General Information about MLO Field Trip Activities:

MLO tour demonstrations are planned and implemented by the MLO staff. The demonstrations we setup can be selected to match the age and education level of our visitors. Our displays and projects are held in our chemistry lab, computer lab, electronics lab, optics lab, as well as the halls, welcome room, and parking lot of our office in Hilo.

In the chemistry lab, we can demonstrate the use dry ice, describe the process of measuring pH and conductivity of rainwater, or use chemical agents to clean copper coins. In the past we were able to get dry ice free of charge from Gaspro, the local distributor who supplies us with various gases.

In the computer room, we set up and man a carbon dioxide meter which reacts sensitively to our breathing. We also display web cameras to view our mountain observatory and our online meteorology information. We can open up a computer to display its interior components as well.

In our optics lab, we can setup a dark room to display lasers, light scattering, and a hands-on glow board to draw on.

Next door in our electronics lab, we can setup a telescope to look through, and teach how to use a magnifying glass.

The hallways and welcome room are often used to display charts and diagrams that summarize many of the accomplishments made at Mauna Loa Observatory over the years.

If possible, the weather service office can donate weather balloons which we launch from outside the office. (This requires FAA clearance).

The layout below was used for our 50th anniversary celebration in 2006, when we hosted a group of preschool students.

