

## "Kirishima Geo-club" - An educational program for understanding natural history using the Kirishima geopark, Japan

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We will introduce the natural science course for elementary school students in Kirishima geopark. “Miike Miyazaki Nature House for Youth” has been offering open lectures “Kirishima Geo-club” in the Kirishima Geopark. This program contains not only lecture in the room, but also field excursion. During the field excursion, scientists explain the eruptive history of the Kirishima volcano and its mechanism of eruptions, showing land features and outcrops, while scientists also describe the ecosystem formed by the animals and plants there. Students come to understand through the program that the natural environments of the southern Kyushu exist as the result of the destruction by volcanic eruptions and subsequent regeneration. The lecture includes a study of volcanology, not only from aspects of earth science, but also as a part of the observation of nature as a whole, and comprehension of the volcano by students becomes quite high. The course has enjoyed popularity each time, and many students have come repeatedly.

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