



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

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Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

May 15, 2004

Like a Lei, Children's Program Weaves Fun and Science Together

Youngsters from 9 to 12 years old will have an opportunity this summer to join park rangers in "Keiki o Hawai'i Nei," a fun-filled, 3-day exploration of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

The program is designed to help kindle a child's enthusiasm for learning by connecting them with the park's staff and resources. "We look to enrich the children's appreciation of that which is uniquely Hawaiian," said Park Ranger Joni Mae Makuakane-Jarrell.

The children will hike beneath towering tree ferns and over fields of ropey pahoehoe. They'll feel the steam, smell the sulfur, and catch a glimpse of some of Hawai'i's rare birds. They'll come to know why Kilauea is "wahi kapu," a place sacred to Hawai'i's first people as the home of Pele, goddess of the volcano.

Kupuna Katherine Dambley will teach the children traditional Hawaiian values and history. Through song, music, and drama, "The Lava Jam Band" will bring science to life. The children will learn to identify the island's unique plants and animals and understand how they depend upon each other.

Park botanists, geologists, firefighters, and archeologists will share their personal stories of the role they play in protecting the park's natural and cultural resources. The children will take their turn as "Junior Park Rangers" as they help to eradicate non-native plants and replace them with natives at the park's Education Center.

The children will also travel to Punalu`u Blacksand Beach and be greeted by Hawaiian Cultural Educator Keola Hanoa. Hanoa will share her mana`o on respect for the ocean, stewardship for the turtles, and living a traditional Hawaiian lifestyle.

There will be two sessions of the 3-day program. Each session is limited to 25 children, and will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 22 to 24 and July 20 to 22, 2004.

Participants should be able to carry a day pack with water, snacks, lunch, and raingear, and hike up to three miles at a leisurely pace.

For more information or to register a child for the program, call the park's Education Center at (808) 985-6019.

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