

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Mid-Summer Fun at State Parks

Santa Fe, NM – Summer is in full-swing and State Parks invites families out to enjoy water sports or programs held throughout beautiful New Mexico. Camp with us or bring a picnic for a fun day outing. Here are just a few offerings for the month of July.

Park Special Events

Grab your family and head east to enjoy State Park events on Saturday, July 19, 2014. The *Prairie Fest* at Ute Lake State Park starts at 2 p.m. with live snakes and other reptiles at the Visitor Center, the opportunity to make Prairie Art at the North Area Beach, and night sky programming.

Sumner Lake State Park features its annual *Youth Daze* event on July 19th from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bring the kids for a full day of water games and relays on both land and water. The NM Department of Game and Fish will be on hand with their Poach Coach. Also, enjoy a hotdog cookout!

Bottomless Lakes State Park will host the 24th *Annual Sand Sculpture Contest*, also on July 19th from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Participants can compete to build the best and most original sand sculptures at the Lea Lake Recreation Area.

Star Parties

Oasis State Park in Portales is having a *Star Party* on Saturday, July 26th from 8–10 p.m. Join the Clovis Astronomy Club and park staff for a fun night of star gazing. Bring your binoculars, telescopes, and red lens flashlights for a great look at New Mexico's beautiful night sky. No pets, please.

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, near Alamogordo is also having a Star Party the same night – July 26th from 9:00–10:30 p.m. *Scorpio* is spectacular, dominating the southern sky in July! Saturn will also be prominent in nearby Libra, so don't miss this great event sponsored by the Amateur Astronomers Group. Come early and enjoy the beauty of Dog Canyon at sundown.

Summer is a great time of year to get outdoors! State Parks has something for everyone, so check out all of our events at nmparks.com.

State Parks officials remind you to always make safety your number one priority—on land and in the water. Wearing lifejackets saves lives; always wear a lifejacket when you're on a boat or swimming. State Parks offers FREE boating safety classes around the state and on-line throughout the year.

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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