



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Hwy.
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: February 5, 2013

Contact: Dana M. Dierkes

Phone Number: 1-559-565-3131 (o), 1-559-679-2866 (cell)

Winter Updates from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks: Presidents Day Shuttle, Campground Reservations, and *Sequoia Speaks*

Presidents Day Shuttle: Enjoy winter fun and ride for free in the Giant Forest during Presidents Day weekend, February 16-18, 2013, at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Buses will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Monday. The shuttle links Wolverton snow play area, the General Sherman Tree, Lodgepole Visitor Center, and Wuksachi Restaurant and Lodge. Due to extremely limited parking, the small lot at the popular Sherman Tree will accommodate only those with handicap-parking placards during the hours of shuttle operations. Shuttle riders may find parking at Lodgepole Visitor Center, Wuksachi Lodge, and Wolverton. This service is thanks to a partnership between Sequoia National Park and the City of Visalia, which also operates summer shuttle service in the Giant Forest. Cross-country skiers and hikers with snow shoes can use the shuttle to access trails in the area. Trail maps are sold at visitor centers at Lodgepole, the Foothills, or Grant Grove. Free walks and talks may be offered by park rangers. Tire chains may be required; before heading to the parks, drivers should check road conditions by calling 559-565-3341.

(Note to news media: See attached flyer for details about Presidents Day shuttle service.)

Campground Reservations: Campsites for large groups in Kings Canyon National Park will now be available to reserve via Recreation.gov, beginning February 20, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. EST. The two group sites at Sunset Campground in Grant Grove and the four at Canyon View Campground in Cedar Grove will join the Recreation.gov system, which already represents regular campsites at Lodgepole and Dorst campgrounds, and group sites at Dorst. Reservations may be made through www.Recreation.gov online or by phone at (877) 444-6777. Reservations may be made up to 6 months in advance of the date you want to camp. Other park campgrounds are first come, first served.

(continued)

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Sequoia Speaks Presentations: On Friday evenings in February, experts in their field will share the latest on water sources and conditions in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Open to the public, these free talks take place in Visalia at the College of the Sequoias Ponderosa Lecture Hall from 7 – 8 p.m. On February 8, the topic is a fascinating new collection of information on historic floods of the Kaweah River (the previously scheduled discussion on turtles and water quality was cancelled). On February 15, the topic is caves and other hidden reservoirs in these mountains. February 22's speaker will discuss how mountain snowpack, so important to the San Joaquin valley, is measured using new technologies. The speakers welcome questions after each session.

For more info about Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.

– NPS –

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.