

Johnston Ridge Observatory & Eruption Trail

10:00 Arrival Time

Before you leave

Gather chaperones and define your expectations for them during the field trip. Chaperones are responsible for helping students' complete their assigned activities and for supervising their student groups' behavior at all times.

Leave your school and drive on I-5 to the Castle Rock exit #49. Drive to the Johnston Ridge Observatory on State Route 504. Review the Monument's rules and regulations, and complete "Reading the Landscape" mapping activity en route.

10:00 to 10:10

A ranger will board your bus and review rules and expectations upon your arrival to the Johnston Ridge Observatory parking lot. If the ranger is not present, have your students wait on the bus while a chaperone walks up to inform us of your arrival.

10:10 to 10:40

Students use information from exhibits inside the Observatory to complete the worksheet "Constructive Destruction".

10:40 to 11:00

Watch the 10:40 showing of "Message from the Mountain," a 16-minute theater presentation on the May 18, 1980, eruption and subsequent dome building eruptions. **Theater doors close automatically at 10:40. No admittance after the movie begins, next show is biologically focused and starts at 11:10.**

11:00 to 11:30

Students use information from exhibits inside the Observatory to complete the worksheet "Constructive Destruction".

11:30 to 12:10

Ask the ranger and the information desk to make an announcement directing students to return to the bus to eat lunch. Due to problems with food scraps, litter and aggressive ground squirrels we request that school groups not eat lunch in the viewing plaza adjacent to the observatory.

12:10 to 1:30

Return to the viewing plaza and conduct one of the "Eruption Trail" lesson plans posted on the teachers corner:

If you want to examine the lateral blasts impacts conduct: Mass Gas Blast".

If you want to examine the eruptions impacts on a landscape level conduct: Mount St. Helens: Flowing, Blowing, Glowing".

If you want to examine the lateral blasts impact to and recovery on Johnston Ridge: "A Fine Line Between Life & Death"

If you want to examine the eruptions impacts and recovery on a landscape level conduct: "Biologic Pathways"

It has taken decades for plant life to gain a foothold on this ridge. Make sure students stay on the trail and do not collect rocks, ash, wood or plants. This trail ends in the parking lot; when students complete the activity, have them follow it back to the bus.

1:10 to 1:30

Depart for Castle Lake Viewpoint.

1:30 to 2:00

Arrive to Castle Lake Viewpoint and conduct the activity "Ethical Equilibrium".

2:00

Depart for your school. Conduct "Volcanoes A-Z" activity en route to your school.