

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Celebrate the New Year with First Day Hikes at Your State Parks on January 1, 2017!

Santa Fe, NM - Make a New Year's resolution to your health and happiness by kicking off 2017 with a First Day Hike at a state park near you. On January 1, New Mexico State Parks will sponsor free, guided hikes in 16 state parks on New Year's Day as part of America's State Parks First Day Hikes.

"We are excited to host First Day Hikes as part of this national effort to get people outdoors and into our parks. First Day Hikes are a great way to cure cabin fever and burn off those extra holiday calories by starting off the New Year with an invigorating walk or hike in one of your beautiful state parks," said Christy Tafoya, NM State Parks Director.

New Mexico State Parks boast a variety of beautiful settings for year-round outdoor recreation, and each First Day Hike will offer an opportunity to explore unique natural and cultural treasures. From Carlsbad to Raton, hikers can climb hills and mountain tops, walk along lakes, and traverse trails through forests and prairies.

In New Mexico, hikes will be offered at the following locations and times:

- Bluewater Lake State Park - Prewitt – 1:00 p.m.
- Bottomless Lakes State Park - Roswell - 2:00 p.m.
- Cerrillos Hills State Park - Cerrillos - 10 a.m.
- Caballo Lake State Park- Caballo - 9 a.m.
- City of Rocks State Park - Faywood - 9:00 a.m.
- Eagle Nest Lake State Park - Eagle Nest - 10:00 a.m.
- Elephant Butte Lake State Park - Elephant Butte - 10:00 a.m.
- Fenton Lake State Park - La Cueva - 11:00 a.m.
- Leasburg Dam State Park - Radium Springs - 10:00 a.m.
- Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park - Carlsbad - 10:00 a.m.
- Oasis State Park - Portales - 1:30 p.m.
- Navajo Lake State Park - 10:00 a.m.
- Rockhound State Park - Deming - 9:00 a.m.

Sugarite Canyon State Park - Raton - 11:30 a.m.
Sumner Lake State Park - Ft. Sumner - 1:00 p.m.
Ute Lake State Park - Logan - 9:00 a.m.

Park staff and volunteers will lead the hikes, which average one to two miles or longer depending on the scheduled hike. Details about hike locations, difficulty and length, terrain and tips regarding proper clothing are listed on the America's State Parks website. Visit www.naspd.org or www.nmparks.com to find a First Day Hike nearest you.

First Day Hikes originated over 20 years ago, at a state park in Milton, Massachusetts.

America's State Parks is committed to promoting outdoor recreation in state parks to address obesity, especially among children. Getting kids outside and unplugged from video games and other electronic media creates a unique connection with nature that promotes physical and mental well-being and encourages creativity and stewardship of our shared resources.



First Day Hike at Elephant Butte Dam. The Dam celebrated its Centennial in October, 2016

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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.*

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