



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

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Hawai'i Volcanoes NEWS RELEASE

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Eruption: An Island Rising From the Sea

Millions to Embark on Virtual Tour of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park through Electronic Field Trip

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, The National Park Foundation, and Ball State University have joined together to connect more than 23 million children and community members from all 50 states in a simultaneous virtual visit to Kilauea, the world's most active volcano.

On Tuesday, December 5th, children from across the country will take part in an Electronic Field Trip complete with live tours, in-class activities, and an online panel of experts. Students will have opportunities to ask questions through a live satellite feed, email and phone calls.

The interactive 60-minute program, developed by teachers and National Park Service educators, will broadcast live at 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm EST (8:00 am and 10:00 am HST). Information about the field trip, *Eruption: an Island Rising from the Sea*, can be found www.bsu.edu/eft. The live broadcasts can be viewed at www.bsu.edu/eft/volcanoes.

According to Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando, "By embracing partnerships and overcoming logistical challenges, this program will showcase active volcanism, verdant rain forests, and the indigenous people forever linked to this land. Not to be missed, tune in for an opportunity of a lifetime."

"How exciting to have students learn from other students about Hawai'i's living culture, volcanic history, and plants and animals found no place else on earth," said Jim Gale, Chief Interpreter at Hawai'i Volcanoes.

"America's National Parks have preserved our landscape, history and culture for more than a century," said Vin Cipolla, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "Using cutting-edge technology to connect our children to Hawai'i's magnificent volcanoes will ensure that they become responsible stewards and are inspired to learn more about geological wonders found in our parks and in their own backyards."

"This innovative use of interactive technology allows viewers to see first hand, the inner-workings of a volcano, interact with leading experts, and deepen their learning experience through the use of Web-based educational games and lesson plans based on national standards," said Ball State President Jo Ann M. Gora.

Ball State's Electronic Field Trips program, which is sponsored by Best Buy Children's Foundation, received six Telly Awards for last year's programming. The Web site is a key part of the program and was honored by the Center for Digital Education with a Best of the Web award in 2005 and two gold awards at the 2006 World Media Festival.

Additional support for this Electronic Field Trip was provided by the UPS Foundation, Iridium Satellite, Ace Contractor, Inc., and Airgas.

In addition to participating onsite in Hawai'i, there are opportunities for members of the media to participate in local schools across the country or to access the satellite feed of the broadcast airing at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. (EDT). The satellite coordinates are Ku-Band, Galaxy 10R DIG, Transponder 06-Chan B, Downlink Frequency 11814 (H) 123 WL (a 30 minute test period precedes the broadcast) and C-Band, Intelsat A-6, Transponder 14, Downlink frequency 3980 (H) 93 WL (a 30 minute test period precedes the broadcast).

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About Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park was established on August 1, 1916, the 12th National Park in a system that now numbers 390 areas. The mission of the 333,086 acre park is to preserve for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations, the significant resources that reflect Hawai'i's geological, biological, and cultural heritage. These resources demonstrate the powerful and awe-inspiring volcanic forces that create new land and the unique adaptations of plants, animals, and people to that land. In recognition of its outstanding values, Hawai'i Volcanoes has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve (1980) and a World Heritage Site (1987).

About the National Park Foundation

The National Park Foundation (www.nationalparks.org) is 501(c)(3) organization chartered by Congress in 1967 to continue a century-long tradition of private philanthropy to help preserve and enhance the legacy of our National Parks. As the official non-profit partner of America's National Parks, the National Park Foundation strengthens the connection between the American people and their National Parks by raising private funds, making strategic grants, creating innovative partnerships and increasing public awareness. Support of the National Park Foundation ensures that the evolving history and rich heritage of our Nation remains vital and relevant.

About Ball State University

Ball State University (www.bsu.edu), located in Muncie, Ind., is the third-largest public university in Indiana, with more than 18,000 students. Named the nation's best wireless campus in 2005, the university has 11 nationally ranked or recognized academic programs and initiatives. Originally a private teacher training school when it opened in 1899, Ball State became a university in 1965. The 1,035-acre campus in Delaware County is an hour's drive northeast of Indianapolis.

Remaining Electronic Field Trip Schedule for 2006-07:

- "Desert Diamonds Behind Barbed Wire," Feb. 19, 2007, Manzanar War Relocation Center, California
- "Going, Going, Faster: The Science of Speed!" April 17, 2007, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis
- "Listening to our Ancestors," May 8, 2007, North Pacific Coast, Juneau, Alaska

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