

THE MOUNT ST. HELENS INSTITUTE PRESENTS:



VOLCANO AFTER DARK



*A fun and educational overnight program
under the shadow of Mount St. Helens!*



Group Coordinator/ Chaperone Packet

The Mount St. Helens Institute is excited to work with you to make the Volcano After Dark program a success for your group of 10-30 youth ages 8-16. We will work closely with you to ensure your visit to Mount St. Helens is a huge success!

What is the role of the group coordinator?

The group coordinator is the adult who is in charge of organizing their groups trip to Mount St. Helens. They will work with parents to arrange payment, transportation, chaperone support and waivers for the trip. They also are responsible for answering questions parents may have. They will be the person who is in direct contact with the Mount St. Helens Institute Volcano After Dark coordinator to work out all the details of the program. While the group coordinator does not have to accompany the group on the trip, they need to ensure that the chaperones are prepared for the program.

What is the role of a chaperone?

Volcano After Dark requires a 1-5 chaperone-to-student ratio. Chaperones are responsible for supervising the children at all times. Chaperones will be actively involved in the Volcano After Dark experience. Duties chaperones may be asked to take on or supervise include preparing meals, cleaning, hike support and activity set-up. Chaperones are required to sleep in the visitor center with the children (be ready for a night on the floor!).

Code of Conduct for Volcano After Dark Participants: The Mount St. Helens Institute wants you to have a great time at Mount St. Helens! To make sure everyone's stay is an enjoyable one, we ask all participants to follow these rules:

- All participants are expected to act in a safe, respectful manner.
- One chaperone is required for every eight students and must stay with these students at all times.
- In order to protect Mount St. Helens' fragile ecosystem, all participants must stay on paved paths and trails.
- After "Lights Out", chaperones are responsible for keeping students in their sleeping bags.
- All student MP3 players, cell phones, electronic games must be kept with their luggage and not used during the Volcano After Dark program.
- All participants must wear proper footwear (tennis shoes or hiking boots) during hikes.



Equipment List

- Signed Program Waiver (to be collected by the group coordinator)
- Headlamp/ Flashlight
- Sturdy hiking boots or tennis shoes (No open-toed shoes)
- Backpack for all gear (can also be used on hikes)
- Water bottle
- Warm Clothing (it gets *cold* near the Volcano and we will be outside a lot!)
- Pajamas
- Toiletries (wash cloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, etc.)
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Sleeping pad is recommended (Please, no cots)
- No electronics or food will be allowed in the building

What Group Coordinator Needs to Bring to the Volcano

- All equipment listed above
- A list of all the participants to give to program staff
- Signed program waivers from all participants

Transportation

The Mount St. Helens Institute does not arrange transportation to and from Mount St. Helens. The Volcano After Dark program begins when the group arrives at the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center. Groups usually choose to travel by bus or by carpool to the mountain. If the group chooses to travel by bus, drivers will be allowed to stay overnight as part of the group.

Access

Please notify the Volcano After Dark coordinator prior to the overnight if any member of your group has special needs. Certain trails at the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center are wheelchair accessible. We are better able to accommodate your needs with advance notice.



Cancellation Policy

A non-refundable \$200 deposit is required with your registration. A 90% refund on the remaining balance will be made if a group cancellation is received at least 5 days prior to your scheduled date. A 10% administration fee will be withheld. Individual participant cancellations must be arranged through group coordinator and will not be refunded by the Mount St. Helens Institute. If participants do not show up for scheduled event, program fees will not be refunded.

In the event that the Mount st. Helens Institute must cancel a scheduled program, groups will receive a full refund.

The Mount St. Helens Institute is not liable for any other expenses that the participants may have incurred in the preparation and execution of the event.

Payment Information

A \$200 deposit is required with your contract to guarantee your groups' spot in the Volcano After Dark program. The remainder of the balance is due 2 weeks before the program. Checks should be payable to the Mount St. Helens Institute.

Directions to Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center:

- From I-5, take Exit #49 (Highway 504 exit)
- Head east on Highway 504 (Spirit Lake Memorial Highway)
- Travel approximately 43 miles to the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center (*there are no signs for the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center. Once you enter the Monument, you will travel straight on Hwy. 504. DO NOT TURN when signs direct visitors to turn right to go to the Johnston Ridge Observatory. You will reach a gate at the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center where staff will be waiting to meet you.*)

Travel Time from Portland: Approximately 2 hours

Travel Time from Seattle: Approximately 2.5 hours

Contact Info

All correspondence can be directed to

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