



NEWS



From the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

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Commemorative events, new exhibits, and an ever changing landscape awaits visitors to Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument during this 30th anniversary year

VANCOUVER, WASH –Marking 30 years since the cataclysmic May 18, 1980 eruption, visitors to Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument will learn more about the ongoing geological and biological changes at the Monument thanks to new exhibits, new and updated interpretive signs and kiosks, and additional interpretive rangers around the Monument. Johnston Ridge Observatory will reopen for the season on Sunday, May 16. Commemorative events will be held each day beginning May 15 through May 18 along the Highway 504 Spirit Lake Memorial corridor. Throughout this commemorative year, visitors can plan their trips to Mount St. Helens thanks to a calendar of events at www.cowlitztoday.com. The Forest Service has created an anniversary website at www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/msh30.

Beginning May 16, Johnston Ridge Observatory will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through October. Admission to the Observatory and Coldwater Lake is \$8 per person, kids 15 and under are free.

"This anniversary year is a wonderful time to join family and friends to return to Mount St. Helens," said Tom Mulder, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Manager. "I appreciate the tremendous contribution of volunteers and partners at Mount St. Helens. It is exciting that there are so many ways that anyone who treasures this landscape can get involved. We're working on interpretive exhibits, signs, presentations and other projects that reflect the changing biological and geological stories, and we look forward to welcoming visitors during the 30th anniversary."

Visitors will be able to gaze into the crater and view North America's youngest glacier and learn how the landscape was reshaped by the 1980 eruption. The visitor center offers live seismographs, geologic exhibits, 16-minute eruption movie, ranger-talks, and bookstore.

Admission on the 30th Anniversary of the 1980 eruption, on Tuesday, May 18, is free; this includes admission to Johnston Ridge and Coldwater Lake. As part of the 30th anniversary commemoration, National Geographic photographers will show many of the photographs taken as part of the magazine's May 2010 edition at a limited seating commemorative event beginning at 10 am. The award winning movie 'Message from the Mountain' will resume showing at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

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The new film “Mount St. Helens: Life From Zero” chronicling the ecological recovery of Mount St. Helens will debut in the Pacific Northwest. The first screening is in Seattle April 13 at 7 pm at the Seattle Musical Theater, 7120 62nd NE. The film will show in Battle Ground, Washington on April 14 at 7 pm at the Battle Ground Cinema, 1700 SW 9th Avenue. In Portland, the film will show at the Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy Boulevard on April 15 at 7 pm. Suggested donation for the film is \$10 to benefit educational programs provided by the Mount St. Helens Institute.

The Mount St. Helens Institute (MSHI) welcomes visitors of all ages to Coldwater Lake and Johnston Ridge Observatory at Mount St. Helens on May 15, 2010 for It’s a Blast: Volcano Science in Your Backyard. This public, ticketed event features a variety of fun and engaging science activities, scientist led hikes, and special anniversary talks. Tickets are available online at www.mshinstitute.org. Admission is \$10 per person (kids 8 and under are free.) Visit the Institute’s website for more information.

The Hoffstadt Bluff Visitor Center operated by Cowlitz County will host a special event “Tell Your Story” on Sunday, May 16 from 10 am to 4 pm highlighting first hand accounts of the 1980 eruption. Additional information can be found at www.mt-st-helens.com. Admission is free to the center.

The Forest Learning Center on Highway 504 will be open extended days from May 14 through May 18 to commemorate the 30th anniversary. More information of the Forest Learning Center can be found at <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/Sustainability/MountStHelens>. Admission is free to the center.

On Monday, May 17, the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Silver Lake operated by the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission will host an event from 10 am to 6 pm highlighting first responders to emergency events. More information about the visitor center and entrance fees can be found at <http://www.parks.wa.gov/interp/mountsthelens/>.

The Pine Creek Information Station, located along Forest Road 90 at the east end of Swift Reservoir, will reopen Saturday, May 15. The information station is a partnership between the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mount St. Helens Institute, Skamania County, Discover Your Northwest, Cougar Area Trail Seekers and the Swift Community Action Team. Hours of operation will be 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily through Labor Day.

Additional information about access to the Monument and roads blocked by snow pack can be obtained online at www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/current-conditions or by calling (360) 449-7800.

About Mount St. Helens

At 8:32 Sunday morning, May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted. Shaken by an earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale, the north face of this tall symmetrical mountain collapsed in a massive rock debris avalanche. Nearly 230 square miles of forest were blown down or buried beneath volcanic deposits. At the same time a mushroom-shaped column of ash rose thousands of feet skyward and drifted downwind, turning day into night as dark, gray ash fell over eastern Washington and beyond. The eruption lasted nine hours, but Mount St. Helens and the surrounding landscape were dramatically changed within moments.

Please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/mshnvm/> for more information on Mount St. Helens.

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