

# Driving & Gate Directions

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**GROUP COORDINATOR:** Make sure ALL drivers are informed of and have hard copies of the Driving & Gate Directions (2 pages).

## To the Science and Learning Center at Coldwater

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- From I-5, take Exit #49 Castle Rock (SR 504)
- Head east on SR 504 (Spirit Lake Memorial Highway)
- Travel approximately 43 miles to the Science and Learning Center at Coldwater
- You do NOT need a parking pass.

*Please note that* there are no signs for the Science and Learning Center. Once you enter the Monument, you will travel east on Hwy. 504. After mile marker 42, you will encounter a fork in the road. Stay left at the fork in the road (DO NOT veer right to go to the Johnston Ridge Observatory). You will soon reach a closed gate at the Science & Learning Center that is unlocked but looks locked. **Follow the directions on the map on the next page to open the gate.** See Google Map [here](#).

## To the Hummocks Trail Head

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- From I-5, take Exit #49 Castle Rock (SR 504)
- Head east on SR 504 (Spirit Lake Memorial Highway)
- At approximately 43 miles veer right at the fork in the road, heading down hill toward Coldwater Lake and Johnston Ridge Observatory Visitor Center
- After about 2 miles, the Hummocks Trail Head will be on your right.
- You do NOT need a parking pass.
- See Google Map [here](#).

## To Coldwater Lake Picnic Area

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- From I-5, take Exit #49 Castle Rock (SR 504)
- Head east on SR 504 (Spirit Lake Memorial Highway)
- At approximately 43 miles veer right at the fork in the road, heading down hill toward Coldwater Lake and Johnston Ridge Observatory Visitor Center
- After about 2 miles, turn left for the Coldwater Lake picnic area.
- You do NOT need a parking pass.
- See Google Map [here](#).

# DRIVING & GATE DIRECTIONS



From I-5 take exit 49: WA-504 E/Mt St Helens Way NE  
 Remember to gas up your vehicle in Castle Rock or Toutle! It is 40+ mile uphill drive. The closest gas to the SLC/JRO is at Drew's Grocery in Toutle: 5304 Spirit Lake Highway.  
 Around mile marker 43, the speed limit goes to 25 mph and the road forks.

## TO GO TO:

### Science and Learning Center (SLC)

LEFT at fork.  
 Stay straight to open and go through gate (see bottom of page for instructions on how to open gate). Close gate. The road will turn right, continue straight downhill to the parking lot.

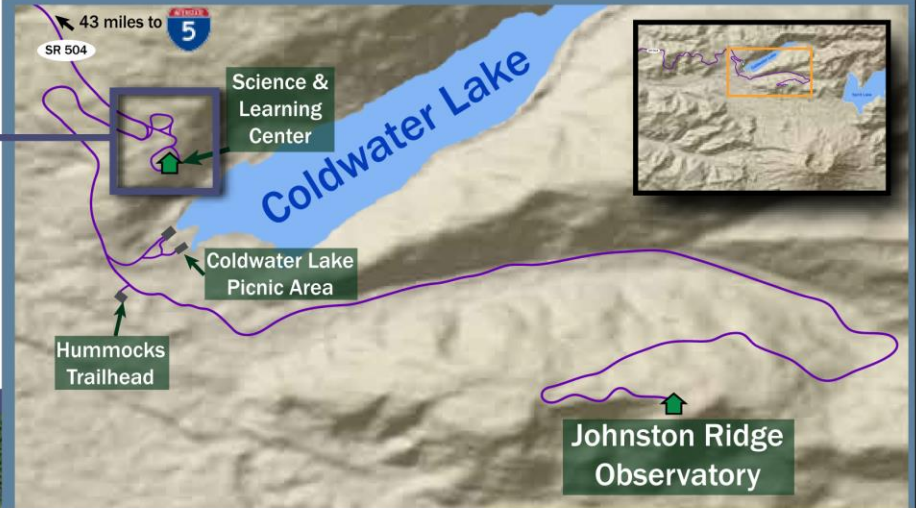
### Coldwater Lake Picnic Area, Hummocks Trail, or Johnston Ridge Observatory (JRO)

RIGHT at fork.  
 Follow the road downhill and follow signage.  
 Coldwater Lake Picnic Area- 1.5 miles, turn L  
 Hummocks Trail- 2 miles, turn R  
 Johnston Ridge Observatory- 9 miles, end of road

## TRAVEL DISTANCES

	I-5 exit 49	SLC	Coldwater Lake Picnic Area	Hummocks Trailhead	JRO
I-5 exit 49		43 miles	45 miles	45 miles	52 miles
SLC	43 miles		2 miles	2 miles	9 miles
Coldwater Lake Picnic Area	45 miles	2 miles		<1 mile	7 miles
Hummocks Trailhead	45 miles	2 miles	<1 mile		7 miles
JRO	52 miles	9 miles	7 miles	7 miles	

## MOUNT ST. HELENS AREA MAPS



## GATE INSTRUCTIONS

Contact [learn@mshinstitute.org](mailto:learn@mshinstitute.org)  
**BEFORE** your trip for directions on how to open the gate.

