

## Johnston Ridge Observatory & Eruption Trail

11:00 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.

- 11:00 to 11:10 Upon arrival the Johnston Ridge Observatory have your students wait on the bus while a chaperone walks up to inform us of your arrival (we try to have the ranger waiting in the pickup drop off zone). A ranger will board your bus and review rules and behavioral expectations.
- 11:10 to 11:40 Students use information from exhibits inside the Observatory to complete the worksheet "Constructive Destruction".
- 11:40 to 12:00 Watch the 11:40 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 11:40. No admittance after the movie begins, next show starts at 12:10.**
- 12:00 to 12:45 As students exit the theater direct them back to the bus to **eat lunch**. Due to problems associated with food scraps, litter and aggressive ground squirrels we request that school groups not eat lunch in the viewing plaza adjacent to the observatory.
- 12:45 to 1:45 Return to the viewing plaza and Conduct one of the "Eruption Trail" lesson plans posted on the teachers corner:  
Earth Science: Mount St. Helens: Flowing, Blowing, Glowing.  
Earth & Life Sciences: A Fine Line Between Life & Death  
OR  
Biologic Pathways
- Explain the importance of students staying on the trail at all times. It has taken almost 30 years for plant life to get a foothold on this shattered ridge top. **There is a \$100 fine for walking off the trail, and for collecting rocks, plants, or animals.**
- 1:45 to ??? This trail ends in the parking lot; when students complete the activity, have them follow the trail back to the bus. Depart for your school. Conduct "Volcanoes A-Z" activity en route to your school.