

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 7, 2018

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Holiday Events at New Mexico State Parks

Enjoy the Warm Glow of Thousands of Luminarias

Santa Fe, NM – Whether you enjoy bird-watching, hiking, or star gazing, New Mexico State Parks is your official sponsor of holiday adventure!

“New Mexico is rich with celebrations during December,” said State Parks Director Christy Tafoya. “New Mexico State Parks have something that everyone can enjoy, and we invite visitors to take part in our many special holiday events.”

On Saturday, December 8th, State Parks are hosting numerous luminaria events at Elephant Butte Lake, Pancho Villa, and Rockhound State Park. Here are more details:

- Elephant Butte Lake will host its annual Luminaria Beach Walk on Saturday, December 8th, from 5 – 8 p.m. It will include 3000 luminarias, community booths, carolers, a floating lights parade, and refreshments from participating camp hosts.
- Pancho Villa State Park will host the luminaria event in portal area of the Exhibit Hall. Enjoy hot chocolate and hundreds of luminaria candles as the sun sets. The event begins at 5 p.m. and ends with the last of several baked hams to be given away as free holiday prizes!
- Rockhound State Park will host Luminaria Evening, which includes more than 1,000 luminarias light the visitor center, native garden and labyrinth. Enjoy the holiday tradition with hot cider and cookies. The event is from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park in Carlsbad will host Holidays with the Animals on Saturday, December 8 from 1 - 3 p.m. There will be face-painting activities where children can make holiday cards and treats for their favorite Living Desert animals.

- Sugarite Canyon State Park will host Christmas on the Chicorica December 15, from 5 - 8 p.m. Stroll along Chicorica Creek on a path lit by 1,500 luminarias. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies near a wood-burning stove, listen to carols, and peek through the park telescope. Don't forget to visit with Santa!

For more information on all New Mexico State Parks, please visit our website at www.nmparks.com.

Conditions are Right for Adventure at New Mexico State Parks!



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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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