

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

David Martin
Cabinet Secretary-Designate

Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Tommy Mutz, Division Director
State Parks Division



News Release

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Contact: Beth Wojahn 505-476-3226; E-mail: beth.wojahn@state.nm.us
Jim Winchester 505-231-8800; E-mail: jim.winchester@state.nm.us

Autumn Adventures at New Mexico State Parks

Santa Fe, NM – New Mexico State Parks are open for business and gearing up for an exciting fall season of events! Whether you're an avid hiker or birdwatcher, or would just like to relax outdoors as the foliage turns beautiful colors, your State Parks have so much to offer.

Autumn is a great time to spend your weekends at State Parks and due to recent heavy rains, many state park lakes and rivers are in better condition than they have been in more than 5 years. Boating, camping, fishing, hunting and hiking are especially good at this time of year.

"Camping is a great family activity and autumn is a perfect time to hit the great outdoors," said State Parks Director, Tommy Mutz. "For many families, State Park experiences provide a way to get outside and reconnect with the outdoors and with each other."

Here is a taste of State Park events in October:

- Bring binoculars! Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park near Las Cruces is hosting a Bird Walk from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on October 5. On Sunday, October 6, cap off the weekend by listening to the Rio Grande Ramblers play live at 6 p.m.
- Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park in Carlsbad is hosting a Fall Plant Sale on October 5 and 6. Visit the zoo and purchase native and drought tolerant plants!
- The constellations of the Summer Triangle reign supreme and the Milky Way dominates the night sky. View these constellations at Oliver Lee State Park with a night sky tour by the Amateur Astronomers Group from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on October 5. Visit the Oliver Lee Ranch House, originally built in 1893, during an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 12.
- Camp and experience the beautiful desert starlight at a two-day astronomy event October 11-12 at Brantley Lake State Park. From 6:30 p.m. to 11p.m each night, telescope viewing and laser constellation tours are available.
- Meet at the Visitor Center and enjoy the crisp autumn air on a ranger-led hike in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at Hyde Memorial State Park on Saturday, October 12 from 10 a.m. to noon.
- The Rio Grande Yacht Club will host a Sailboat Regatta at Elephant Butte Lake State Park on October 12-13 from 10 to 4 p.m. This fun event with trophies and prizes runs biweekly through the end of November.
- On Saturday, October 19, coyote expert Camilla Fox presents the fascinating world of *Canis latrans* at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

- On Friday, October 18, Cerrillos Hills State Park is offering a moonlight hike from 6 to 8 p.m. Dress warmly and please do not step on the tarantulas.

New Mexico State Parks have had no changes in operational hours as a result of the federal government shutdown. Most New Mexicans live within a short drive to their nearest state park. Fall foliage is already turning and evenings are crisp and perfect for campfires and a good night's sleep under the stars. Take advantage of the exciting adventures available at a New Mexico State Park near you! For more information call 888-NMPARKS or visit www.nmparks.com

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Conditions are Right for Adventure at Your New Mexico State Parks!

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

1220 South St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone (505) 476-3355 • Fax (505) 476-3361 • www.nmparks.com