



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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Children's Program Weaves Fun and Science Together

Youngsters from 9 to 12 years old are invited to join park rangers in Keiki o Hawai'i Nei, a fun-filled, 3-day exploration of Hawai'i's natural and cultural heritage.

There will be two sessions of the 3-day program. Each session is limited to 25 children, and will run from 8 am to 3 pm on June 13 to 15 and June 27 to 29, 2005.

The program is designed to encourage a child's enthusiasm for learning by connecting them with the park's staff and resources. "We look to promote the childrens' appreciation for 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 volcanoes.

Through song, music, and dance, Kupuna Katherine Dambly will teach the children traditional Hawaiian values and history. The children will learn to identify native plants and animals, understand the inter-relatedness of island lifeforms, and learn how Hawaiians used them in their daily life for food, shelter, and clothing.

The children will join park archeologist Jennifer Waipa on a hike through the Ka'u Desert to see centuries-old footprints. They'll work alongside plant propagation specialist Sierra McDaniel, pulling up alien plants and replacing them with natives.

The children will also travel to the home of Kupuna John and Violet Makuakane in Opihikao, Puna. The couple will share their mana'o on living a traditional Hawaiian lifestyle through respect and stewardship for the land and ocean. The children will prepare and enjoy a traditional Hawaiian meal. They'll learn to cook pig, sweet potato, and taro in an imu and make laulau, haupia, and poi.

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 your child for the program, call the park's Education Center at (808) 985-6019.



Park Ranger Joni Mae Makuakane-Jarrell, invites children to join summer program.

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