

FOREST SPOTLIGHT

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Big Valley Kids in the Woods Day



The Lava Beds National Park Headquarters lies in Northeastern California and is adjacent with the Modoc National Forest.

Alturas, Calif. – Big Valley Kids in the Woods Day marked its twenty-first year with excitement. Seventy seven Big Valley K-6 students met at the Lava Beds National Park on a beautiful morning full of adventure and learning.

The Lava Beds National Park hosted this year inviting the children to tour the impressive Lava Tube Caves of the park. Modoc National Forest employees worked with Lava Beds personnel to make the event safe and educational for



Interpretive Rangers visited with the children about unique cave life and just how the impressive volcanic geology of the Lava Beds formed many centuries ago.

everyone in attendance. Following a discussion about safety, everyone was screened for a potential health concern for the native bats in the cave system known as White Nose Syndrome.

Upon venturing into the Valentine and Mushpot caves, the young

spelunkers learned firsthand about the formation of lava tubes and the life inside. Cave life included plants growing near the entrance and an occasional scurrying springtail insect deeper inside. Meanwhile, dripstone formations inside dripped water droplets from above.

At “The Wild 1870’s” led by Modoc National Forest’s Debby Peck, the students learned of the rich and wild history of the Lava Beds and surrounding Modoc National Forest. “I have loved being here on this day for the last 21 years now,” Peck said with enthusiasm. “I know of an early participant who is now grown and has become an Archaeologist. That’s just awesome!”



Here Modoc National Forest’s Debby Peck, uses her story telling ability and historical knowledge to educate and entertain students at her program titled “The Wild 1870’s”.

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