



# Lassen Volcanic National Park

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## 2019 Youth Camping Program



## Trip Planning Information & Group Leader Resources

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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 receiving a Youth Camping grant from the Lassen Park Foundation! We are so glad that this will help make it possible for your group to experience Lassen Volcanic National Park.

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

[nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/vac.htm](https://nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/vac.htm)

Your group will be staying at the Volcano Adventure Camp (VAC). The VAC is a youth camping facility located inside Lassen Volcanic National Park. 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 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Lassen and the National Park Service.

The primary National Park Service coordinator for your group's youth camping experience will be Trixine Peart (photos and contact information below).



Trixine Peart, Youth Camp Ranger  
trixine\_peart@nps.gov  
(530) 595-6143

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. All structures (i.e. tent cabins, pavilion) and equipment (i.e. cots, tables, etc.) need to be returned to the National Park Service in the same condition that you receive them.

## 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. 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, cleaning supplies (brooms & dustpans), and tent sites.



Above: Canvas Cabins



Above: Campfire Circle

### Canvas Cabins, Picnic Pavilions, Campfire Circles



- Ten cabins (in two groups of five) each sleep up to 8 people (1 adult plus 7 campers). 4 tent pads that each accommodate 6 tent campers.
- Two covered and screened pavilions (image left) each contain a cold-water sink for dishwashing, two propane barbeque grills (propane provided) and 7 large tables.
- Bear lockers for food storage are close to each pavilion.
- Two fire circles provide seating and space for programs and activities.



**Stacked Cots** - Each cabin contains four stacked cots (eight cots total (image left)).

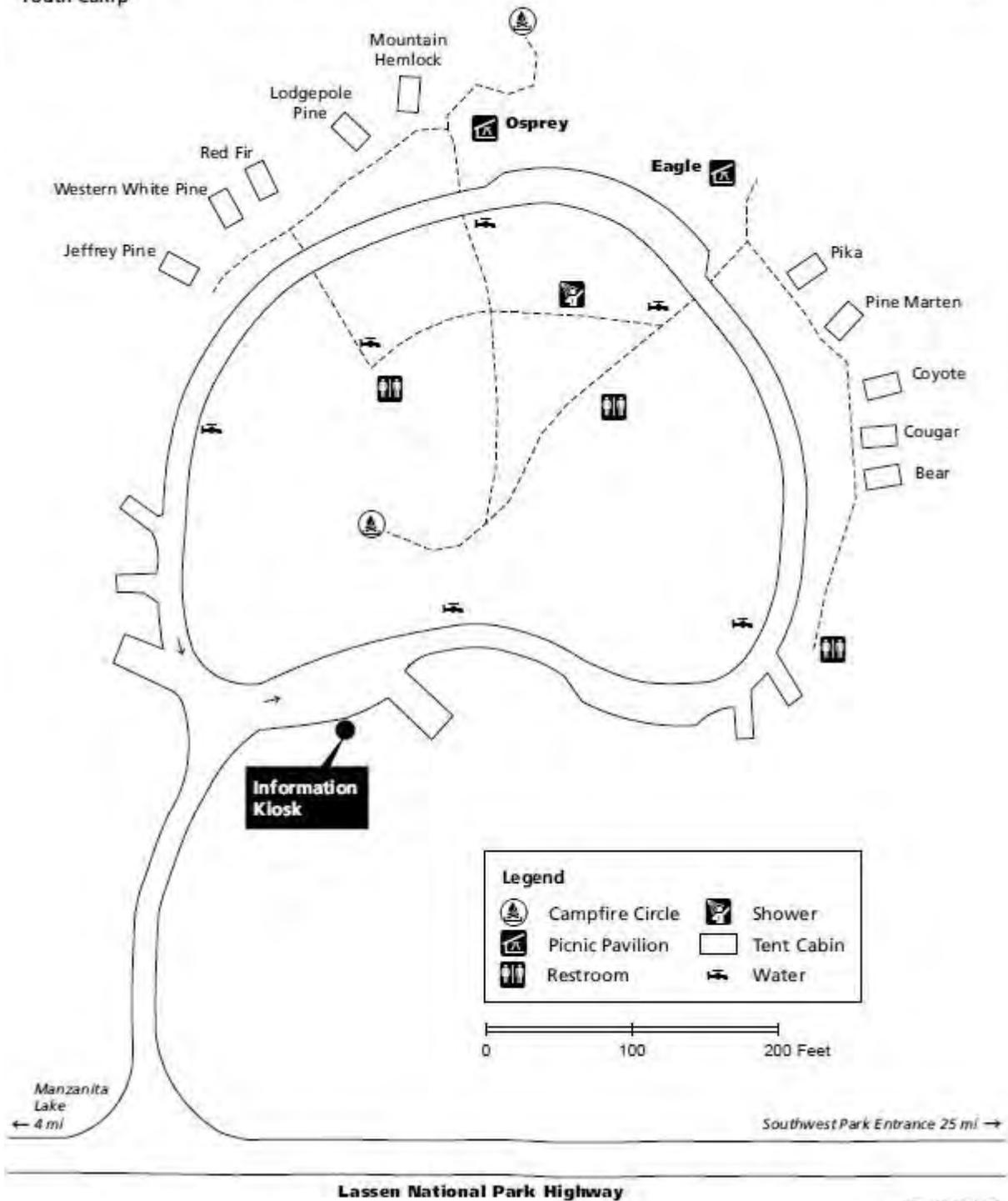


### Ranger-led Programs

Guided programs and activities are provided to facilitate the immersive learning experience (image below)

# Volcano Adventure Camp

Youth Camp



The signs on the park highway read:

Youth Camp

Reservations Only

*Lassen Volcanic National Park (Home page: [nps.gov/lavo](https://www.nps.gov/lavo))*

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 visits 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.



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!

## Sample Itinerary

### 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. We encourage groups to engage in a ranger led activity daily. The Youth Camp Ranger is available to help you plan your itinerary. Please note groups may check in after noon on the day of arrival and need to vacate camp before noon on the day of departure. If you need flexibility with arrival/departure times, please talk with the youth camp ranger. If possible, we will make accommodations to meet your needs.

#### **Day One- Arrival (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 and provide an introductory experience for you and your campers!

**Orientation (required)** — Youth Camp Ranger-led Activity: The group will review safety and behavioral expectations. The group will learn what a national park is and why Lassen is protected and preserved as an important natural and cultural resource.

**Volcano Adventure!** *The Four Types of Volcanoes at Lassen.* Youth Camp Ranger-led Activity: \*For 6<sup>th</sup> 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, Mill Creek Falls Trail, and Volcano Adventure Camp

**Morning**—Youth Camp Ranger-led Activity: Campers will participate in 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: Mill Creek Falls Trail

Group leaders will utilize materials and waysides to provide campers with a nature hike and first-hand experience of a red fir forest. *This 3.8 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, do the Discovery Hunt, have a snack at the café, or even attend a scheduled ranger program.

**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 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) 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 conducted by the Youth Camp Ranger as part of this closing activity.

**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.

To Warner Valley	To Juniper Lake
1. From CA-36 in Chester, turn onto Feather River Road (on the northeast side of the Feather River).	2. Continue a half mile and veer right onto CR-318.
2. Continue a half mile and veer left onto CR-312.	3. Continue 13 miles to Juniper Lake campground.
3. Continue 4 miles and veer right to stay on CR-312. Follow signs to Drakesbad.	4. Continue an additional half mile to the day use area.
4. Continue 12.5 miles to Warner Valley campground and day use area.	

Road Abbreviations: State Route (SR) | County Road (CR) | Forest Road (FR)

***Directions (Website: [nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/directions.htm](https://nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/directions.htm))***

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. Please be sure to check the park website, or contact the Youth Camp Ranger, for park road closures.

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 will be staffed from 9 AM – 5 PM every day of the week.

**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 directions to the park please visit the following webpage:  
**[nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/directions.htm](https://nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/directions.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 into 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. **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 reusable water bottles. They can refill water bottles at the park.
- 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] The propane BBQs do not have burners. A small campstove for heating water will be useful.
- Sleeping Items/Equip.:** **WARM** sleeping bags, pillows, extra blankets. Each tent cabin will have four stacked cots (eight 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 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.
- Other Necessities:** Flashlights, extra batteries, lanterns, sunscreen, insect repellent, hiking backpacks, sunglasses, cameras, [think about what else you might need or want while staying at the VAC]

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## 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 (i.e. first aid, emergency medical responder/technician, nurse, etc.). Bring first aid kits, and ensure that your chaperones communicate appropriate safety messages and are prepared to respond and/or communicate during an emergency.

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

**Communicating 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 reasonably reliable cell phone service at pull-out 13, approximately 3 miles from camp. You are encouraged to bring your cell phone when hiking. Turn off your phone unless you need to make an emergency call (this will preserve the battery).

In the event of an emergency: **Dial 911 to report an emergency.** From the Volcano Adventure Camp, the nearest location of a campground host is at Manzanita Lake Campground (approximately 5 miles north of the Volcano Adventure Camp). You may contact the campground host(s) at the beginning of A-Loop sites 1-A and 1-B (**see map on the following page**). 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 to the park.

**Plan for the Weather/Altitude:** Weather can change rapidly or might be very different from where you are located. To find out what the local weather is during your trip, please refer to 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 used to. Plan to take your time on hikes and watch campers for signs of altitude sickness (nausea, dizziness, headaches).

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

**Manzanita Lake Temperatures**