

Dragonflies at New Melones Lake



Two young participants show off their Popsicle-stick dragonflies.

On Saturday, August 25, 18 youth and adults, ages 4 to 55, were excited to learn about the life of dragonflies and damselflies at the Glory Hole Amphitheater at New Melones Lake near Sonora, Calif.

The evolution of the insects, their anatomy, life cycle and their importance to the ecosystem were discussed. Microscopes and hand lenses enabled the participants to get a close-up view of dragonfly specimens found at New Melones Lake. The attendees asked many questions as they watched dragonflies fly around the stage at dusk. The children and adults then created colorful masks and Popsicle-stick and finger-ring dragonflies.

Interpretive programs and events at New Melones Lake tie into President Barack Obama's *America's Great Outdoors* initiative (<http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/>), which seeks to empower Americans to share in the responsibility to conserve, restore and provide better access to our lands and waters and leave a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for generations to come. Ranger-led activities also support the Department of the Interior's *Let's Move Outside* initiative (<http://www.letsmove.gov/lets-move-outside>), which was created to encourage children and their families to enjoy outdoor activities, which abound in every city, town and community.

For additional information on dragonflies and damselflies, please visit the following University of California website: <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/arthropoda/uniramia/odonatoidea.html>.



Park Ranger Hilary Maxworthy educates the audience with an interesting presentation on dragonflies and damselflies.