

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Celebrate *National Park and Recreation Month* at a New Mexico State Park

Santa Fe, NM – New Mexico State Parks are offering a variety of programs for National Park and Recreation Month on July 20-21 and July 27, 2013. Since 1985, America has recognized July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. State Parks partners with the National Recreation and Park Association in the celebration. The 2013 theme encourages individuals, families, and friends to experience an adventure at a state park.

"NM State Parks are providing fun, hands-on activities at many parks in the next two weeks," says State Park Director, Tommy Mutz. "We support National Park and Recreation Month and invite visitors to have fun at a park and to learn something new."

National Park and Recreation Month programs at State Parks include:

June 20, 2013

Bottomless Lakes State Park – *23rd Annual Sand Sculpture Contest*, 7:00 AM–1:00 PM. Come play in the sand at the Lea Lake swimming area and make your own sand creation. Judging will begin at 1:00 PM and several prizes will be awarded to different age categories.

Sumner Lake State Park – *Youth Daze*, 9:30 AM-2:00 PM. Bring the kids and have a day full of fun with water games and relays on both land and water. Interpretive programs will be conducted by the NM Department of Game and Fish with their Poach Coach. There will be a cookout with hotdogs too!

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park – *Dragonflies*, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Learn to identify and photograph these amazing insects with volunteer naturalist, David Kilpatrick, during this popular outdoor class.

Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park – *Music and the Moon* and *Full Moon Walk*, 6:30-8:00 PM and 8:00-8:30 PM. Folk music by singer/songwriter Jaime Michaels starts your evening under the moon at this park. Stay until 8:00 and stroll through the zoo by the light of the full moon.

Rockhound State Park – *Music in the Park*, 6:00-8:00 PM. Enjoy the full moon listening to "Desert Trio," July McClure, Fred Williams and Gary Hart.

Heron Lake State Park – *Coffee with a Camphost* and *Saturday Morning Nature Hikes*, 9:00-11:30 AM. Interpretive programs at the park provide information on the park, its natural resources and weekend events.

July 21, 2013

Cerrillos Hills State Park – *Raptors of New Mexico*, 3:00-5:00 PM. Peggy McCormick of Wildlife Rescue, Inc. will be joined by a raven, Harris hawk and an owl. Learn about these important members of the bird world.

July 27, 2013

Ute Lake State Park – *2nd Annual Wounded Warrior H2O Clinic*, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. This adaptive water sport event for US Disabled Veterans and other disabled individuals features water skiing, sailing, and kayaking.

Heron Lake State Park – *Coffee with a Camphost and Saturday Morning Nature Hikes*, 9:00-11:30 AM. *Ukelele Lessons in the Park*, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. *Nature Inspired Art*, 2:00-4:00 PM.

Oasis State Park – *Birds of Oasis*, 7:00-10:00 PM. Join park staff for an evening of birding. Bring your binoculars and walking shoes for a look at the birds of the park.

Oliver Lee State Park – *Scorpio*, 9:00-10:30 PM. The Amateur Astronomers Group will be sponsoring a summer sky tour, as Scorpio dominates the southern sky.

Rio Grande Nature Center State – *Un paseo por el bosque*, 9:00-10:15 AM. Enjoy a Spanish nature walk and learn about wildlife in the bosque. This program is open to Spanish speakers of all ages and levels of proficiency.

Your New Mexico State Parks are open for adventure. Try something dynamic and new at a park near you.

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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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