National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave National Monument
11149 U.S Highway 16
Bldg B12
Custer, SD 57730
www.nps.gov/jeca

Wind Cave National Park
26611 U.S. Highway 385
Hot Springs SD 57747
www.nps.gov/wica

Jewel Cave National Monument & Wind Cave National Park News Release

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Jewel Cave: Bradley Block / Chief of Interpretation 605-673-8330
Wind Cave: Tom Farrell / Chief of Interpretation 605-745-4600

Jewel Cave and Wind Cave Offer Free Cave Tours on Veterans Day

JEWEL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT, S.D. – In honor of the service and sacrifices of veterans, all National Park Service areas will waive entrance fees on Veterans Day, November 11, 2010. Jewel Cave National Monument and Wind Cave National Park will offer free cave tours to all visitors on Thursday, November 11, to celebrate this special day.

Jewel Cave visitors may choose the Scenic Tour or the Discovery Tour. Scenic Tours are offered at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and provide an opportunity to view a variety of beautiful, colorful, and rare cave formations for which Jewel Cave is famous. This one-half mile tour is moderately strenuous, following a paved, lighted trail with over 700 stairs and lasting approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes. The Discovery Tour will be conducted at 9:05 a.m., 12:45 p.m., and 3:45 p.m., and is a 20-minute introduction to the cultural and natural heritage of Jewel Cave. This wheelchair and stroller accessible program is conducted in one large room of the cave.

Wind Cave will offer tours at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. Visitors will walk along the Natural Entrance Tour route and view the boxwork for which the cave is famous. This one-half mile tour is moderately strenuous with approximately 300 stairs, most of them going down. This tour lasts about 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Due to the off-season, tickets are limited and only available on a first-come, first-serve basis at both park sites. Cave temperature in both caves is approximately 50 ºF. A light coat or sweater and sturdy walking shoes are recommended. All tours begin at the respective visitor centers.

For more information, please contact Jewel Cave National Monument at 605-673-8330 or online at www.nps.gov/jeca or Wind Cave National Park at 605-745-4600 or online at www.nps.gov/wica.

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