



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave
National Monument

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Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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Jewel Cave Hosts Volunteer Cave Cleanup Project

Custer, SD - Jewel Cave National Monument is hosting a cave clean-up event on Saturday and Sunday, January 26 and 27. The volunteer effort is focused on cleaning the Scenic Tour route and disinfecting the walkways and handrails. The work projects begin each day at 9:00 a.m. and end around 4:00 p.m.

Due to the clean-up activities, cave tours are not available from January 26 through 30. Depending on project progress, the cave closure may be shortened or extended. The visitor center and surface trails will remain open for interested visitors. Snowshoes will also be available on site for check-out by winter hikers.

The core team of the project includes staff members from the Monument, along with volunteers from the Paha Sapa Grotto, a local chapter of the National Speleological Society. Additional volunteers are also welcome. Superintendent Larry Johnson states, "The winter months make for the perfect time to get caught up on projects before the summer season. This is also a wonderful time to engage our local park enthusiasts with volunteer projects that allow them to see how their public lands are managed."

Every year, the cave tour routes witness hundreds of visitors each day. In order to protect the fragile cave formations and preserve the cave resource for future generations, annual maintenance and restoration work is required. Dan Austin, President of the Paha Sapa Grotto states, "We are always happy to help with cave restoration projects in the Black Hills, and we truly appreciate working with the National Park Service."

For more information on volunteering, contact the visitor center at (605) 673-8300 and select Option 1. Jewel Cave National Monument can be visited online at www.nps.gov/jeca. The visitor center is currently open from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (MST).

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