



YOUTH CAMP ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS SUMMER 2023



INTRODUCTION

In order to prepare for your trip, you will plan an itinerary with a Youth Camp Ranger (or Education Specialist) at least two weeks prior to your arrival at the park. This itinerary will consist of your arrival, in-camp ranger-led activities, ranger-led field activities, group leader directed activities, public ranger-led activities, and your departure.



This booklet describes the wide variety of options for planning that itinerary for your Youth Group. You will also want to be aware of any current conditions at Lassen Volcanic National Park. There are trail and road closures due to the 2021 Dixie Fire as well as an epic amount of snowfall in the Winter of 2022-2023. For the summer of 2023 the hydrothermal area at Sulphur Works is under repair.

To check all current conditions please visit the following websites that the Park maintains and updates frequently:

Lassen National Park Alerts and Conditions:

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

Current trail conditions:

[Day Hiking - Lassen Volcanic National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/lassen/day-hiking)



REQUIRED IN-CAMP RANGER-LED ACTIVITIES

Note: All in-camp ranger-led programs are scheduled with a Youth Camp Ranger and the Group Leader. Scheduling depends on availability of park staff.

Activity: Orientation (required)

Orientation activity is required and provided to all groups upon their arrival at the park. There are two components to this activity.

1) Welcome to Volcano Adventure Camp

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

Goal: Campers understand their responsibilities as stewards of the Volcano Adventure Camp and the park.

Time Required: ~ 20 minutes.

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

Summary: 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.

Goal: To provide campers with an introduction to the park and the National Park Service.

Time Required: ~40 minutes.

Activity: Closure Activity (required)

Summary: A Youth Camp Ranger meets with your group and facilitates a discussion focusing 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. A discussion of how best to actively preserve nature and culture is included in this closing activity using a method called “facilitated dialogue.”

Time Required: ~ 1 hour.

OPTIONS FOR IN-CAMP RANGER-LED ACTIVITIES



Activity: *Volcano Adventure Camp Compass Course*
(This course may not be available to all groups.)

Summary: Campers learn basic compass skills and follow bearings through the woods.

Goal: To provide campers with an introduction to orienteering and compass use in a forest environment.

Time Required: ~ 1 hour.

Activity: *Volcano Adventure!*

Summary: 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.

Activity: *Pika Patrol*

Summary: Using age-appropriate tools and strategies, campers develop skills for monitoring the Mighty Pika! This activity involves a short talk about the habitat, life cycle, and traits of pika followed by a short hike. If age appropriate, campers scramble over rocks to search for pika signs.

Goal: Campers learn that, as citizen scientists, they can help protect fragile species.

Time Required: ~ 1.5-2.5 hours.

Activity: *Leave No Trace*

Summary: Campers explore and share the seven Leave No Trace Principles through skits and games.

Goal: Campers are able to share how they can apply the Leave No Trace Principles while in Lassen Volcanic National Park and in their home environments.

Time Required: ~1 hour.

Activity: *Riding the Rock Cycle*

Summary: Ideal for younger audiences (12 and under suggested). Scheduling is dependent on staffing. Campers learn about the rock cycle and the three major categories of rocks (sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous) through a hands-on activity that involves creating their own rocks out of wax crayon shavings that then gets to “ride the rock cycle” through the stages of becoming each of the 3 rock types.

Time Required: ~1 hour.

Activity: *Pioneers in Peril*

Summary: Using age-appropriate tools and strategies, campers work as a team to successfully reach Shasta City along the Nobles Emigrant Trail. Will the group get there before its luck runs out? This activity involves a hike of about 1.5 miles directly from camp.

Goal: To increase teamwork and awareness of the human stories of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Time Required: ~ 1.5 hours.

Activity: *Campfire Evening Program*

Summary: Join the Ranger to enjoy evening songs, stories, and activities on a variety of topics. Program is dependent on staffing. Campfire program titles include:

- ⇒ **Wings in the Night** Learn about the winged animals that inhabit our evening skies.
- ⇒ **Fire: Friend or Foe?** Learn about the benefits and challenges of fire. Students get the chance to experiment with how different types of fuels contribute to fire behavior by building a model “wild” fire in the fire ring.

Time Required: ~1 hour.

RANGER-LED FIELD ACTIVITIES

Note: All Ranger-led Field Activities are scheduled with a Youth Camp Ranger and the group leader. Scheduling depends on availability of park staff and group size.

Activity: *Discovery Hikes*

Summary: Ranger-led hikes to various areas in the park, focusing on biological, geological, cultural, or other interests of the group.

Time Required: Dependent on hike.

Location: throughout park.



Activity: *Ecosystems!*

Summary: Campers walk 1.5 miles around Manzanita Lake to learn about lake, 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

Activity: *Fire: Friend or Foe?*

Summary: Campers learn about fire ecology in Lassen Volcanic National Park and how certain ecosystems in the park rely on periodic wildfires to stay healthy. Done as a guided hike.

Time Required: ~1.5-2 hours depending on style of program.

Location: Chaos Craigs Trail

Activity: Rock Detectives

Summary: 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

Activity: Lily Pond Compass Course

Summary: Campers learn basic compass skills and follow bearings along a trail.

Goal: To provide campers with 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

Activity: Wet ‘n Wild

Summary: Campers explore Lassen Volcanic National Park’s aquatic habitat to discover the underwater world of macroinvertebrates. This program’s availability is dependent on group size and ranger staffing.

Goal: Campers learn to identify macroinvertebrates species and the critical roles they play in our ecosystems.

Time Required: 1.5 - 2 hours.

Location: Reflection Lake

GROUP LEADER DIRECTED ACTIVITIES

The following activities are experiences directed by the group leader. Youth Camp Ranger can assist in the planning and provision of additional materials or information.



Activity: Loomis Museum Discovery Hunt (north entrance)

Activity: Kohm Yah-mah-nee Discovery Hunt (south entrance)

Summary: Campers learn about both the human history and the volcanic history of Lassen Volcanic National Park while visiting either the historic Loomis Museum or Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.

Goal: To provide campers with an introduction to Lassen Volcanic National Park’s human history, the founding of the park, and its volcanic history.

Type of Activity: Discovery Hunt

Time Required: One hour.

Location: Loomis Museum and/or Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center

Activity: Junior Rangers

Summary: Campers ages 7 – 12 are encouraged to complete the requirements to become Junior Rangers and earn a special patch (no charge).

[Be a Junior Ranger - Lassen Volcanic National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/laas/volcanic-national-park/junior-ranger)

Activity: Volcano Club

Summary: Campers older than age 12 are encouraged to complete the requirements to become members of the Volcano Club. Patches are available for purchase (\$2.50) upon completion.



Activity: Junior Park Explorer Activities

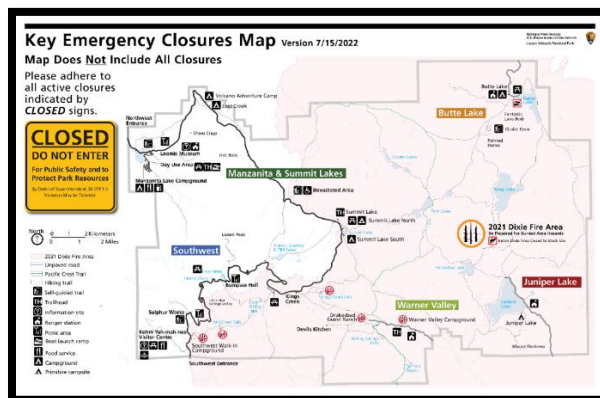
Summary: For these self-guided activities, request Junior Park Explorer pages that campers complete at various locations. Junior Park Explorer pages engage campers in hands-on observations and discovery at Bumpass Hell, Kings Creek Falls, the Devastated Area, Cinder Cone, and Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center/Sulphur Works.

[NPS Jr. Ranger Park Explorer Ready, Set, Go!](https://www.nps.gov/laas/volcanic-national-park/junior-park-explorer)

Activity: Hikes!

Summary: Independently lead your group hiking on any of the park’s trails. **Please remember that in order to reduce impact, hiking groups must be limited to no more than 20, each separated by ¼ mile.** Check with a Youth Camp Ranger to see if a trail guide is available for your hike. To plan your hike, and to download a list of hikes, distances, and level of difficulty, visit the following park webpage:

[Trail Conditions - Lassen Volcanic National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/laas/volcanic-national-park/trail-conditions)



PUBLIC RANGER-LED ACTIVITIES

Public Ranger-Led Activities are often available. These are programs offered to the public during the summer. Please check with the Youth Camp Ranger before your arrival at the VAC or upon arriving at the Park, check either Loomis Museum or Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center for updated information on other available special or seasonal programs.