



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Guadalupe Mountains
National Park

400 Pine Canyon Drive
Salt Flat, TX 79847

915-828-3251 phone
915-828-3269 fax

Guadalupe Mountains News Release

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Karl M. Pierce

Phone number: 915-828-3251 x 2300

Email: Karl_Pierce@nps.gov

Date: August 29, 2011

Release code: 11-12

Guadalupe Mountains National Park Free Interpretive Programs. August 31 – September 5

(Pine Springs, TX) Superintendent Dennis A. Vásquez invites everyone celebrate the end the summer season by joining park rangers for the following free interpretive programs:

Wednesday, August 31

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 the north side of Highway 62/180 or a 15 minute walk from the visitor center on the Pinery Nature Trail.)

Thursday, September 1

Clean and Honest: The Subtle Beauty of Chihuahuan Desert Plants

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

Struggling to Survive! Desert Adaptations in the Guadalupe Mountains

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

Friday, September 2

Where's the Reef?

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

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

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

Saturday, September 3

Pratt Cabin Open House

Open House. 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Dog Canyon Ranger Day Guided Hike

Ranger-Guided Hike. 2:00 PM. Meet at the Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

1 mile, easy, ~ 1 hour. Bring water, sunscreen, and wear a hat and sunglasses

(Two-hour drive from Pine Springs. Turn left on Highway 62/180 and continue for 44 miles.

Turn left on County Road 408 (Dark Canyon Road) and continue until you reach Highway 137.

Turn left and continue to Dog Canyon. Approximately 100 miles.)

Dog Canyon Ranger Day Evening Program

Evening Program. 6:30 PM. Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

See above for directions.

Three Cultural Landscapes: N'de, Pioneers, and the National Park Service

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

Sunday, September 4

Birding Basics

Ranger-Guided Walk. 5:30 PM to ~6:30 PM. Meet at the Frijole Ranch House

Bring binoculars.

Monday, September 5

Guided Hike to the Grotto (McKittrick Canyon)

Ranger-Guided Hike. 9:00 AM. to mid-afternoon. Meet at the McKittrick Canyon Trailhead.

Hike is 7 miles roundtrip, moderately difficult, and has minimal elevation gain. Bring water (1 gallon per person recommended), food, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, and sturdy footwear.

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.

-NPS-