

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 31, 2018

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Get Out and Play at Your New Mexico State Parks This Labor Day Weekend

Santa Fe, NM – You work hard, so take some time to get out and have a fun, safe and memorable time at your New Mexico State Parks! State Parks offer great family opportunities for fun under the New Mexico sun and stars this Labor Day Weekend.

“NM State Parks will have great Labor Day events, offering adventure for everyone,” said State Parks Director Christy Tafoya. “The entire family can have fun hiking, camping and attending our special events throughout the long weekend.”

Labor Day Weekend Events:

Percha Dam State Park: *Black Bears - The Lone Survivors* - Celebrate National Wildlife Day on Saturday, September 1st from 11 a.m. to noon and join us for a presentation on black bears - our state mammal. Meet at the Percha Dam State Park Visitor Center. Free with valid park permit.

Leasburg Dam State Park: *Music & the Stars* – Astronomers have designated this park as having a “quality night sky.” Come out on Saturday, September 1st from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and join us for a Monthly Night Sky program. Several telescopes will be available for the public to observe planets, stars, and other night sky objects. The observatory and its 16-inch research grade telescope will also be available. Tom Foster Morris will perform Country and Folk music from 6-8 p.m. This will be followed by telescope night sky viewing. Volunteers from the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces will be on hand to assist visitors with the telescopes and answer questions. Regular day use or camping fees apply.

Oasis State Park: 10th Annual Catfish Derby - With the support of the Friends of Oasis, visitors can participate in the "Biggest Catfish Challenge Derby" held on Saturday, September 1st. The event is open to all ages and the derby entry fee is \$5 per person.

The challenge will have two categories: Adult (age 16 years and older) and Junior (age 15 years and younger). Prizes will be the same for both categories with a first, second and third place for each. Prizes will be awarded immediately after the derby and will be based on the weight of the fish. Door prizes will be drawn throughout the derby as well. The catfish limit is 2 per person per day. Anyone 12 years of age and older must have a valid NM fishing license. The park entrance fee is required.

Cerrillos Hills State Park, Cerrillos, NM: Guided Hike - Come experience a volunteer-led guided hike through the hills. This hike will be on Sunday, September 2nd beginning at 10a.m.

Heron Lake State Park: Visitor Center Events - Nature Inspired Art weekly activities based on nature themes will be held on Sunday morning, September 2nd from 9:00 a.m.-noon. Activities will include paper stained glass, bird & butterfly mobiles, paper making and much more. All programs are held at the Visitor Center Great Room. Also, a family-friendly Sunday Night Movie will also be shown at the Visitor Center on September 2nd. This week's animated movie will be "Chicken Run."

Heron Lake and El Vado Lake State Parks: Carp Derby – On Monday, September 3, a carp derby will be held at both parks. Teams of two can compete for cash prizes for the total weight of carp caught. To take part in the contest, register between 8-9 a.m. on the day of the derby at the Ridge Rock parking lot adjacent to the Heron Lake Dam. Weigh-in will be at the Ridge Rock parking lot at Heron Lake State Park between 2-3 p.m. The contest entry fee is \$5 a person; additional park entry and camping fees apply.

Reserve your favorite camping spot, find out more about events and check out our FREE boating safety classes by visiting our website at www.nmparks.com or www.boatnm.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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