

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Spectacular Stars and Spiders at Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park

Carlsbad, NM – Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park will host two separate free events on August 14th and 15th. On Friday, August 14th a Star Party will begin at 8 p.m. Join us and see the spectacular wonders of the night sky through large telescopes. The ringed planet Saturn will be visible as well as star clusters and nebulae. There will also be a laser light tour of the summer constellations at 9 p.m. and there is no charge for the Star Party.

On Saturday, August 15th join us for a “Tarantula Talk” hosted by Damian "Spiderman" Armijo. He will demonstrate many of his live tarantulas and explain the natural history and behavior of these fascinating desert spiders. The spider presentation will be from 2 p.m.–3 p.m. in the Visitor Center.

This native wildlife zoo, accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, exhibits more than 40 species of animals and hundreds of species of plants native to the Chihuahuan Desert. The park provides an up-close experience for visitors, with a variety of fun interpretive programs for every season geared for the entire family. Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park also has beautiful hiking trails, picnic areas and group facilities for day use. Pets are not allowed.

Programs in the Visitor Center are free. If you wish to visit the zoo, regular entrance fees apply. Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park is located on the northwest edge of Carlsbad, NM off of Highway 285.

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Find your New Mexico **True** State Park. While at Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park, record your experience in a 2 minute video and then upload it to www.newmexico.org and you could win some fabulous prizes! Find your New Mexico **True** State Park Video Contest is on-going through October 31, 2015. Check out <https://www.newmexico.org/NMTruePark>

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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