



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave
National Monument

11149 US Hwy 16
Building B12
Custer, SD 57730
605-673-8300 phone
605-673-8397 fax

Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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Contact: **Bradley Block / Chief of Interpretation / bradley_block@nps.gov**

Jewel Cave Takes Reservations for 3rd Annual Cub Scout Belt Loopalooza

Custer, SD – For the third consecutive year, Cub Scouts throughout the Black Hills are preparing to embark on a day-long adventure at Jewel Cave National Monument on Saturday, July 20. 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 Cub Scouts interact with resource professionals toward the completion of belt loop awards and related patches that complement the protection, preservation, and conservation of public lands. Bradley Block, Chief of Interpretation, comments, “The National Park Service has a long history of working with the Boy Scouts of America, engaging scouts to learn about their national treasures. What better way to spend a day than working with various conservation employees and discovering the stories behind the local scenery? The Black Hills are 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 may select five of the ten belt loops and accomplish the requirements through individual, 45-minute 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, “We have witnessed this event grow in popularity over the past few years. For this reason, we are excited to host the event again and hopefully see some familiar faces, while also enticing some new scouting families to visit Jewel Cave.” All Cub Scouts must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during the event. Participating families will also need to furnish their own lunch, water, and snacks for the day; scout families should dress for the weather and be prepared for a variety of conditions.

To make a reservation or to learn more about the Monument, call the visitor center at 605-673-8300. 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 5:30 p.m.

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Caption - Park rangers and Cub Scouts work together using various hands-on activities, such as measuring distances between two points. The activities often help scouts learn about resource management techniques, such as mapping and surveying cave passages. NPS Photo

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