National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Reminders for a Fun and Safe Labor Day Holiday at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Celebrate summer's end with a visit to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks over the Labor Day holiday. Learn about the park by stopping at a visitor center or participating in a ranger-led talk. Ride into the cool high country and savor the beauty of the sequoias or take a hike. Plan your holiday adventure carefully for a fun and safe time.

Don't forget the basics on your adventure:

- Bring food and water on your hikes. Drink water; stay hydrated. Hike where it is cooler.
- Bring layers of clothing, as temperatures may vary by 20-40 degrees F. depending upon elevation and time of day.
- Apply sunscreen liberally throughout the day.
- ***Drowning is the #1 cause of death at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.*** *The National Park Service does not recommend swimming in rivers.* Use extreme caution at river/creek crossings and along river banks.
- Due to high fire danger and continuing drought, ***fire restrictions are in place*** at the parks:
    - Wood or barbecue fires are only allowed at campgrounds above 6,000 feet. Specifically, campfires are allowed at Lodgepole, Azalea, Crystal Springs, Sunset, Atwell Mill, Cold Springs, and Dorst Creek campgrounds. *Please note: Dorst Creek Campground is not taking any walk-in reservations.* Gas or propane stoves may be used at all elevations. Extinguish your campfire before you leave the site.
    - Smoking is only allowed in designated campgrounds where wood fires are allowed, an enclosed vehicle, a building which allows smoking, or within designated areas (within 30 feet of existing fire safe ashtrays provided at visitor centers, hotel lobbies, etc). Stay in one place while smoking. Crush matches and butts until they are cold, and don't leave them on the ground.
    - For wilderness/backpacking travel, no wood or barbecue fires are permitted at any elevation. Gas or propane stoves may be used at all elevations. Permits for overnight wilderness travel will include guidelines about smoking. Day hikers should check at visitor centers for smoking restrictions.

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- Leave food or scented items in food-storage boxes (or "lockers") where available. Never leave food in your car, even during the day. Where park-provided food-storage boxes are not available, carry your items with you.
- Avoid personal contact with wildlife. Wild animals are meant to be "wild." Do not try to feed, pet, or touch them. This will help keep you from being injured and save the life of a wild animal.

In addition, transportation may be available from outside the parks. The Sequoia Shuttle provides round-trip transportation from Visalia, Exeter, or Three Rivers to Sequoia National Park's Giant Forest Museum, where you can transfer to the free in-park shuttle. A round-trip ride, including the park entrance fee, costs $15. For details and reservations, visit www.sequoiashuttle.com or call 1-877-BUS-HIKE.

For more information on how to plan your holiday adventure, visit http://www.nps.gov/seki, call 559-565-3341, or stop by any park visitor center.

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SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.