

Education Programs

AT

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Oregon

- The Geologic Puzzle of Turtle Cove (2.5 hours) and Horse Family Tree (2.75 hours) programs are now offered to students from 5th to 8th grade, and 8th to 12th grade respectively. The programs are designed to meet many Oregon Department of Education, science curriculum “concept and processes” goals for 5th, 8th, and 11th grades. Students will participate in classroom studies, visit the monument fossil museum, observe nearby valley formations, participate in demonstrations and discussions of geologic and/or paleontologic processes, and break into groups for group studies projects and final oral presentations. These programs are conducted at the Sheep Rock Unit of the monument, primarily outdoors. Class size may range from 8 to 35 in number. Three weeks notice (minimum) is recommended, allowing time for the teacher packet (with classroom activities) to arrive and necessary in-class preparation of students for their visit.
- **FOSSIL KIT:** As an outreach program we offer a mailable kit containing over twenty fossil specimens, VHS videos, slide programs with scripts, and literature and activities addressing fossils and geologic time. Teachers can present the contents of this kit in class, adaptable for students from grades 3-12. Schools will need to pay the FEDEX/UPS shipping costs for this kit, or pick-up and/or return the kit by hand.
- **TEACHER PACKET:** A general packet of information and activities, adaptable for use by teachers, grades 3 through 12, will be sent upon request. This packet focuses on the geology and paleontology of the John Day Fossil Bed area.
- **VHS VIDEO:** Three orientation films (on one video) addressing the prehistory of the John Day River Basin fossil record, the work of the monument paleontologist and staff, and the evolution of the horse, may be borrowed for showings outside the monument. These films have been used effectively in grades 3 through 12.
- **JUNIOR PARK RANGER PROGRAM:** Designed for self-motivated students of all ages interested in geology and paleontology, this program can be completed by either a visit to the all three units of the monument, or specific projects for the classroom. Rewards include a Junior Park Ranger badge, certificate, and photo recognition at our monument visitor center.
- Ranger-conducted talks, and hikes into nearby (outdoor) fossil bed areas, can be scheduled that focus on the geology and paleontological story. These 60 to 90 minute programs are for students of all ages. Also, ranger-conducted fossil museum talks are offered at the monument’s visitor center for students of all ages. These talks range from 10 to 30 minutes, dependent on the subject discussed. These programs should be scheduled in advance.

Specially designed programs for school groups are a challenge we look forward to. Should you have special needs, please call our education program office at ... **(541) 987-2333**.