th birthday of Lassen and the National Park Service.

LVNP Education Specialist, Graciela Avila or one of the VAC team including Karla Martin and Eric Drissell will coordinate your group's youth camping experience.

When arriving at the VAC, the youth camping ranger will meet your group and facilitate a welcome activity (see page 6). The group leader will have you sign an arrival checklist indicating your acknowledgement of the need to manage the behavior of the campers and chaperones while at the VAC and to protect all National Park Service structures (i.e., tent cabins and picnic pavilion) and equipment (i.e., cots and tables) provided at the VAC.



[LAVO\\_VAC@nps.gov](mailto:LAVO_VAC@nps.gov)

(530) 595-6143

## ***What is the Volcano Adventure Camp?***

The Volcano Adventure Camp supports low-cost group camping experiences by reducing the amount of equipment required and providing necessary amenities for first-time campers. Through educational programming and firsthand experience in the outdoors, the VAC seeks to inspire campers to become good stewards of our national parks and planet. The group camping experience helps to build self-reliance, community, and leadership.

At the VAC, group leaders are responsible for all daily supervision, safety, transportation, and supplies for the campers. The Lassen National Park rangers provide a mandatory opening and closure activity as well as other optional ranger-led programs.

The following facilities and items are provided for groups at the VAC: canvas cabins, stacked cots, picnic pavilions, campfire circles, hot showers, vault toilets, trash and recycling, brooms, dustpans, bear proof lockers, potable water, barbeque grills, propane, and tent sites.

The following are ***NOT*** provided at the VAC: Dishes, pots, soap, sponges, utensils, food, electrical outlets, nighttime lighting, transportation, sleeping bags, and pillows.

### *Canvas Cabins, Picnic Pavilions, Campfire Circles, & Ranger-led Programs*



Ten (10) **canvas tent-cabins** (in two groups of five) each sleep up to 8 people. Each cabin contains eight cots, which are stacked like bunk beds.



There are also four (4) tent campsites (tents not provided) that each accommodate up to 6 tent campers. Smaller youth groups, those wishing to 'rough it,' or groups slightly larger than either 40 or 80 may be assigned to the tent campsites.



Two covered and screened **picnic pavilions** (image left) each one contains a cold-water sink for dishwashing, a propane barbeque grill (propane provided) and seven large tables.

Bear lockers for food storage are close to each pavilion.

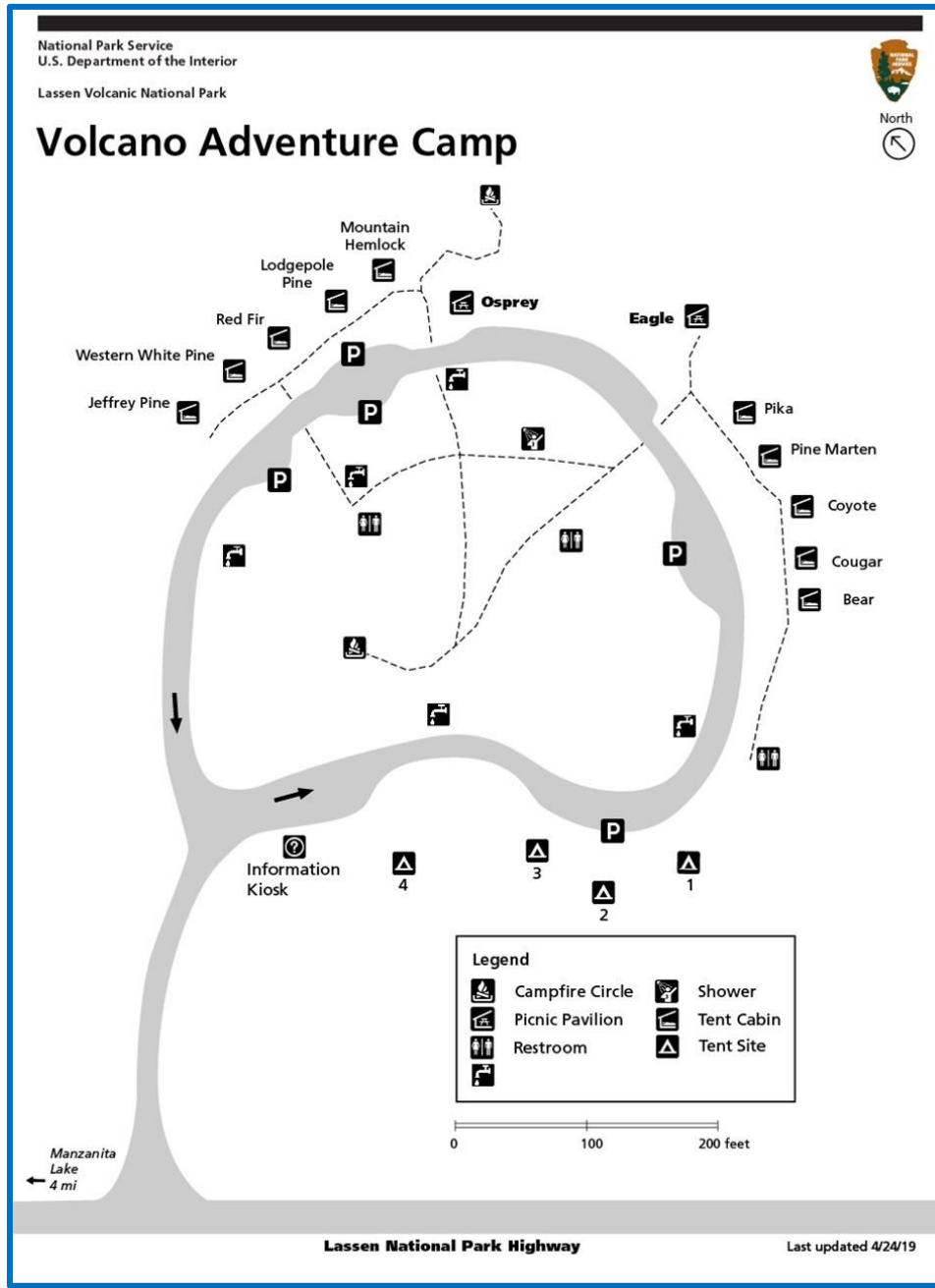


Two (2) **campfire circles** provide seating and space for programs and activities.



Guided programs and other **Ranger-led** activities are provided to facilitate the immersive learning experience. Please see the separate **Youth Camp Activity Description** Guide for details. A VAC ranger will contact your group 2 to 3 weeks before your arrival to schedule your activities.

## Volcano Adventure Camp Map



Look for the **Volcano Adventure Camp** sign at the entrance to the camp.

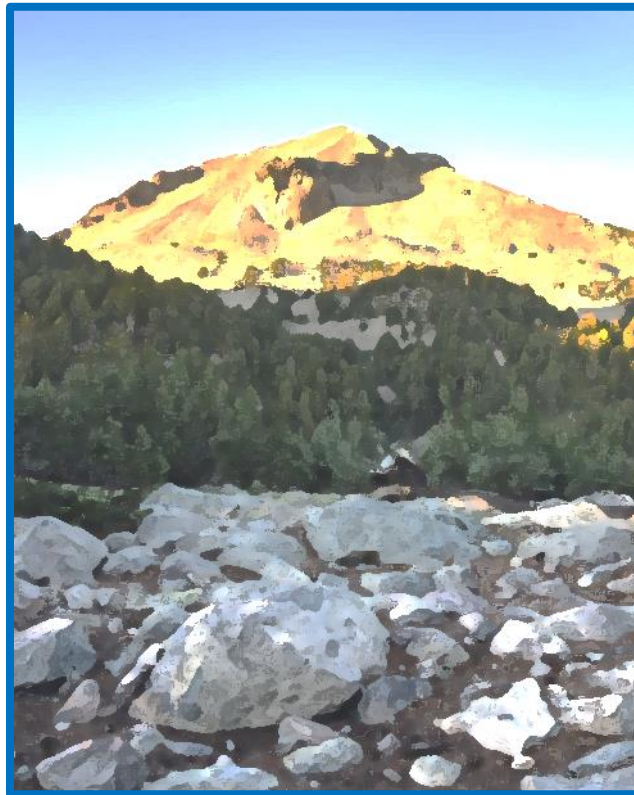
Latitude, Longitude  
40.563582, -121.519948

## *Lassen Volcanic National Park Information*

Home page: [Lassen Volcanic National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/lassen)

Lassen Volcanic National Park, established in 1916, is located in northeastern California in portions of Shasta, Lassen, Plumas, and Tehama counties. The 106,372-acre park is located about fifty miles east of both Red Bluff and Redding and is within a day's drive of two major California metropolitan centers, the Sacramento and San Francisco Bay areas.

The park accommodates about 500,000 visitors each year, providing opportunities for visitors to learn about volcanism, culture, and other park phenomena. Visitors also enjoy various recreational pursuits such as sightseeing, camping, picnicking, and hiking. Over 75 percent of the park is congressionally designated wilderness.



*Photo-art courtesy Kathy Coots*

The National Park Service exists to preserve the natural and cultural resources and facilitate visitor experiences at national park sites such as Lassen Volcanic. Thank you for bringing your youth group to this amazing resource, and for helping to share the message that our public lands and waters belong to everyone!

## *Youth Camp Sample Itinerary 2023*

*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 "Four Day" itinerary. Your trip may be either shorter or longer. If staffing allows, we will encourage groups to engage in a ranger-led activity daily. A Youth Camp Ranger is available to help you plan your itinerary.*

*Please note groups may check in after 1pm on the day of arrival and need to vacate camp before 11am on the day of departure.*

### **Day One**

#### **1:00pm-2:00pm Orientation and Check-In (required)**

Arrive at Volcano Adventure Camp, and the Youth Camp Ranger meets you and provides an introductory experience for you, your campers, and chaperones! Review and sign the arrival checklist and regulations with the ranger. There are two components to the orientation:

##### **1) Leave No Trace at Volcano Adventure Camp**

Campers review safety and behavioral expectations for their stay in Lassen Volcanic National Park, both in and out of camp.

Time Required: ~ 20 minutes.

##### **2) Unlocking the Secrets of Lassen Volcanic National Park** (or another similar activity)

Campers work in small groups, using a variety of tools, to discover key information about Lassen Volcanic National Park that is then shared with the rest of their group. A discussion of the National Park Service mission is included.

Time Required: ~40 minutes.

#### **2:00pm-3:00pm Volcano Adventure!** Youth Camp Ranger-led Activity.

Campers learn how volcanoes are formed, how to identify the four major types of volcanoes found in the park, and what makes the volcanoes of Lassen so unique. This activity culminates in small groups of students creating a volcano to share with the rest of their group.

Goal: To increase camper awareness and understanding of volcanic processes.

Time Required: ~ 1 hour.

#### **3:00pm to Lights Out- Group Leader Led Activities.**

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 enjoy a self-led hike on a park trail. Head to Loomis Museum to enjoy the park film and complete the Loomis Museum Discovery Hunt. End the day with songs and s'mores around the campfire back at the VAC. Bring board games to play after.

## **Day Two**

### **10:00 am – 12:30pm *Ecosystems Hike!*** Ranger-Led.

Campers walk 1.5 miles around Manzanita Lake to learn about aquatic, forest, and riparian wildlife communities. In this hands-on activity, campers use binoculars and field guides to identify species and make observations.

Goal: To provide campers with an introduction to the park's wildlife and their roles in the ecosystem at Manzanita Lake.

Time Required: 2-2.5 hours.

Location: Manzanita Lake

### **1:30pm -3:00pm *Lily Pond Compass Course*** Ranger-Led.

Campers learn basic compass skills and follow bearings along the 1-mile Lily Pond Trail.

Goal: To gain an introduction to orienteering and compass use while learning about the ecosystem of Lassen's mixed conifer forest.

Time Required: ~ 1.5 hours.

Location: Lily Pond Trail

### **3:00pm-to Lights Out. *Group-Leader-Led Activities***

Enjoy your own hike or go swimming at Manzanita or Summit Lake. End the day with songs and s'mores around the campfire or bring games to play with your group.

## **Day Three**

### **9:00am-10:30am *Rock Detectives*** Ranger-Led.

Campers use clues found in the rocks and forest of the Devastated area to complete a scavenger hunt and sleuth out the mysteries of the Lassen Peak eruption. After walking the half-mile loop trail, campers reenact the eruption with a rousing game of mud flow tag.

Time Required: 1.5 hours.

Location: Devastated Area

### **10:30am-Lights Out. *Group-Leader-Led Activities***

#### *Option 1: Climb Cinder Cone*

A strenuous 4-mile round trip hike up a path of loose cinders to the Cinder Cone crater where you can experience spectacular views of Lassen and the "fresh" lava flows at Butte Lake. Finish your hike with a dip in Butte Lake.

Location: From Manzanita Lake drive 45 minutes outside the park to reach the Butte Lake parking lot.



*Option 2: Sulphur Works and the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center*

Experience the steaming vents, mud pots, and boiling springs of Sulphur works. Complete the discovery hunt at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. NOTE: The hydrothermal area of Sulphur Works may be closed during your visit.

Location: From Manzanita Lake, drive either through the park or around the east side of the park (depending on road conditions). Travel times from Manzanita Lake are 1-1.5 hours one way.

*If Extra Time: Visit Subway Cave.*

Hike the easy 1/3 mile at Subway Cave including the journey through a dark lava tube. Bring your flashlights!

Location: Subway Caves is Located on Highway 89 approximately 1/4 mile north of the Highway 44/89 junction in Old Station.

End the day with songs, s'mores, and stories around the campfire or bring board games to play.

## **Day Four**

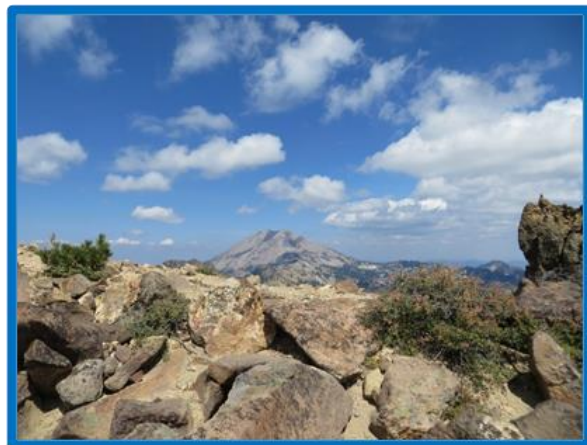
Early morning rise, share your last breakfast together, then pack up all your gear. The VAC facility must be vacated by 11am to get ready for the next group of campers.

### **9:30am-10:30am Closure Activity and Check Out (required)**

The Youth Camp Ranger meets with your group at the VAC and facilitates a discussion that focuses on their trip to Lassen and how they can bring what they experienced and learned back home with them. Campers are reminded that Lassen is one of over 400 national park sites, and each park belongs to them as well as all other visitors. You will review the departure checklist to be sure all cabins, pavilions, grounds, and equipment are clean and in good condition.

Time Required: ~ 1 hour.

***Although the facility must be vacated by 11am to get ready for the next group of campers, your group may spend the rest of the day exploring and enjoying the Park.***



*Photo courtesy Kathy Coots*

## Directions for Driving Around the Park

[Getting Around - Lassen Volcanic National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/conditions.htm)

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Lassen Volcanic National Park

### Directions Around the Park

**Travel Around the West Side of the Park**  
This route is the shortest route around the park. This windy road is not recommended for RVs and trailers.  
Average travel time is one hour and 45 minutes.

1. From the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, head south on Lassen National Park Highway (SR-89) for 6 miles.
2. Turn right (west) on SR-36. Continue for 23 miles.
3. Turn right (north) onto Lanes Valley Road. A large road sign on the north side of the highway marks the turnoff approximately one mile before the town of Paynes Creek. Continue for 7 miles.
4. Turn right onto Manton Road (CR-A6). Continue for 7 miles.
5. In Manton, turn left onto Wilson Hill Road. Continue for 1.5 miles.
6. Turn left to stay on Wilson Hill Road. Continue for 6 miles.
7. Turn right (east) onto SR-44. Continue for 17 miles.
8. Turn right (south) into the park. Continue 1 mile to the Manzanita Lake entrance.

**Travel to the Butte Lake Area**  
The road to Butte Lake is gravel and passable by most vehicles. From the Manzanita Lake Entrance, follow SR-89 east 13.5 miles to the SR-44/89 junction in Old Station. Turn right to follow SR-44.

1. From SR-44, turn south onto Butte Lake Road (FR-32N21). Look for signs indicating Butte Lake Campground.
2. Continue 6 miles to the Butte Lake Campground and day use area.

**Travel Around the East Side of the Park**  
This route is slightly longer than the west route, however it has fewer curves and is appropriate for RVs and trailers.  
Average travel time is two hours.

1. From the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, head south on Lassen National Park Highway (SR-89) for 6 miles.
2. Turn left (east) on SR-36. Continue 38 miles to CR-A21/Mooney Road located in the town of Westwood. Continue for 18 miles. Turn left (west) onto SR-44. Continue for 28 miles.
3. Turn left (west) onto SR-44/89. Continue for 13.5 miles.
4. Turn left (south) into the park. Continue 1 mile to the Manzanita Lake entrance.

**Travel to the Warner Valley/Juniper Lake**  
The roads to the Warner Valley and Juniper Lake areas are partly gravel and are not recommended for trailers.

<p><b>To Warner Valley</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Continue a half mile and veer left onto CR-312.</li> <li>3. Continue 4 miles and veer right to stay on CR-312. Follow signs to Drakesbad.</li> <li>4. Continue 12.5 miles to Warner Valley campground and day use area.</li> </ol>	<p><b>To Juniper Lake</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Continue a half mile and veer right onto CR-318.</li> <li>3. Continue 13 miles to Juniper Lake campground.</li> <li>4. Continue an additional half mile to the day use area.</li> </ol>
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Road Abbreviations: State Route (SR) | County Road (CR) | Forest Road (FR)

★ Indicates approximate location of Volcano Adventure Camp

**Current Conditions:** The hydrothermal area at Sulphur Works is under repair. To check for other current conditions and closures it is strongly suggested you check the following website now and again immediately before your trip.

Lassen National Park Alerts and Conditions:

<https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>

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## *Directions for Driving to the Park*

Lassen Volcanic National Park is located in northern California, approximately three hours northeast of Sacramento. The park is accessed via Hwy 44 (to the north) or Hwy 36 (to the south). From the east (i.e., Reno), the park can be accessed from Hwy 36 to Hwy 44. The park highway may be closed in early or late summer because of snow. Closures are also in place for some facilities, infrastructure, and areas affected by the 2021 Dixie Fire. Please be sure to check the park website, or contact the Youth Camp Ranger, for park road closures. Adhere to all closures indicated by CLOSED signs.



**For Summer 2023: The most direct route to the Volcano Adventure Camp would be to access the park from Hwy 44 and enter the park through the Manzanita Lake entrance. Continue south along the park road (Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway/Hwy 89) for approximately five miles. The Volcano Adventure Camp site will be on your left—look for signs (Youth Camp) and tent cabins.**

If accessing the park from Hwy 36, take Hwy. 89 to the southwest entrance at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. Continue north along the park road (Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway/Hwy 89) for approximately 25 miles. The Volcano Adventure Camp site will be on your right—look for signs (Youth Camp) and tent cabins.

Here are the addresses and phone numbers for our park visitor centers. These may be staffed from 9 AM – 5 PM every day of the week during the summer season. This may fluctuate due to staffing changes. Please contact Lassen Park Foundation if you have difficulty obtaining the information you need (530) 768-1110 or by email [ycp@LassenParkFoundation.org](mailto:ycp@LassenParkFoundation.org). The park website is also updated regularly to provide closure information on visitor centers.

### **Loomis Museum**

**(530) 595-6140**

29489 Lassen National Park Hwy  
Shingletown, CA 96088

### **Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center**

**(530) 595-4480**

21820 Lassen National Park Hwy  
Mineral, CA 96063

For additional assistance with directions to the park please visit the following webpage:  
[nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/directions.htm](https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/directions.htm)

For a list of current trail conditions, visit the following webpage:  
[https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/oversnow\\_route\\_conditions.htm](https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/oversnow_route_conditions.htm)

## Volcano Adventure Camp Planning Checklist

Please use this checklist or create your own to help you prepare for a trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park. We look forward to your visit!

- Safety:** Please remind your students and chaperones that they are entering a national park, and everything here is to be protected. This is a natural environment where they will see wildlife, plants and rocks which should not be harmed or removed from the park. Potential hazards in the area include bees, wasps, trip and fall hazards. Students will learn how to avoid these hazards and be alert to other safety concerns. **Students with allergies should bring their medication, especially for bee and wasp stings. Rangers DO NOT provide medication to park visitors. It is recommended to bring a first aid kit, or multiple first aid kits for chaperones/hike leaders.**
- Chaperones:** Please inform chaperones that they will be visiting a site where they are responsible for the safety and supervision of the campers they are assigned. **Please ensure that one adult sleeps in each tent cabin when campers are under age 18.**
- Clothing:** Please have students and chaperones bring and wear appropriate clothing for predicted weather and to be prepared for the weather to change. Students and chaperones should wear long pants, hats, and close-toed shoes while hiking. If possible, dress in layers and use sunscreen. Prepare for cold nights and mornings.
- Food and Water:** You are responsible for providing all meals and snacks. We also recommend that students bring their own reusable water bottles.
- Cooking:** Coolers/other containers with food, plates/bowls/cups, utensils, trash bags, dish soap, pots/pans. [Think about and make a list of other cooking/meal preparation items you need.] Propane BBQs do not have burners. Bring a small camp stove for heating water.
- Sleeping Items/Equipment.:** **WARM** sleeping bags, pillows, extra blankets. Each tent cabin will have eight (8) cots total.
- Showers/Restrooms (no running water in restrooms):** Shower shoes/flip flops, towels, soap in a case/body wash, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrush/toothpaste, other toiletries. Each camper should have a sealable bag for storing toiletries in bear boxes.
- Stewardship (Taking Care of VAC and Lassen):** Please remind students to not feed any of the animals in the park including chipmunks and squirrels, and to dispose of all pieces of trash. **Students should be instructed not to have any food or beverages in the tent cabins at any time.** Squirrels and chipmunks will get into tent cabins and have been known to destroy backpacks while getting into food left in tent cabins.
- Other Necessities:** Flashlights, extra batteries, lanterns, sunscreen, insect repellent, hiking backpacks, sunglasses, cameras, refillable water bottles for each camper, and hand sanitizer.
- Transportation:** Youth groups are responsible for all their own transportation to the park and inside the park.

## *Emergency Information*

**Be Prepared.** Know if any of your campers or chaperones have medical conditions and ensure that they have their medications. Identify any group leaders or chaperones who have emergency medical service qualifications (e.g., first aid, emergency medical responder/technician, nurse). Bring first aid kits and ensure that your chaperones communicate appropriate safety messages and are prepared to respond and/or communicate during an emergency. Rangers will not provide medical supplies or equipment to park visitors so please bring your own.

**National Park Service Emergency Response.** Emergency medical and Search and Rescue rangers and other professionals will respond in the event of an emergency.

**Communicating about an Emergency.** There is minimal cellular service at the Volcano Adventure Camp. There are other sites in Lassen Volcanic National Park where you may have cell phone coverage. There is a reasonably reliable cell phone service at pull-out 14, approximately 3 miles west of camp heading towards Manzanita Lake. You are encouraged to bring your cell phone when hiking. Turn off your phone unless you need to make an emergency call (this will save the battery).

In the event of an emergency:

**Dial 911 to report an emergency.** The VAC may have a volunteer host on-site with a park radio and the ability to contact park staff in an emergency. If no on-site VAC host is available during your stay, the nearest location of a campground host is at Manzanita Lake Campground (approximately 5 miles west of the Volcano Adventure Camp). You may contact the campground host(s) at the beginning of A-Loop sites 1-A and 1-B. Pay phones are available outside the Manzanita Lake Camper Store and Loomis Museum.

**Know Your Location.** When hiking and visiting other park locations, it is important for group leaders and chaperones to know the names of trails and park sites that you are experiencing. This will help rangers respond in the event of an emergency. Refer to maps and/or ask for clarification from the youth camp ranger upon your arrival at the park.

**Plan for the Weather/Altitude:** Weather can change rapidly or might be quite different from where you are located. To find out what the local weather is like during your trip, please refer to [weather.com](http://weather.com) or any other weather app and use “Manzanita Lake,” or “Lassen Volcanic National Park” for the location. Additionally, please realize that many areas of the park are at significantly higher elevation than most campers are accustomed to. Plan to take your time on hikes and watch campers for signs of altitude sickness (nausea, dizziness, headaches).

Manzanita Lake Temperatures	
Month	Average High/Low
May	70/29 °F
June	79/34 °F
July	84/40 °F
August	85/40 °F
September	78/36 °F
October	69/30 °F