

Community Education – Spring Quarter 2026

Course Title: Geology of Pacific Northwest National Parks

Instructor: Prof. Kyle Dittmer

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Course Details

- Item # 43945
- Fee \$129.00
- Ridgefield Campus (7000 Pioneer St), in-person, Room # 208
- Thursday afternoons, April 23, 30. May 7, 14, 21. 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Course Description

Learn about the geologic forces of nature that shaped the scenic beauty of the National Parks in the Pacific Northwest. This knowledge is great when you travel to these parks in the summer. After an overview of basic geology, each week will show-case a variety of National Parks (and Monuments) of the Pacific Northwest.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Understand how the forces of geology produced the beautiful landscapes of PNW National Parks
- Learn to appreciate the science of field geology in explaining a big variety of park features

Course Schedule

Week 1

Overview of Plate Tectonics, Volcanoes, mountain building forces, the Rock Cycle.

Week 2

Geology of Glaciers, Streams and Sedimentation, Hillslopes, Deserts, Groundwater, Caves, etc.

Week 3

Washington National Parks – Mount Rainier, Olympics, North Cascades.

Week 4

Oregon National Parks – Crater Lake, John Day Fossil Beds, Oregon Caves.

Week 5

Idaho, Wyoming, Montana National Parks – Craters of the Moon, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Glacier.



Resources

Recommended references for further study:

- USGS Northwest Parks, <https://www.usgs.gov/geology-and-ecology-of-national-parks/northwest>

Class Evaluation

- Class evaluations are sent by email.
- If you don't see it right away, check your **junk/spam folder**.
- Evaluations are **anonymous** and come directly from Clark College.
- If you don't receive one, contact:
 - Email: continuingeducation@clark.edu
 - Phone: 360-992-2939

Inclement Weather

- If the college closes due to weather, updates will appear at www.clark.edu
- Community Education may also cancel classes independently if travel is unsafe.

- If canceled, you will be notified by both phone and email.
 - Please check that your contact information is correct on the class roster.
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