

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**David Martin**  
Cabinet Secretary

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

**Tommy Mutz, Division Director**  
State Parks Division



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 25, 2015**

Contact: Beth Wojahn 505-476-3226; E-mail: [beth.wojahn@state.nm.us](mailto:beth.wojahn@state.nm.us)

## Party with the Stars this Spring at New Mexico State Parks

**Santa Fe, NM** – New Mexico State Parks is offering ten unique star parties across the state in April and May!

“New Mexico is one of the best places in the world to study the night skies,” said Tommy Mutz, New Mexico State Parks Division Director. “And what better place to do it than in a State Park with knowledgeable guides, great telescopes and beautiful, peaceful surroundings.”

### **Clayton Lake State Park**

Wednesday, April 1 from 9 - 11 p.m. and Saturday, April 18 from 9 - 11 p.m.

A partnership with volunteers and local astronomers was the drive for this observatory in northeastern NM. Located in the central part of the park, a state of the art telescope affords visitors with incredible views of the night sky. The event on the 18<sup>th</sup> is during a new moon and will be especially exciting! Call 575-374-8808 for more info.

### **City of Rocks State Park**

Thursday, April 9 from 7 – 10 p.m.

Nestled among volcanic boulders on the plains between Deming and Silver City, City of Rocks State Park is the perfect location for a Star Party. Join us for an incredible look at the night sky. The observatory's roll-off roof allows for amazing viewing, and visitors can see distant galaxies and night sky objects on video monitors or through smaller scopes. Program begins at dusk at the Gene & Elizabeth Simon Observatory. Call 575-536-2800 for more info.

### **Leasburg Dam State Park**

Saturday, April 11 from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 9 from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Music & the Stars! Enjoy music, a beautiful sunset and a stunning night sky once a month from April through October. Each month will have a different night sky topic. Come out and join the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces to view objects in the spring night sky like Jupiter, Venus and the Pleiades through the research-grade telescope. Call 575-524-4068 for more info.

### **Oliver Lee Memorial State Park**

Saturday, April 18 from 8 – 10 p.m.

Join the Amateur Astronomers Group for a tour of the spring sky. In the west, after sunset, Venus will form a close conjunction with the Pleiades, while Jupiter dominates the sky in Cancer. Come early and enjoy the beauty of Dog Canyon at sundown. On Saturday, May 16 from 9:00 to 10:30 p.m., learn about the constellations Ursa Major and Bootes, which are linked by the myths of Callisto and Arcus. Call 575-437-8284 for more info.

### **Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park**

Saturday, May 2 from 6 – 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Start your evening with some music and then stroll through the zoo by the light of the full moon. It's the perfect time to visit the park and you may even hear the New Mexican Grey Wolves howl! Call 575-887-5516 for more info.

### **Rockhound State Park**

Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 to 10:30 p.m.

Join us for the "Stars-n-Parks" astronomy program at Rockhound. Star parties will observe highlights of the spring sky setting in the west, while Jupiter is visible in the southwest. The planet Saturn should clear the mountains to the east before program end. The event begins with a night sky tour, followed by views of deep sky objects through a high-powered telescope. Rockhound State Park is located in the Little Florida Mountains southeast of Deming. Call 575-546-6182 for more info.

*Adventure is closer than you think 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*

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