Climbers on the south crater rim with Mt. Adams in the distance (South side, Forest Road 83).

Climbing Mount St. Helens

Climbing Permits are required for travel above 4800 feet (tree line) year round. Between April 1st and October 31st a fee of $22 is charged for each permit. Starting February 1st, permits are sold in advance online on a first-come-first-served basis. Climbers should be aware that in rare instances rock and ash from small explosive eruptions can reach the crater rim. Visit the climbing website for detailed information about volcanic hazards, safety equipment, and how to purchase a climbing permit online: www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/recreation/mount-st-helens/

School Groups

Teachers, registration for field trips is online, easy, and is required! Our website will help prepare you and your students for your visit to Mount St. Helens. You will find online registration forms, suggested itineraries, downloadable lesson plans and descriptions of ranger-led programs. Also included are descriptions of our sites, driving times, maps and directions. www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/mshnvmeducation/teachers_corner

Help Protect Mount St. Helens

In 1982, Congress established the 110,300 acre Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument to provide for scientific research, education, and recreation.

- Stay on paved areas and designated hiking trails.
- Do not disturb or remove any natural feature.
- Do not feed the animals.
- Keep pets on the leash and in designated pet areas.

Mount Margaret Backcountry

Trails in the Mount Margaret Backcountry climb over 2,000 feet in elevation and may be snow-covered until mid-summer. Eight designated campsites are available at four lakes and four ridge top locations, some with crater views. Backcountry permits are required and camping is limited to designated campsites only (maximum of four people per campsite). Pets, pack stock, and fires are prohibited. Permits are available at Monument Headquarters in Amboy, Johnston Ridge Observatory and Cowlitz Valley Ranger Station. Additional details are online: www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/04mshnvm/ backcountry/index.shtml or by calling (360) 449-7800.
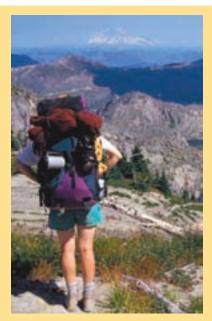
A backpacker looks north into the Mount Margaret Backcountry.

Be Prepared for Volcanic Ashfall!

Volcanic ash is rock dust blown into the air by a steam or gas eruption, rock fall, or high-winds.

If you encounter volcanic ashfall:

- Remain calm. Ash is not toxic.
- Seek shelter inside a building or vehicle.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a moist cloth or towel and wait until ash settles.
- Drive slowly, ash reduces visibility and traction.

Contact Information

Emergency (Police, Medical, and Fire) · · · · · · · · · · · · · · **Dial 911**

Forest Service Offices

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Headquarters (Amboy) · · · · · · **(360) 449-7800**
www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/mshnvm

Johnston Ridge Observatory · **(360) 274-2140**

Cowlitz Valley Ranger Station (Randle) · **(360) 497-1100**

Gifford Pinchot National Forest Headquarters (Vancouver) · · · · · · · · · · · · **(360) 891-5000**
www.fs.fed.us/gpnf

Mt. Adams Ranger Station (Trout Lake) · **(509) 395-3400**

Other Resources

Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Seaquest State Park · · · · · · · · · · · · · · **(360) 274-0962**
www.parks.wa.gov/mountsthelens.asp

Climber's Register (at Lone Fir Resort, Cougar) · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · **(360) 238-5210**

National Recreation Reservations (Federal Campgrounds) · · · · · · · · · · · · **(877) 444-6777**
www.recreation.gov

PacifiCorp (campgrounds at reservoirs south of Mount St. Helens) · · · · · · · · · **(503) 813-6666**
(see Recreation, Washington)
www.pacificpower.net

Washington State Parks · **(800) 233-0321**
www.parks.wa.gov/parks

Mount St. Helens Institute · **(360) 449-7887**
www.mshinstitute.org

Northwest Interpretive Association · **(360) 274-2127**
www.nwpubliclands.org

Mount St. Helens Forest Learning Center · **(360) 414-3439**
www.weyerhaeuser.com/sthelens

Washington State Tourism · **(800) 544-1800**
www.experiencewashington.com