



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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Cub Scout Belt Loopalooza Takes Reservations

Custer, SD –Cub Scouts are preparing to embark on a day-long adventure at Jewel Cave National Monument on Saturday, July 21. The Belt Loopalooza event is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and consists of ten different activity stations. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Pack leaders and den leaders are encouraged to call and secure their space as soon as possible.

Participating scouts interact with resource professionals toward the successful completion of belt loop awards and related patches that complement the protection, preservation, and conservation of public lands. Bradley Block, Chief of Interpretation, comments, “What better way to experience a National Park than to spend a day working with various conservation employees? The Black Hills are truly blessed with a number of public land agencies, and we are fortunate to have their staff support with this Cub Scout event.”

The event offers ten belt loop topics, which include the following: Astronomy, Geography, Geology, Heritages, Hiking, Maps and Compass, Physical Fitness, Science, Weather, and Wildlife Conservation. Participating Cub Scouts can select five of the ten belt loops and accomplish the requirements through individual stations. Park rangers, naturalists, game officers, and related public servants are the leaders of the stations. All Cub Scouts need a reservation to attend the program, and reservations are being taken through the Jewel Cave Visitor Center.

Block further states, “The Monument has developed a wonderful relationship with the Boy Scouts of America, especially with the Black Hills Area Council in western South Dakota. Through its current Scout Ranger Program related to Medicine Mountain Scout Ranch, a few hundred Boy Scouts descend on the Monument each summer. The Belt Loopalooza is geared for Cub Scouts and hopefully engages them within the National Park Service. As they grow older, the Scout Ranger Program may entice them even more.”

To make a reservation or to learn more about the Monument, call the visitor center at 605-673-8300 and select Option 2. Visitors are also welcome to check out the Monument online at www.nps.gov/jeca. The visitor center is currently open during the summer season from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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