

St. Helens Anniversary Turns 30

Events commemorate 1980 eruption

On May 18, 1980 Mount St. Helens erupted for 9 hours, altering 230 square miles of forest and killing 57 people. It was an event that made international news and changed people's perceptions of the Pacific Northwest's volcanoes.

This year, it's time to look back and remember that watershed moment that deeply affected people's lives. The Mount St. Helens Institute is hosting many entertaining and educational events to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1980 eruption.

May 4: Volcano Views and Brews Public Gathering. "Remembering Spirit Lake: A Community Remembrance." Bring your stories, memories and photographs to share. 7 p.m. Lucky Labrador, 1945 N.W. Quimby St.

May 4 and May 18: Volcano Explorers Program for students. An interactive video-conference program connecting 4th-8th graders to volcanologists and introducing them to the fascinating science discoveries taking place at Mount St. Helens. 1 p.m., Various elementary and middle schools.

May 15: "It's a Blast: Volcano Science in Your Backyard." A day of hands-on science discovery at Johnston Ridge Observatory, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 16: Johnston Ridge Observatory Opening Day.

May 18: Johnston Ridge Observatory commemoration events with free admission. View new exhibits and updated facility. Photographers will present volcano images featured in the May 2010 issue of National Geographic.

May 18: "The Power of Nature: Mount St. Helens 1980 – 2010." An evening with Gary Snyder, Ursula K. Le Guin and Jerry Franklin, 7:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 1126 S.W. Park.

More information about these events is available at mshinstitute.org.

The Mount St. Helens Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people of all ages gain an understanding of the natural processes and cultural heritage of the Pacific Northwest's volcanic landscapes. The institute promotes stewardship, science and appreciation of the Northwest.

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