



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

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Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

Keiki o Hawai'i Nei, a Fun-filled Opportunity to Explore, Discover, and Learn



***Found only in Hawai'i,
an 'i'iwi proclaims its
good fortune in finding
lehua blossoms filled
with sweet nectar***

Youngsters from 9 to 12 years old will have an opportunity this summer to join park rangers in *Keiki o Hawai'i Nei*, a fun-filled 3½ day exploration of Hawai'i Volcanoes and Kaloko-Honokohau national parks.

The program is designed to help kindle a child's enthusiasm for learning by connecting them with Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. They'll grow in an understanding and appreciation of that which is uniquely Hawaiian.

The children will learn two traditional Hawaiian chants. They'll hike beneath towering koa and 'ohi'a in Kipukapuauulu and explore amazing lava formations on their way to Pu'uuhuluhulu. They'll feel the steam, smell the sulfur, and come to know why Kilauea is *wahi kapu*, a place sacred to Native Hawaiians as the home of Pele, goddess of the volcano.

Fieldtrips to the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center, Kahuku, and Kaloko-Honokohau will expand the childrens' horizons. They'll hear the songs and catch a glimpse of Hawai'i's rarest birds, learn to identify native plants and animals, and discover what they can do to protect the green sea turtle.

The children should be able to carry a day pack with their lunch, water, and raingear, and hike up to three miles at a leisurely pace. Those who participate in the program will receive a Junior Ranger badge and certificate, lanyard with compass, activity book, patches, games, postcards, and flash cards.

The program is limited to 24 children and will start each day at 7:30 a.m. from Monday, June 16 through Thursday, June 19, 2008.

For more information or to register a child, call the park's Education Center at (808) 985-6019 and leave a message that includes a contact name and phone number.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.