

Learning Geopark through cooking geopark-symbol-shaped Shinko

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Actually, the promotion of Sado Island Geopark doesn't go well for locals yet, especially for children and their parents. So, we arranged an event for these children to learn Geopark with cooking a local specialty.

We chose one of the local traditional dishes called Shinko for the cooking session. Shinko is a steamed rice dumpling. Traditionally, we cook it and decorate our room with it for seasonal festivals. We use locally-grown rice flour and dye it with food colorings. Then, we form it into various shapes such as flowers or birds with a mold. The mold is also called Okoshigata. We made our own mold, which is made of wood and shaped like the symbol of Sado Island Geopark, to make one and only Sado Island Geopark Shinko.

The other day, we visited a nursery school and performed a picture-story show. We taught them what the symbol really means and how the earth and food connect with using the picture-story there. These children seemed to be really interested in our story which could tell a connection between local foods and the earth.

Sado Island has a lot of local specialties and traditional performing arts, so we can make use of these traditions in order to show people the close relationship between their lives and Geopark. It must be the best way to promote Sado Island Geopark here for locals. At the same time, it can be a good opportunity for them to know their traditions better.

Thorough this experience, Children enjoyed learning Geopark and we could show them what Sado Island Geopark is like and what it means for them. We think that the very first fun experience of learning Geopark must be a good effect to learn Sado Island Geopark more when they go on to the next stage of education. That is why we must develop further educational programs for each generation as soon as possible.

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