



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave
National Monument

11149 US Hwy 16
Building B12
Custer, SD 57730
605-673-8300 phone
605-673-8397 fax

Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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Contact: **Bradley Block / Chief of Interpretation / bradley_block@nps.gov**

Jewel Cave National Monument Offers Events On National Trails Day®

On June 5, 2010, join the National Park Service, American Hiking Society, and outdoor enthusiasts across the country in celebrating the 18th annual National Trails Day®. This recreational event is a long-standing celebration of America's magnificent trail system and its countless supporters and volunteers. Since 1993, National Trails Day has inspired thousands of individuals and community groups to take part in activities that promote healthy living and mental well being, protect green space, educate youth and adults on the importance of trails, and instill excitement for the nation's most treasured resources. More than 1,500 events will take place around the country, including trail maintenance, hiking, paddling, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, running, and trail celebrations.

On behalf of the National Park Service, Jewel Cave National Monument is proud to host two trail events. Come out, and enjoy the scenic views of Lithograph and Hell Canyon, as rangers tell the story of the ponderosa pine forest, wildland fires, and wildlife that live above the second longest cave in the world. No pre-registration is required for either event; participants simply meet at the visitor center located 13 miles west of Custer, SD and 24 miles east of Newcastle, Wyoming on Hwy 16.

A ranger-guided Family Hike on the Roof Trail will start at 9:00 a.m. and take participants through a one-quarter mile of ponderosa pine forest, with scenic views of Lithograph and Hell Canyon. The trail meanders along an easy rock path. Along the route, hikers have the opportunity to witness the natural features that are symbolic to the Black Hills: dense timber stands, open meadows, and wildland fire scars that run through the rocky limestone canyons. This short trail provides families with a safe, enjoyable, and educational experience.

For the more ardent hiker, the Hike into Hell (Canyon) begins at 1:00 p.m. This adventurous three-mile hike into the backcountry of Jewel Cave National Monument ventures along a natural trail with interpretative stops highlighting the surface activities that affect the cave deep below. Ranging from the obvious fire scars caused by the largest wildland fire in recorded South Dakota history to the hands-on management practices on site, a ranger guide will offer insight into the story behind the scenery. Participants should wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and snacks.

The National Park Service is also hosting a Fee Free Weekend on June 5 and 6. Twenty-minute Discovery Tours of the cave will be free and available on a first come first serve basis. Discovery Tours are offered at 9:35 a.m., 11:35 a.m., 1:35 p.m., and 4:25 p.m. For more information, call the visitor center at (605) 673-8300 – Option 2 or visit the Monument online at www.nps.gov/jeca.

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