



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot
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National Park Service News Release

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Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments to Offer Fee-Free Weekends in June, July and August

Camp Verde, Ariz. – On the weekends of June 20 – 21 (Father’s Day weekend), July 18 – 19, and August 15 – 16, 2009, Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments and the 146 other National Park Service (NPS) sites around the country that charge entrance fees will offer fee-free entry into the parks.

The fee-free weekends were announced by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on Tuesday, June 2, and are intended to encourage Americans seeking affordable vacations to visit their national treasures. According to Secretary Salazar, “During these tough economic times, our national parks provide opportunities for affordable vacations for families.”

Secretary Salazar noted that there are 391 NPS sites across the nation; and pointed out that over 200 of them never charge an entry fee. In addition, the 147 sites that do charge entrance fees will waive them on these special weekends.

At Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot, all entrance fees will be waived for visitors arriving on Saturday or Sunday during the weekends of June 20 – 21, July 18 – 19, and August 15 – 16. These free entry passes will be good for that Saturday and Sunday only. Visitors whose plans include visiting both monuments should realize that these entry passes are only good on the Saturday and Sunday they are issued and cannot be used later in the week for a discounted entry to the second monument. Monument visitor centers will have Senior and Annual Passes available for those who wish to purchase them. As always, entrance to Montezuma Well is free.

Western National Parks Association (aka WNPA), which operates the book stores located at Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot Visitor Centers through a partnership with the National Park Service, in conjunction with the Fee Free Weekends, will be offering a 20% discount on all merchandise at their stores each of the three weekends. This discount includes all sale and clearance items that may already be marked down. Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments benefit from all sales at the bookstores through donations by WNPA to the interpretive division to support activities such as Volunteers-in-Parks, covering special activities such as the recent movies and astronomy nights, and other activities that otherwise would not be covered through normal funding sources.

"These fee free weekends are an outstanding opportunity for people to visit some of the nation's most special places, such as Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot National

Monuments" said Superintendent Kathy Davis. "This is a special occasion, especially for people in the Verde Valley and surrounding towns, to see these national treasures located in their back yard."

More information on fee free activities throughout the National Park Service can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>. For information on Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments, visit www.nps.gov/moca and www.nps.gov/tuzi.

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