



**-National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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## Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### **Jewel Cave Takes Reservations for Cub Scout Belt Loopalooza**

Custer, SD – Cub Scouts throughout the Black Hills are preparing to embark on a day-long adventure at Jewel Cave National Monument on Saturday, July 18. The Belt Loopalooza event is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and consists of ten unique 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 which 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, “Due to road construction and a parking lot project last year, the Monument did not host the annual event. However, we received several phone calls from Cubmasters and Den Leaders this spring, asking for the date in 2015. For this reason, we are excited to host the special 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 entire 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 for the Belt Loopalooza 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](http://www.nps.gov/jeca). The visitor center is currently open during the summer season from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**-NPS-**

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Caption: Partnering with the Black Hills Area Council, Jewel Cave expects over 100 Cub Scouts for the Belt Loopalooza in 2015. NPS Photo

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 407 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*

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