

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Mexico State Parks Offer Ceremonies, Parades, Star Parties, and More For Memorial Day Weekend

Santa Fe, NM – The New Mexico State Parks Division is the Official Sponsor of Adventure, providing recreational opportunities and activities for this year's Memorial Day Weekend, including: water recreation, fishing derbies and numerous special programs and ceremonies at many state parks. Special activities begin Friday, May 24, and continue through Monday, May 27. There is something for everyone in all corners of the state, so kick off the summer season with a getaway close to home.

"New Mexico State Parks offer an abundance of recreational opportunities for Memorial Day weekend," said Tommy Mutz, Director of New Mexico State Parks. "Conditions are right for adventure so come out and experience opportunities and family-oriented events to kick off the first holiday of the summer."

The expanses of desert and plains, mountains, streams and historical sites in state parks contain significant natural, cultural and recreational resources. State park activities include: wildlife viewing, birding, camping, paddle boarding, kayaking, fishing, hiking, star parties, and educational and special events for all ages.

Memorial Weekend Events:

Saturday, May 25

Bottomless Lakes State Park

Enchanted Evenings – 8:00-9:00 PM - The Enchanted Evenings programs kick off on Memorial Day Weekend. These presentations are conducted by local Park Rangers or guest speakers and take place at the historic Lea Lake pavilion. Contact (575) 624-6058.

Cerrillos Hills State Park

Wildflower Hike – 10:00 AM-12:00 PM - Do April showers really produce May flowers? Join Park Manager Sarah Wood and sample the season's blossoms and blooms. Contact (505) 474-0196.

Elephant Butte Lake State Park

9th Annual "Fly Freedom's Flag" – 10 AM-2 PM – This ceremony will feature a POW/MIA service, a boat parade and Memorial Wreath Toss. Contact (575) 744-5923.

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

Un paseo por el bosque – 9:00-10:30 AM – Enjoy a Spanish Nature Walk through the bosque. This walk is conducted in Spanish and is open to Spanish speakers of all ages and levels of proficiency. Contact (505) 344-7240.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park

- *POW/MIA Update* – 3:00-4:00 PM - Come and learn the latest information on the work of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, which provides research to account for all Americans missing as a result of past conflicts.
- *Author Jack McLean* – 4:00-5:00 PM – Vietnam veteran and author, Jack McLean will present a talk and sign copies of his book "Loon." McLean served in an infantry company in the northernmost reaches of Vietnam.

Sunday, May 26

Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park

- *Labyrinth Presentation* - 11:00 AM-12:00 PM - Sandra Wasko-Flood, founder of Living Labyrinths for Peace, will offer the history of labyrinths as symbols of peaceful transformation through art and community action.
- *POW/MIA Update* – 3:00-4:00 PM
- *Author Jack McLean* – 4:00-5:00 PM – Lecture and book signing.
- *Candlelight Vigil* - 6:00-7:30 PM

Monday, May 27

Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park

- *Native American Tribute to Our Veterans* – 8:30 AM
- *Memorial Day Flag March* – 9:00-11:00 AM
- *Memorial Day Ceremony* – 11:00 AM

For more information on Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park events, contact (575) 377-2293.

Come to our state parks this Memorial Day to learn something new. We offer great events as well as fun activities. Visit NMPARKS.com and plan your summer adventure. New Mexico State Parks...We Are the Official Sponsors of Adventure.



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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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