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## National Park Service News Release

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ED CUMMINS, CHIEF RANGER, MOCA/TUZI, 928-567-3322 x27

### **Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments to Waive Entrance Fee on National Public Lands Day**

(Washington, D.C.) – All National Park Service sites, including Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments in Camp Verde and Clarkdale, will offer free visitor admission on September 26 for National Public Lands Day.

In addition to waiving entrance fees, national parks and other public lands will host special programs to commemorate the 16<sup>th</sup> annual event. At Montezuma Castle in Camp Verde, Ranger talks and demonstrations will be given at 9:30am, 10:30am, 12noon, and 1:30pm. At Montezuma Well in Rimrock, a Ranger walk will happen at 1:00pm, and at Tuzigoot National Monument in Clarkdale, a Ranger walk will take place at 10:30am. For more information on these talks, walks, and demonstrations, contact the Montezuma Castle Visitor Center at 928-567-3322 x21.

“America’s public lands showcase the country’s spectacular beauty and fascinating history,” said Acting National Park Service Director Dan Wenk. “I encourage everyone to take advantage of this fee free day to explore a national park or lend a hand to help the land.”

Eight federal agencies, 125 state and local partners, dozens of non-profit organizations, and tens of thousands of individuals are expected to participate in more than a thousand volunteer projects across the country. Please visit <http://www.publiclandsday.org> for more information.

One third of the land in the United States has been set aside as open space. 600 million acres of parks, refuges, forests, wetlands, cultural sites, and other shared areas provide a variety of public resources.

National Public Lands Day is the only time that entrance fees are waived systematically on public lands throughout the country. Normally, 147 of the country’s 391 National Park Service sites charge entrance fees ranging from \$3 to \$25. The other 244 areas do not have entrance fees. U.S. Veterans are admitted to national parks free each year on Veteran’s Day.

The other federal agencies not charging for admittance that day include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Forest Service.

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