



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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ED CUMMINS, CHIEF RANGER, MOCA/TUZI, 928-567-3322 x27

### Night Programs on tap for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments are pleased to announce several special events for the month of June. All these events and activities are in conjunction with the Festival of Native American Culture, a weeklong celebration sponsored by the Verde Valley Chapter of the Arizona Archeological Society “to preserve and protect the native American cultural heritage of Sedona and the Verde Valley”.

The first event will take place on June 5<sup>th</sup> at Montezuma Castle. This special evening program will feature a showing of “Paatuwaqatsi, H2opi Run to Mexico”, a documentary by Native American poet Victor Masayesva. The monument will open at 7:00pm, with the one-hour long documentary showing at 7:30pm in the monument’s interpretive circle. The moon will be nearly full when it rises at 6:10pm and should make the Castle, nestled in the cliff, look spectacular. Attendees should have about 30 minutes after the film to enjoy the monument before the gates are closed at 9:00pm. This event is free to the public.

The second event occurs on the evening of June 12<sup>th</sup> at Tuzigoot National Monument in Clarkdale, and will be a “first”, in more ways than one. As far as we can tell, Tuzigoot has never been open at night, so this will be a special chance to see this 1,000 year old pueblo in a very different light. The special purpose of being open at night, is our First Annual Star Party. The Star Party will feature an interpretive program on the role that the sun and the stars played in the daily life of the Sinagua people who lived at Tuzigoot, as well as the surrounding areas. Following this 45 minute program, several local astronomers have volunteered to bring their telescopes, ranging in size from 10 to 35 inches, to share with the visiting public for viewing of all sorts of astronomical features. This night sky viewing will be accompanied by live flute music performed by Wolf’s Robe, a local Native American who has been heard before at other monument events. The monument gate will open at 7:00pm, with the interpretive program beginning at 7:30pm. Star/night sky gazing will immediately follow and last until 10:30pm. Bring a lawn chair and flashlight with you. This event is free to the public.

Finally, Monday thru Friday, June 8-12, at 9:00am, special interpretive talks will be given at the Montezuma Castle Interpretive Circle. The subjects of these talks will vary, but all will center on the Native American culture associated with the National Monuments. Regular entrance fees will be collected for these talks.

For more information on these special events and activities, contact the monuments at (928) 567-3322 x21. You can also check out the following websites:

Festival of Native American Culture: [www.festivalofnativeamericanculture.org](http://www.festivalofnativeamericanculture.org)

Victor Masayesva: [www.isauproductions.com](http://www.isauproductions.com)

National Park Service: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Montezuma Castle National Monument: [www.nps.gov/moca](http://www.nps.gov/moca)

Tuzigoot National Monument: [www.nps.gov/tuzi](http://www.nps.gov/tuzi)

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments are open 7 days a week, except Christmas Day. During the summer, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the hours are 8am to 6pm. The rest of the year, the monuments close at 5pm. The Montezuma Castle unit and Tuzigoot have an entrance fee of \$5 per person for those 16 years of age and over. Children 15 and under are free. A combined entrance pass for both units is \$8. All entrance passes are good for 7 days. The Montezuma Well unit is free at all times. Also available, are three passes that allow free access for the pass holder and 3 adults to most federal recreation areas from a number of different agencies, including the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Interagency Annual Pass sells for \$80, is available to anyone, and is good for 1 year. The Interagency Senior Pass is available to all US citizens, 62 and older, is a lifetime pass, and sells for \$10. The Interagency Access Pass is available free to those US citizens who are permanently disabled. 80% of the fees from the sales of these entrance passes and Interagency Passes sold at the Monuments stay in these Monuments to help support projects and other activities.

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