

Events for Thursday August 25

August 25-28 are Fee Free Days!



10am: Instameet

Gather to celebrate Petrified Forest, then upload your photos to your favorite social sites and share this National Park Service party with the world! Meet at Kachina Point. We will have props!

10am: iNaturalist Walk

Take a 21st century ranger walk utilizing the iNaturalist app! You'll learn about this powerful app and how it can be used to enhance your National Park experience. We have up to 15 iPads for use during this walk; if more than 15 people show up we'll ask some of you to use your own mobile devices or share the iPads. Meet in front of Painted Desert Visitor Center. You will walk upwards of two miles on the Tawa Trail. Allow 60-90 minutes. Bring water, sun protection, and sturdy hiking shoes.

Anytime between 10am and 4pm Visit the Paleontology Demo Lab!

Follow the signs that will lead you to the lab from the Painted Desert Visitor Center. Active paleontology is happening every day at Petrified Forest. Come say hi to the park paleontologists and see what fossils they've currently discovered and are preparing!

Anytime between 10am - 2pm: Meet an Archeologist

Petrified Forest's very own 'Archeologist Amy' will be roving the Puerco Pueblo for several hours and is happy to help you understand the clues of thousands of years of human history of the area! Look for Amy along the Puerco Pueblo Trail.

10:30am Patio House Hike

Meet at the Puerco Pueblo parking lot to take a hike with the park archeologist to an ancient site normally not accessible to the public. Bring water, sun protection, and sturdy hiking shoes.

11am - 1pm: National Park Service Birthday Party

Come celebrate the National Park Service Centennial with free cake and lemonade provided by valued partner Ortega Family Enterprises. Party will be held at Painted Desert Inn.

11:30am & 3:30pm: Route 66 Walk

Come learn about the Mother Road in the only National Park that has a section of Route 66 within its boundaries! Meet at the Route 66 pullout (about six miles beyond Painted Desert Visitor Center within the park). Allow one hour. Bring water, sun protection, and sturdy hiking shoes.

Anytime between 2pm to 3:30pm: Keystone Arch Mini-hikes

Keystone Arch is a unique, dramatic, rarely-visited petrified log feature of the Petrified Forest landscape. Today's your day to enjoy this special experience! Enter the Blue Mesa road, then look for the ranger along the first set of pullouts as you ascend the Mesa. Allow 15 minutes round trip to hike to Keystone Arch. Hike is short but there is no trail and is over uneven surfaces.