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Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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JEWEL CAVE AWARDED NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION IMPACT GRANT

-- Annual Grant Program Makes Big Difference For 24 National Park Areas –

(Washington, D.C.) - The National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, announced that Jewel Cave National Monument in Custer, South Dakota, has received a \$9558 Impact Grant. Recognizing that sometimes the smallest grants can make the largest difference, this program was designed to support parks with programs and initiatives in need of additional funding up to \$10,000. This year, the National Park Foundation has awarded over \$200,000 in grants to 24 national park areas, including Jewel Cave National Monument.

Jewel Cave National Monument is using the awarded grant funds toward a special event entitled Belt Loopalooza for Cub Scouts. Through a festival of sorts, participating scouts interact with resource professionals toward the successful completion of belt loop awards and related patches that complement the protection, preservation, and conservation of public lands. Superintendent Larry Johnson comments, "This event showcases an educational partnership between many local agencies, such as Devils Tower National Monument, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Wind Cave National Park, Black Hills National Forest, Custer State Park, and the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association. Participating scouts, ages 7-13, will take part in an assortment of engaging experiences and hands-on learning opportunities related to environmental education and site interpretation." The event is planned for Saturday, July 16. Reservations for interested scout participants will begin in April.

"The Impact Grant program has become an incredibly effective tool for the National Park Foundation to meet the needs within the national parks," said Neil Mulholland, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "Through this unique program, we are seeing extraordinary results born from great need, creativity, and ingenuity."

From Glacier National Park in Alaska to Everglades National Park in Florida, park units with smaller-scale projects consisting of trail maintenance, public safety, service learning, environmental education, among other critical objectives, are receiving the funding they require to initiate, proceed, or complete their projects.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Mike McGinnis, Scout Executive for the Black Hills Area Council, comments, "The Boy Scouts of America is very pleased to continue to offer new and challenging opportunities like the belt loop program. Ultimately, Scouting is only as successful as the communities and organizations that we serve. This upcoming summer partnership between the Council and Jewel Cave National Monument provides our youth with a wonderful connection to their nation's heritage. We are grateful for the new and continued support that we receive, and we look forward to this special event."

Superintendent Johnson further states, "This funding opportunity allows us to increase, enhance, and expand our educational efforts. Youth programs are one of the top priorities within the National Park Service, and we are pleased that this special event will expose a number of Cub Scouts to the beauty and significance of public lands."

The 2010 Impact Grant recipients include:

- Biscayne National Park
- Big Bend National Park
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Canyonlands National Park
- Colorado National Monument
- Death Valley National Park
- Everglades National Park
- Fort Scott National Historic Site
- Gateway National Recreation Area
- Glacier National Park
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Grand Teton National Park
- Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Intermountain Regional Office
- Jewel Cave National Monument
- Noatak National Preserve
- Pecos National Historical Park
- Petrified Forest National Park
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- Rock Creek Park
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
- Statue of Liberty National Monument
- Yosemite National Park

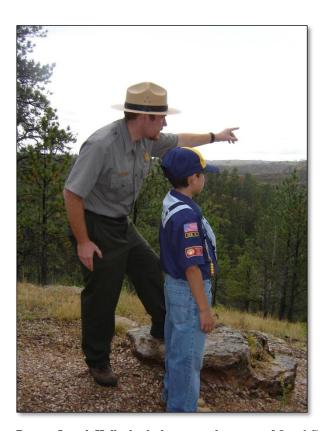
For more information on each of the Impact Grants awarded in 2010, go to www.nationalparks.org. For information related to Jewel Cave National Monument, visit www.nps.gov/jeca or call 605-673-8300.

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION

You are the owner of 84 million acres of the world's most treasured landscapes, ecosystems, and historic sites -- all protected in America's nearly 400 national parks. Chartered by Congress, the National Park Foundation is the official charity of America's national parks. We work hand in hand with the National Park Service to connect you and all Americans to the parks, and to make sure that they are preserved for the generations who will follow. Join us in supporting your national parks -- this is your land.

www.nationalparks.org.



Ranger Joseph Hallenbeck showcases the extent of Jewel Cave's distance in relation to the surface to a local cub scout. (NPS Photo)