



## Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

**For Immediate Release:** April 9, 2014

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### Updated Trip-planning Information Available for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

*SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA* – Are you planning a future trip to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks? If so, you will want to check recent updates to the “Plan Your Visit” section (link top left on webpage) of the parks’ website at [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

- **Certain facilities are expected to open sooner due to the lack of snow, weather-permitting.** Limited snow exists in the most visited areas of the parks (above 5,000 feet) at this time. There is some snow at higher elevations. Check weather/roads info before arrival. Temperatures at 5,000-7,000 feet in elevation, where the giant sequoias grow, may be 20-30 degrees F. less than in the Central Valley, so dress accordingly.
- **Sledding/Winter Sports:** Winter sports and sledding are not recommended at this time due limited snow and/or dangerous icy spots.
- **Fee Free Days:** Enter Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and other national parks free-of-charge on the following dates:
  - April 19-20 - National Park Week's Opening Weekend
  - April 26 – Junior Ranger Day Fee Free Day (*at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks only*)
  - August 25 - National Park Service's 98th Birthday
  - September 27 - National Public Lands Day
  - November 11 - Veterans Day

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- **Campgrounds:** Plan your camping trip for summer now!
  - **Reservations Required in Four Campgrounds in Sequoia National Park:** Potwisha, Buckeye Flat, Lodgepole, and Dorst Creek campgrounds require reservations during the busy season. To make a reservation up to 6 months in advance, visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 1-877-444-6777 from 10 a.m.-12 midnight EST.
  - **For a complete list of campground opening and closing dates:** Visit the parks' webpage at [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm) or call 559-565-3341. Several campgrounds are expected to be open earlier than anticipated, including Buckeye Campground (April 16), Lodgepole Campground (April 16), and Sentinel Campground (April 24).
  - **Roads/Parking Info:**
    - *In Sequoia National Park:*
      - Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road in Sequoia National Park has reopened.
      - As of today's date, the main (big) General Sherman Tree parking lot and Panoramic Point Road are still closed.
      - Mineral King Road is expected to be open from May 21 - Oct. 27, 2014.
    - *In Kings Canyon National Park:*
      - CALTRANS is planning to reopen the gate with access to Cedar Grove at 12 noon on April 24, 2014.
      - Panoramic Point Road is currently closed.
    - *Road between the parks:* OPEN, weather-permitting
- **Construction Delays Expected in Summer:**
  - *Generals Highway Reconstruction* - From early June into the fall, this project affects portions of the main park road between Eleven Range (south of Giant Forest) and Wolverton Road (north of the General Sherman Tree, south of Lodgepole). Occasional night closures may be needed. Delays are not expected to occur on weekends (from 6 p.m. Fridays through 9 p.m. Sundays) or on major U.S. holidays. Expect the following:
    - 15-minute delays in the Giant Forest area
    - south of (or below) Giant Forest, expect up to 1-hour delays, with pass-throughs on the hour

- **Construction Delays Expected in Summer (continued):**
  - *Other Road Repairs* - Expect intermittent delays or brief closures on weekdays through summer in several park areas. Repaving is scheduled to take place starting after Memorial Day through June in the Grant Grove area of Kings Canyon National Park: on Hwy 180, the Grant Tree Road, and Big Stump Picnic Area.
- **Crystal Cave:** The cave opens for daily tours on May 10, 2014. Info: [www.sequoiahhistory.org](http://www.sequoiahhistory.org).
- **Visitor Centers:** Park visitor centers offer exhibits and films and sell books, maps, hats, postcards, etc. All purchases support the parks! Info: [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/visitorcenters.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/visitorcenters.htm).
- **Food Service/Markets:** For information about hours and opening/closing dates for food service and markets inside of the parks, please visit [www.nps.gov/seki/parknews/newspaper.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/parknews/newspaper.htm). (See pages 8-9.)
- **Sequoia Shuttle:** The Sequoia Shuttle will operate seven days a week, both inside and from outside the parks, from May 22 through September 1, 2014.
  - *From Outside the Parks:* A round-trip ride from outside the parks costs \$15, and covers the park entrance fee. All shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible. For details and reservations for the shuttle from outside the parks, visit [www.sequoiashuttle.com](http://www.sequoiashuttle.com), or call 1-877-BUS-HIKE. Once at the Giant Forest Museum, you can ride the free in-park shuttle, which operates during the same dates.
  - *Inside the Parks:* <http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/parktransit.htm>.