



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Guadalupe Mountains
National Park

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Guadalupe Mountains News Release

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Guadalupe Mountains National Park Free Interpretive Programs. September 6 – 11, 2011

(Pine Springs, TX) Superintendent Dennis A. Vásquez invites everyone to join park rangers for the following free interpretive programs at Guadalupe Mountains National Park:

Tuesday, September 6

Frijole Ranch History Museum Open House

Open House. 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Frijole Ranch.

Wednesday, September 7

Horns vs. Antlers

Patio Talk. 10:00 AM. Headquarters Visitor Center (Pine Springs).

Eatin' Dust for 23 Days: The Butterfield Overland Mail

Patio Talk. 2:00 PM. Meet at the Pinery ruins, .1 mile east of park entrance on north side of Highway 62/180 or a 15 minute walk from the visitor center on the Pinery Nature Trail.

Thursday, September 8

Rattlesnakes, Head to Tail

Patio Talk. 10:00 AM. Headquarters Visitor Center (Pine Springs).

Clean and Honest: The Subtle Beauty of Chihuahuan Desert Plants

Patio Talk. 2:00 PM. Headquarters Visitor Center (Pine Springs).

Friday, September 9

Birding Basics

Patio Talk. 10:00 AM. Meet at the Frijole Ranch House. Bring sturdy walking shoes and binoculars.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

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

Rattlesnakes, Head to Tail

Patio Talk. 2:00 PM. Headquarters Visitor Center (Pine Springs).

Where's the Reef?

Evening Program. 7:30 PM. Headquarters Visitor Center (Pine Springs).

Saturday, September 10

Guided Hike to the Grotto (McKittrick Canyon)

Ranger-Guided Hike. 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Meet at the McKittrick Canyon Visitor Contact Station at 9:45 AM. Hike is 7 miles roundtrip, moderately difficult, and has minimal elevation gain. Bring water (1 gallon per person recommended), food, snacks, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, and sturdy footwear.

Pratt Cabin Open House

Open House. 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The vacation of Wallace Pratt, who was instrumental in the creation of Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and his family.

Pratt Cabin is located 2.4 miles into McKittrick Canyon on the McKittrick Canyon Trail.

Sunday, September 11

Ship-On-the-Desert Open House

Open House. 1:00 PM. to 3:30 PM. Historic Home of Philanthropist and Geologist Wallace Pratt, who was instrumental in the creation of Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

From the Headquarters (Pine Springs) Visitor Center, turn left on Highway 62/180. Continue for 7 miles and turn left on McKittrick Canyon entrance road. Continue for 1.9 miles and turn left on service road.

Families with children are invited to ask about our Junior and Senior Ranger and Junior Paleontologist programs at the Headquarters (Pine Springs) Visitor Center, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are encouraged to participate in our Resource Stewardship Scout Ranger Program (www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/boyscouts.htm) or Resource Stewardship Girl Scout Ranger Program (www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/girl_scouts.htm).

Continue your interpretive experience with a visit to the bookstore, which is operated by the park's non-profit cooperating association partner, the Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association (www.ccgma.org), inside the Headquarters Visitor Center at Pine Springs. Proceeds from bookstore sales benefit interpretation and education programs and scientific research at Guadalupe Mountains National Park and Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Ask about the CCGMA member's discount.

The park entrance fee is \$5.00 per person, valid for 7 days, and children under 16 years of age are free. Guadalupe Mountains Annual Passes may be purchased for \$20.00, America the Beautiful Annual Passes, under the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program, may be purchased at the park for \$80.00 and are valid for all federal public lands. America the Beautiful Senior Passes (lifetime passes) may be purchased by U.S. citizens or permanent residents, 62 years of age or older, for \$10.00. America the Beautiful Access Passes (lifetime passes) for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with qualifying permanent disabilities may be obtained free of charge. For more information about those passes, please see

<http://www.nps.gov/gumo/planyourvisit/feesandreservations.htm>. Golden Age and Golden Access passes are honored, as well.

Overnight RV and tent camping is available at the Pine Springs and Dog Canyon Campgrounds. Campsites are \$8.00 per night.

Park information, including park conditions, closures or restrictions, weather and program information, may be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/GUMO/, on the park's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GuadalupeMountains/, or by contacting the Headquarters (Pine Springs) Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 x2124. The Headquarters (Pine Springs) Visitor Center is open daily (except for Christmas) from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM (8:00 AM until 6:00 PM from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend).

Weather may change quickly so dress appropriately. Make sure to fill your tank and bring plenty of food, water (at least one gallon per person per day, if you are hiking), and snacks, as there are no gasoline, lodging, groceries or food services available in the park. The nearest are 35 miles east of Pine Springs in White's City. There is no public transportation to the park. Motorists traveling past the park along U.S. Hwy 62/180 may tune in to the park's Traveler Information Station at 1610 AM for up-to-date park information.

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