



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Jewel Cave  
National Monument

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## **Jewel Cave National Monument News Release**

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For Immediate Release

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### **Free Tours of Jewel Cave During National Park Week, April 16 - 24, 2011**

Custer – During National Park Week, April 16 to 24, most fees to visit your National Park Service areas are waived, so get out and discover something new about 394 amazing places that make up the National Park System. National Park Week is focused on the theme of Healthy Parks, Healthy People, highlighting the connection between human and environmental health and the vital role America's national parks play in both.

In celebration of this special week-long event, Jewel Cave National Monument is extending a public invitation to visit the Monument during National Park Week, Fee Free Days April 16-24, 2011. Superintendent Larry Johnson states, "We invite everyone to come visit and experience one of our cave tours or guided nature hikes, and most importantly to learn a little about the second longest cave in the world. The fee free days are also a time to simply enjoy your local national parks and take advantage of their recreational opportunities." All cave tour fees will be waived for normally scheduled tours throughout National Park Week.

Cave tour tickets are only available at the Monument on a first come, first serve basis, on each day of National Park Week. The Discovery Tour is limited to 20 people and is offered at 11:35 a.m., 1:35 p.m., and 3:35 p.m. The Scenic Cave Tour is limited to 30 people and is offered three times daily at 10:00 a.m., 12:40 p.m., and 2:40 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays, April 16, 17, 23, and 24, a guided hike on the one-quarter mile Roof Trail will also be available at 9:00 a.m. There is no limit on hiking participants; however, hikers should plan to wear sturdy boots and dress for the spring-like weather conditions.

This special week highlights the National Park Service's 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary. National Park Week was first proclaimed in 1991 by President George H. W. Bush to celebrate the NPS' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It has become a national success and is a way for national parks to say thank you to visitors. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar states, "In these tough economic times, our fee-free days will give families many opportunities to come out and discover or re-discover 84 million acres of the world's most spectacular scenery, historic landmarks, and cultural treasures."

Superintendent Johnson further comments, "National Park Week encourages our local communities and park enthusiasts to experience an affordable sightseeing venture before the hectic summer season. The National Park Service is proud to offer this week each year for interested visitors, and we believe our programming schedule conveys a sense of exploration and discovery of the second longest cave in the world."

Whether you prefer a backcountry hike in Badlands National Park, a tour of Wind Cave, or a leisurely stroll around Devils Tower National Monument, getting outside during National Park Week is good for you and offers a chance to explore your local public lands. Visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and search the events calendar to find your National Park Week "must-do's." For additional information about Jewel Cave National Monument or for regular tour times and reservations, contact the visitor center at (605) 673-8300 or visit [www.nps.gov/jeca](http://www.nps.gov/jeca).

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.