



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave National
Monument

11149 U.S Highway 16
Bldg B12
Custer, SD 57730

605-673-2288 phone
605-673-3294 fax
www.nps.gov/jeca

Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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Julie Johndreau 605-673-2288

Jewel Cave National Monument Will Offer Free Tours and Junior Ranger Activities on Saturday, April 26, 2008

JEWEL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT, S.D. – Superintendent Todd Suess announced today that the Monument will be offering free tours and Junior Ranger activities on Saturday, April 26, 2008 in recognition of the park's first 100 years. Jewel Cave was proclaimed a National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt on February 7, 1908, under the authority of the 1906 Antiquities Act. This created the Monument as part of the National Park System to protect Jewel Cave for scientific study. Jewel Cave became known for the jewel-like calcite crystals that line its passageways. Exploration continues and has revealed Jewel Cave to be the second longest cave in the world with a current length of over 141 miles.

Junior Ranger activities will be available on this day to explore, learn, and protect a part of the National Park System. During the park visit, children ages 5 to 12 may receive an activity booklet that will introduce them to Jewel Cave's special story of exploration and discovery. Upon completion of this booklet, children will earn a Junior Ranger badge and certificate at the visitor center.

All cave tours and programs at Jewel Cave will be free to the public on Saturday, April 26, 2008. Scenic tours will be offered at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 10:40 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 12:40 p.m., 1:20 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 2:40 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 3:20 p.m. Discovery talks will be available at 9:35 a.m., 11:35 a.m., and 1:35 p.m. **Cave tour tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis at the Visitor Center. Advance reservations are not available for this day.** Scenic cave tours are limited to 30 people and Discovery cave talks are limited to 20 people. Please plan to arrive early because tickets for tours are expected to reach capacity prior to tour times, therefore a 2-3 hour wait is possible.

The Scenic tour provides an opportunity to view a variety of beautiful and colorful cave formations. This ½-mile tour is moderately strenuous, following a paved, lighted trail with 723 stair steps, and lasts approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes. The Discovery talk is a 20-minute introduction to the cultural and natural history of Jewel Cave. This wheelchair accessible program is conducted in one large room of the cave. All tours enter and leave the cave by elevator. The cave temperature is 49°F. A light coat or sweater, and non-slip, sturdy walking shoes are recommended.

For more information, please contact Jewel Cave National Monument at 605-673-2061.

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