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## **Mono Basin Junior Ranger Program**

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### **For Immediate Release**

In conjunction with the USDA Forest Service, the Mono Lake Committee has developed a new Junior Ranger program for the Mono Basin! Visiting families can pick up a free Junior Ranger Adventure Guide at either the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore or the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center, both located in the town of Lee Vining. The adventure guide contains puzzles, word games, kid-friendly scientific data collection pages, spaces for kids to write down their own observations, information about the Mono Basin, and a Junior Ranger pledge. The activities are designed to complement the visitor center exhibits and the summer interpretive programs taking place around the lake so that kids have many sources for filling out their guides. When they complete their adventure guides, kids can bring them to either visitor center in Lee Vining to receive a free Mono Basin Junior Ranger patch!

Mono Lake is a great place for children of all ages. Families can stroll through groves of otherworldly tufa towers, hike up a volcano, catch brine shrimp from the shore, or float buoyantly in Mono Lake's salty water. Boat tours on the lake are available, or families can walk along the creek in the forest. The town of Lee Vining has a selection of restaurants and comfortable hotels that are perfect for rounding out a day of adventures, or families can find camping spots in Lee Vining Canyon or Lundy Canyon as well.

The Mono Basin Junior Ranger program complements similar Junior Ranger programs near Highway 395. Death Valley National Park, Yosemite National Park, and Bodie State Historic Park all have Junior Ranger programs focusing on each particular location, so that by the end of a summer vacation, kids will know a great deal about these important California landmarks!

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*The Mono Lake Committee is a nonprofit citizens' group dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem, educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use, and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.*