The stars are not glimmering as brightly at night because of excessive artificial light, also known as ‘light pollution’. The National Park Service is aware of this problem and is committed to protecting this endangered natural resource with the help of other groups such as the International Dark Sky Association.

The stars are not glimmering as brightly as they were a thousand years ago, a hundred years ago, and even ten years ago. Ancient civilizations studied the night sky. Our ancestors navigated using the stars as their beacons. The night sky is recorded in rock art and building alignments throughout the world. Unfortunately, today’s stargazer sometimes needs more than a telescope to view the stars. Often, they need enough time and space to drive towards their nearest national park, where night skies are darker than most suburban skies. City lights can bleed over a hundred miles making it difficult to view the celestial bodies. Will our children’s children be able to wish upon a star? Or will they miss out on a ritual that has been passed down for generations?

Why is it important to combat light pollution? The effects of light pollution extend far beyond our fading constellations. Light pollution interferes with animals’ nocturnal habits, disrupts the circadian rhythm in humans, and wastes extraordinary amounts of energy each year. Light pollution is easily observed in cities, and regrettably it threatens the skies in our national parks as well. Stargazing becomes fixated and disoriented. They are exhausted and drop from the sky to their deaths. Annually, 100 million birds die in North America because of light pollution. Sadly, light pollution is taking a huge toll on a variety of wildlife. When bright city lights intrude into wildlife habitats, their behaviors including finding food, sleeping, migrating, and mating are altered. Some birds use the moon and stars to navigate during their migration seasons. Often, they are drawn to bright lights, becoming fixated and disoriented. They may crash into buildings or circle until they are exhausted and drop from the sky to their deaths. Annually, 100 million birds die in North America because of lighted buildings.

Artificial lighting affects many mammals including deer, coyotes, and cougars. Animals will try to avoid unnatural light, but that restricts their foraging activity and changes their natural movements. This can cause them to eat less, which leads to being underfed and can create long term survival issues for the species. Animals exposed to bright lights may need up to 40 minutes for their eyes to properly re-adjust to night vision. Shockingly, even a single light can change a wildlife corridor and have a huge impact on their lives.

Bats, an important predator of the night, are also succumbing to light pollution. Following their food source, bats fly towards agricultural fields and consume tons of insects, reducing the need for man-made insecticides. However, they can be unnaturally drawn to street lights or other areas that are brightly illuminated, which exposes bats to nocturnal predators such as owls, cats, and snakes. This also increases their risk of being killed by vehicular traffic. Concentrations of bats in one area can also lead to faster disease transmission.

The ecosystem is further impacted because insects are also drawn to the artificial lights, which attract bats to illuminated urban areas. The insects are consumed en masse by the bats. This can affect other species that rely on insects for food as well as plants that rely on insects for pollination. There are serious human health issues associated with light pollution. The disruption of circadian rhythms, our internal 24 hour clock, affects both the brain and the body. Too much light in the evening can reduce the amount of melatonin in our blood. Melatonin is an important hormone which impacts our endocrine system and helps us sleep. Lack of sleep can cause a host of medical issues including stress, depression, weight gain, increased risk of diabetes, and even cancer.

Researchers estimate that about a third of all lighting in the United States is wasted. That means almost 30 million barrels of oil and over eight million tons of coal are expended for no useful purpose. This release more than 14 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which adds to other pollution issues. Ultimately, outdoor lighting is intended to provide safety from crime, better visibility on roadways, and comfort in our communities. Unfortunately, much of the outdoor lighting is misdirected into trees, asphalt, empty parking lots, and of course, the night sky. When light is misdirected it lacks value, and its cost can be exorbitant.

The National Park Service is taking steps to stop light pollution and restore our night skies. One of the first steps is to measure and monitor changes in the brightness of the night sky. The National Park Service seeks cooperation from neighboring communities, park visitors, and local governments in its efforts to prevent artificial lights from intruding upon park ecosystems. The National Park Service will not use artificial lighting in areas that negatively affect wildlife. Additionally, by using outdoor lighting sensibly, the parks are maintaining their...
Volunteerism Makes a Difference

MANY NATIONAL PARKS ACROSS AMERICA OFFER A JUNIOR RANGEr PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN TO ENCOURAGE INTRerEST IN THEIR NATIONAL PARKS AND TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF STewardSHIP AND OWNERSHIP FOR THESE SPECIAL PLACES THAT THEY COME TO VISIT. THIS SELF-PACED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ALLOWS CHILDREN TO EARN A PATCH AND/OR CERTIFICATE UPON COMPLETION OF REQUIRED ACTIVITIES THAT TEACH THEM ABOUT PARK RESOURCES. AGE APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES ARE INCLUDED IN THE JUNIOR RANGEr BOOKLET, TYPICALLY FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH UPPER ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILDREN.

At Carlsbad Caverns, the Junior Ranger program offers activities that teach children about the resources both above ground and below the surface (including plant and animal life of the desert, cave features, and history of the park). Younger children have opportunities to color and draw, find objects on a visual scavenger hunt, use their senses to experience their surroundings, and complete games. Older children will sequence events, complete word searches, and write stories and poems. Each activity in the booklet is an optional activity depending on interest and age-level.

The Junior Ranger booklet is available at the visitor center information desk. Children of all ages may participate and earn a badge or patch — it’s their choice. The program is free, but donations are always welcome. At Guadalupe Mountains National Park, children work through a separate activity booklet and visit points of interest within the park. The booklet accommodates families of varying travel plans. Many of the activities can be completed at the pine springs visitor center. Children who complete three activities earn a badge and certificate, while those who do six earn a patch in addition to the badge and certificate. There is no charge for participation in the program, but donations are always welcome. Junior Paleontologist and Wilderness Explorer Activity Books are also available. Participants will earn a badge (Jr. Paleontologist) or patch (Wilderness Explorer) upon completion.

Senior Ranger programs are a new development, currently available at limited locations, aimed at an audience that enjoys a challenge and wants to use an activity book to learn about the park and help plan their visit. A Senior Ranger program is available at Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

Senior Ranger books are available at the pine springs visitor center for anyone 13 years and older. Activities include visiting sites, learning about the park’s history, geology, flora, and fauna. Upon completion, participants earn a patch and certificate.

The National Park Service also offers an online Junior Ranger program for those who are unable to visit a national park, featuring activities about sites found across the nation. The activities illustrate principles in natural science and American history in new ways. To learn more, visit www.nps.gov/webrangers.

If you would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated effort and talent that volunteers have brought to Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. Volunteers play a vital role in fulfilling our mission of preserving our natural and cultural heritage and sharing that heritage with the visiting public. Volunteers do everything from staff the information desk, roving interpretation, patrolling surface and cave trails, to trail maintenance, research, cave restoration, and more.

To become a Volunteer-In-Park (VIP) visit www.volunteer.gov or contact:
Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Volunteer-In-Park Coordinator
575-785-3120
Carlsbad, NM 88220
3225 National Parks Highway

Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Volunteer-In-Park Coordinator
575-785-3200
Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Volunteer-In-Park Coordinator
915-828-3251

Dennis A. Vásquez
Superintendent
Guadalupe Mountains NP

John C. Benjamin
Superintendent
Carlsbad Caverns NP

As you travel and spend time in the area please remember to keep safety in mind. Deer and other wildlife are plentiful—enjoy watching wildlife, but remember they often move across roads, especially in the evenings, be vigilant while driving during twilight hours. Hikers should be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions. Hikers can become dehydrated in our dry climate, so carry plenty of water (one gallon per person per day is recommended). Always check with a ranger before venturing into the backcountry.

We are wholeheartedly committed to our mission of preserving and providing for the enjoyment of our nation’s most outstanding treasures. We wish you a rewarding experience in every way.

Junior and Senior Ranger Programs

Traveling with a Pet?

ON A WARM DAY THE TEMPERATURE INSIDE A CAR CAN KILL A PET. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS UNATTENDED.

At Carlsbad Caverns National Park, pets are allowed on all paved roads, pullouts and parking areas, along Walnut Canyon Desert Drive (Loop Road), on the paved Nature trail, and at Rattlesnake Springs picnic area. Pets must be kept on a leash at all times. Pets are not permitted in the cave or at the bat flight programs. During the day, your pet may be cared for at the concessions kennel for a small fee. Call 575-785-2281 for details. A citation will be issued if animals are left in vehicles when ambient air temperatures are 70° Fahrenheit (21° Celcius) or higher.

At Guadalupe Mountains National Park, pets are allowed only on the Pinery trail while on leash, but are not allowed on other trails, in the backcountry, in buildings, or at evening programs; they are permitted in the pine springs and dog canyon campgrounds. In any national park, your pet must be physically restrained at all times.
The Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association (CCGMA) is a private, nonprofit organization whose main objectives are to provide interpretation for the park visitor and to support the purposes and mission of the National Park Service at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and the lands related to them in New Mexico and West Texas since 1957. To date, CCGMA has donated over $2.7 million to parks by CCGMA.

Over $2.7 Million Donated to Parks by CCGMA

Bats are important for ecosystems across the country and the world. They are excellent pollinators and eat millions of tons of insects nightly. Some of these insects are pests of food crops. A study completed in the 1990’s on the Brazilian (Mexican) freetail bats from Carlsbad Cavern shows that 40 percent of the insects devoured by these bats are crop pests taken along the farmlands of the nearby Pecos River. Bats are important.

Unfortunately, beginning in the winter of 2006-2007 in caves in New York, New Mexico and a very deadly disease began to decimate bats that hibernate. Dead bats were immediately associated with a white fungus growing around noses, ears, and on wing membranes. This condition was later named “White-nose Syndrome (WNS).”

Since 2006, over five million bats have been killed by this disease and as of this summer, WNS has been detected in nine species of bats that hibernate. Death rates of various colonies have been from 90 percent to 100 percent of all bats in that particular colony. An additional concern is that WNS is spreading rapidly. It is now found in caves and mines in 14 states. The most recent occurrence of WNS was found in a cave in western Oklahoma.

There are lots of unknowns concerning WNS. At this time, it does not appear to be affecting summer bat colonies such as Brazilian Freetail bats for which Carlsbad Cavern is famous. We must all be vigilant.

While it is known that transmission of the fungus is mostly from bat-to-bat, it may also be possible for humans to transmit fungus spores on clothing, gear, shoes, or skin.

In an effort to slow the spread of fungi and give bat scientists more time to look for a solution to this serious problem, Carlsbad Caverns National Park is asking visitors to caves in the park or the area to be aware of this problem and to help minimize the potential spread of this deadly disease.

Everyone can help in the following ways:

- If you have been in a cave or mine that is known to harbor WNS, or if you have been in a cave or mine within a state known to have WNS, please do not bring any of the potentially contaminated items (clothing, gear, shoes) used during that visit into Carlsbad Cavern or other caves.
- If you are taking one of the ranger-guided off-trail trips offered by Carlsbad Caverns National Park, please use the gear furnished by the park on those tours. Also, clean your shoes and other clothing before entering the cave.
- As the weather warms, Carlsbad Caverns National Park will be increasing efforts to inform the public about this devastating disease. Check when arriving at the park for any updates on WNS and what you can do to help prevent its continued spread to other areas and other bat species.

Books may also be purchased by mail or online:
PO Box 147
Carlsbad, NM 88221
(575) 785-2484
(575) 785-2188 FAX
www.ccgma.org

Consider joining CCGMA. As a member you will receive a 15 percent discount on all purchases. This discount is extended to several cooperating associations of other national parks as well. You will also receive the CCGMA newsletter and the Visitor Guide for Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks (2 issues a year).

In addition to these benefits, you will receive a free on a Carlsbad Caverns National Park or Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Most importantly, your contribution helps further our mission of providing aid to these parks.

Membership (1 year)
$25.00

Purchases may be made by credit card or check. Include your address and daytime phone number. If ordering by credit card include the card number, the date of expiration, and the signature of the cardholder. The following cards are accepted: American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa. Make checks payable to CCGMA.

Shipping and handling charges for book orders are as follows:
$4.00 for purchases up to $14.00
$5.00 for purchases $15-30.00
$6.00 for purchases $31-40.00

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States known to have WNS include: CT, DE, IN, MA, MD, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OK, PA, TN, VA, VT, and WV.

A New Deadly Disease Killing Bats

by Dale Pate

Bats are important for ecosystems across the country and the world. They are excellent pollinators and eat millions of tons of insects nightly. Some of these insects are pests of food crops. A study completed in the 1990's on the Brazilian (Mexican) freetail bats from Carlsbad Cavern shows that 40 percent of the insects devoured by these bats are crop pests taken along the farmlands of the nearby Pecos River. Bats are important.

Unfortunately, beginning in the winter of 2006-2007 in caves in New York, New Mexico and a very deadly disease began to decimate bats that hibernate. Dead bats were immediately associated with a white fungus growing around noses, ears, and on wing membranes. This condition was later named “White-nose Syndrome (WNS).”

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- If you are taking one of the ranger-guided off-trail trips offered by Carlsbad Caverns National Park, please use the gear furnished by the park on those tours. Also, clean your shoes and other clothing before entering the cave.
- As the weather warms, Carlsbad Caverns National Park will be increasing efforts to inform the public about this devastating disease. Check when arriving at the park for any updates on WNS and what you can do to help prevent its continued spread to other areas and other bat species.
Carlsbad Caverns Cave Tours

Spring, Fall & Winter Hours
Natural Entrance  8:30 - 2:00
Big Room       8:30 - 3:00
Visitor Center 8:00 - 5:00

Summer Hours
May 25 - September 3, 2012
Natural Entrance  8:30 - 3:30
Big Room       8:30 - 5:00
Visitor Center 8:00 - 7:00

Entrance Fees
Adults—age 16 and older............$6.00
Children—15 and younger......... Free
plus Audio Guide..................$5.00

There is no entrance fee for those who own any of the following passes (up to three individuals plus the cardholder): The Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Access Pass (all three are part of the America the Beautiful—National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass), Golden Age Passport and Golden Access Passport all cover the basic entrance fee. Pass holders must still obtain entry tickets.

Entrance fee applies to self-guided tours. Guided tours require an additional fee.

All fees and tours are subject to change.

Reservations
We recommend that you make reservations for guided tours at least six weeks in advance. Some tours fill quickly. Reservations are not necessary for self-guided tours. To make reservations call the National Park Reservation System at: 877-444-6777 or visit www.Recreation.gov

Have a Safe Tour
Cave temperature is 56°F (13°C) year-round. A light jacket or sweater and good walking shoes are recommended. Do not wear sandals. For your safety:

• Stay on the paved trail.
• Supervise children closely; children under 16 must remain with an adult at all times.
• Ask park rangers for help.
• Take prescribed medications with you.
• High humidity in the cave can affect respiratory problems; bring your inhaler just in case.
• If you are diabetic, be sure you have eaten enough calories.
• If you have an infant with you, carrying backpacks are recommended. Strollers are not allowed.
• Leave your pet at the kennel, not in your car.

Protect the Cave
Never touch, tap or handle the cave formations; the oils on your skin damage the formations.
Never take gum, food or drinks into the cave.
Never throw coins or other objects into the pools.

Photography
Photography is permitted on most tours; however, please use good etiquette. Wear these items before you flash, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. For safety reasons, tripods are not allowed on any guided tours. Tripods are allowed into the Big Room and Main Corridor. Video cameras are permitted on the Big Room, Natural Entrance, and King’s Palace tours. Please use caution and do not use the ultra-bright lights available on some cameras. Photography is not allowed at the Bat Flight Program offered from mid-May to mid-October.

NATURAL ENTRANCE SELF-GUIDED ROUTE
Length: 1.25 miles, 1 hour Fee: Entrance Fee
This hike is similar to walking into a steep canyon (a descent of about 800 feet in one mile). It is recommended only for those physically fit and healthy; sturdy footwear is required. Highlights include the Natural Entrance, Devil’s Spring, Whale’s Mouth, and Iceberg Rock.

BIG ROOM SELF-GUIDED ROUTE
Length: 2.25 miles, 1.5 hours Fee: Entrance Fee
Descend by elevator to start the tour in the Underground Rest Area. The non-skid trail is paved and mostly level, although there are a couple of short, steep hills. All visitors to Carlsbad Cavern should experience this tour. Highlights include the Lion’s Tail, Hall of Giants, Bottomless Pit, and Rock of Ages. Some of this tour can be navigated by wheelchairs, with assistance. The park does not provide wheelchairs. This trail can also be accessed after hiking the 1.25-mile Natural Entrance Self-Guided Route.

SLAUGHTER CANYON CAVE
Length: 1 mile, 1 hour Fee: Entrance Fee and $8.00 Tour Ticket
(Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)
Strenuous. Participants must hike a steep, rocky, and uneven 1/4 mile trail to the cave entrance. Bring water and sunscreen for the hike. The tour is slippery, muddy, and may require ascent of a 15° slope using a knotted rope. Must wear sturdy, closed-toed hiking boots or shoes. Participants must bring four AA batteries. Helmets and headlamps are provided. Carry water—weather may be very hot in summer and very cold in winter. Stay on the trail and wear sturdy hiking shoes.

KING’S PALACE GUIDED TOUR
Length: 1 mile, 1 hour Fee: Entrance Fee and $8.00 Tour Ticket
(Half price for children and Senior Pass cardholders)
Moderately strenuous. There is a steep 80’ hill you must go down initially and then back up at the end of the tour. Walk through four naturally-decorated chambers with a variety of cave formations by descending to the deepest portion of the cavern open to the public. Rangers briefly turn off all lights to reveal the natural darkness of the cave. The trail is paved. Sturdy walking shoes required. Light jacket recommended. Tours depart from the Underground Rest Area.

AUDIO GUIDES
Enhance your visit with an audio guide rental. As you tour the caverns, you will learn about the natural and cultural history of Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Audio guide rentals are administered by Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association (CCGMA), a non-profit organization. The cost is $5.00 and proceeds are donated to the park.
For Reservations call 877-444-6777

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour</th>
<th>Trail Surface</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Tour Time</th>
<th>Adult Fee</th>
<th>Age Limit</th>
<th>Tour Length</th>
<th>Group Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King’s Palace</td>
<td>Paved Trail; 80’ hill must be climbed on return trip</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Spring, Fall, Winter 10 &amp; 1 Summer 10,11,12, &amp; 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Adults (11-15), Senior Pass holders</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Hand Tunnel</td>
<td>Uneven dirt trail and slippery slopes</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>$7.00 and General Admission Ticket ($3.50 ages 6-15, Senior Pass holders)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Cave</td>
<td>Must negotiate fifty feet of ledges, variable dirt trails, might get dirty.</td>
<td>Monday through Friday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$20.00 and General Admission Ticket ($10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass holders)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaughter Canyon Cave</td>
<td>Strenuous climb required to reach cave entrance. Trail in cave is slippery, uneven and rocky.</td>
<td>Fri., Sat., Sun. (5/25/12 to 9/3/12)</td>
<td>8:30 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Center</td>
<td>Special Admission Ticket ($15.00) ($7.50 ages 8-15, Senior Pass holders)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Caving—kneepads required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hall of the White Giant</td>
<td>Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty.</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$20.00 and General Admission Ticket ($10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass holders)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spider Cave</td>
<td>Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty.</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$20.00 ($10.00 ages 12-15, Senior Pass holders)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Surface Activities

SERVICES
Facilities include a visitor center, exhibits, bookstore, restaurant, gift shop and kennel service. Ranger programs are offered daily. Other activities include:

NATURE TRAIL
This one-mile paved, partially wheelchair accessible trail begins near the visitor center and highlights desert plants.

SCENIC DRIVE
A one-hour drive through the Chihuahuan Desert, this 9.5-mile gravel road is suitable for high clearance vehicles. Brochures are available for 50 cents. The scenic drive is open 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. mid-May to mid-October. It is open 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. mid-October to mid-May. These hours are subject to change.

America the Beautiful—The National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass

ANNUAL PASS
The America the Beautiful—National Parks & Federal Recreational Annual Pass replaces the Golden Eagle Passport, the National Parks Pass, and the National Parks Pass with Golden Eagle Sticker. The annual pass is replaced every year. A federal lands photo contest is held each year, with the winning image featured on the subsequent year’s annual pass. Information on the current contest for the next annual pass image can be found at www.sharetheexperience.org.

The annual pass sells for $80.00 and is good for one year from date of purchase. The pass covers entrance fees at National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Forest Service sites. The pass can be purchased at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

SENIOR PASS
The new Senior Pass replaces the Golden Age Passport. Golden Age Passports will continue to be honored.

The Senior Pass sells for $80.00 and is good for life. Any U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States 65 years or older may purchase the Senior Pass.

It covers the entrance fees to National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Forest Service Sites. Some camping and guided tour fees are discounted 50% for cardholders. The pass can be purchased at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

ACCESS PASS
The new Access Pass replaces the Golden Access Passport. Existing Golden Access Passports will continue to be honored.

The Access Pass is available for free to any U.S. citizen or permanent resident of any age that has been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities.

The Access Pass covers the entrance fees to National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Forest Service Sites. Some camping and guided tour fees are discounted 50% for cardholders. The free pass can be obtained upon signing a medical affidavit at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NP ANNUAL PASS
Guadalupe Mountains National Park offers an annual pass for $20.00 for visitors who plan on visiting the park more than once a year, but may not visit other federal fee areas.

The pass covers entrance fees and is good for one individual plus the cardholder (persons 15 years and younger are free with or without the Guadalupe Mountains NP Annual Pass). The pass is available for purchase at the park at the Pine Springs Visitor Center.

BAT FLIGHT PROGRAMS (MAY-OCTOBER)
A few hundred thousand bats fly from Carlsbad Cavern each evening from mid-May until the bats migrate to Mexico sometime in mid-October. The ranger program generally begins each evening 30 to 60 minutes before sunset at the park amphitheater, though weather and lightning can cause cancellation of the program. Check at the visitor center for the exact time the program starts or call 575-785-3012. Cameras are not allowed. The lights and high frequency sounds made by the cameras disturb the bats. This rule is strictly enforced.

BAT FLIGHT BREAKFAST
Saturday, July 21
5:00 A.M. – 7:00 A.M.
Watch the bats re-enter the cave after a night of feeding. You can then enjoy breakfast at the concession restaurant.

RATTLESNAKE SPRINGS
This historic oasis includes a picnic area, shade trees, restrooms and excellent bird watching. Located 3.5 miles south of White’s City on Highway 62/880, then 2.5 miles west on County Road 48. Day use only.

HIKING & CAMPING
The park’s wilderness offers day hikes and backcountry camping (permit required). Rangers at the visitor center can provide free permits, trail and weather information, and backcountry camping tips. The bookstore sells topographic maps, which are considered essential for desert hiking.

Rattlesnake Springs
Located 3.5 miles south of White’s City on Highway 62/880, then 2.5 miles west on County Road 48. Day use only.

America the Beautiful—The National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass

Visitor Guide 5
A tiny glimmer of hope emerged in 1932, when the country elected Franklin D. Roosevelt as president. He had pledged “a new deal for the American people” to help get the country back on its feet economically. One of his many New Deals programs was the creation of the CCC. Inaugurated as president on March 14, 1933, Roosevelt sent a message to Congress on March 21 declaring, “I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment and continuing itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects.” The CCC became a reality on March 31, 1933.

An amazing display of cooperation between numerous government agencies had occurred and by July, more than 250,000 “boys” had enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps. The U.S. Army was in charge of mobilizing the enrollees to camps all over the country where an unprecedented amount of work on public lands began, including many of our national parks. Carlsbad Caverns would eventually be among those that benefited from the work of the CCC. Not just anyone could join the Corps. Enrollees had to meet certain requirements. The CCC was for unemployed and unmarried men between the ages of 17 and 25. They had to commit to a six-month enrollment period, weigh at least 107 pounds, and possess no fewer than three of his own teeth. Many of the enrollees lied about their age because their families were so desperate for money. There were boys as young as 14 who joined the Corps. A huge number of enrollees only had an eighth grade education, the Depression having forced them to quit school or the discipline, the military lifestyle, and the “can do” attitude they had learned while in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

By Pam Cox

The Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps

Between 1933 and 1938, there had been a continuous CCC presence in national parks and monuments all over the country, from Washington to Florida and every state in between. These men had already constructed thousands of miles of roads and trails, they had restored deteriorating historic buildings, and the CCC had installed miles of phone and electrical lines. However, there was still more work to be done.

Carlsbad Caverns had been a national park for eight years when the first CCC boys arrived in July of 1938. Company 831 set up their camp, NP-1-N, at Rattlesnake Springs, located six miles from the park. Rattlesnake Springs, which is the source of the park’s water supply, did not become part of Carlsbad Caverns National Park until 1963, although the National Park Service administered it beginning in 1934.

Company 831 completed dozens of projects during their four-year stay, along with countless daily maintenance jobs. At Rattlesnake Springs, the boys built a ranger residence, constructed a service road and a water diversion ditch. They lined the spring’s pond with masonry walls and planted dozens of cottonwood trees.

In Carlsbad Caverns National Park’s historic district on the surface they constructed two duplex houses for employees, and two maintenance buildings. They built stone trails and walkways in the residential area and installed guardrails along the Walnut Canyon Road. The men quartered rock to make adobe bricks for structures.

In the cave, Company 831 assisted with electrical projects. One of these jobs required them to carry a one-ton cable down the Natural Entrance to the Big Room. They prepared cave trails for the building of rock walls and resurfaced the concrete floor in the underground lunchroom. These are only a handful of the countless jobs the CCC completed at Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

The work done by Company 831 and the millions of other boys during the Great Depression brought about a tremendous transformation in this country. Our public lands, including national parks, benefited, the economy was stimulated, and hope was returned to the American people. However, even more change was on the horizon.

December 7, 1941 changed the entire world. The bombing of Pearl Harbor marked the beginning of World War II. By July of 1942, the last of the Civilian Conservation Corps camps closed, including NP-1-N. Many of the boys of Company 831, along with thousands of former CCC enrollees, had gone off to fight for peace. Historians tell us the men who fought in WWII were the most battle ready soldiers this country had ever had due to the discipline, the military lifestyle, and the “can do” attitude they had learned while in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Today, most of the men of the CCC are gone, but their legacy lives on. Nearly eighty years after the establishment of President Roosevelt’s most successful New Deal program, we are still reaping the benefits of the work done by the CCC. Here at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, rangers live in the residence Company 831 built at Rattlesnake Springs. You can visit Rattlesnake Springs today and in the heat of the summer, relax in the shade of the cottonwoods the men planted. In the historic district, many rangers call the adobe tiles homes, and the parks maintenance division is still using the structures built by the CCC.

Each of us benefits from this legacy every time we recreate on public lands or in our national parks. It is impossible to list every project the men of the CCC completed during the nine years it was in existence. Even this partial list of accomplishments only begins to help us see the magnitude of their work. They built 15,000 miles of roads, they strung 89,000 miles of phone lines, developed 800 state parks, restored nearly 4000 historical structures, built 20,000 miles of foot trails, and planted nearly three billion trees.

I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work...more important, however, than the material gains, will be the moral and spiritual value of such work.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

The 3.5 million boys of the Civilian Conservation Corps did all of that and more. The only thing they ever asked for in return was three hearty meals a day, a soft cot to sleep on, $30.00 a month, and that we never forget them. If we could ask a former CCC boy what the Civilian Conservation Corps did for them, they would probably answer, “The Corps prepared me for life. It taught me how to work hard, how to cope and get along with others, and it made a man of me.” But the voices of these men are growing ever silent.

So, as you travel this great land, visiting our national parks and other public lands, remember that the trail you are hiking, the road you are driving on, or the tree that is providing shade for you with the heat of the summer day is likely part of the legacy left for us and for future generations, by the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Let none of us ever forget them.
Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Outside Entrance Fee $5.00/person (16 & older)
Free for Senior, Access, and Annual Pass cardholders

In the Guadalupe Mountains, we celebrate the diversity of the ecosystem and the cultural significance of the land.

Services
Facilities and services within and near Guadalupe Mountains National Park are extremely limited. The nearest gas stations are 31 miles west (Dell City) or 35 miles east (White’s City). There is no campstore; bring everything you need with you.

Information & Exhibits
Pine Springs Visitor Center
Elevation 5,730’. On Highway 62/180, 55 miles southwest of Carlsbad, 110 miles east of El Paso, and 65 miles north of Van Horn on Highway 54 and Highway 62/180. Open every day except December 25. Open Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Mountain Time Zone); after Labor Day 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Mountain Time). Information, natural history museum, introductory slide program.

Frijole Ranch History Museum
The ranch house features exhibits describing historic and current use of the Guadalupe. Grounds include a picnic area near a spring shaded by large oak trees. Staffed intermittently.

McKittrick Canyon
Highway entrance gate is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. During daylight savings time, hours are expanded 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Restrooms, outdoor exhibits, slide program, picnic tables.

Hike Safely...
• There is no water available along park trails, so be sure to bring plenty with you. One gallon per person per day is recommended.
• Trails are rocky—wear sturdy shoes. Treking poles are recommended.
• Carry a trail map.
• Pack warm clothing and rain gear; sudden weather changes are common.

Protect the Park...
• Stay on trails; don’t cut across switchbacks or create new trails.
• Carry out all trash, including cigarette butts.
• Report any trail hazards to the Pine Springs Visitor Center or any park staff member.
• Collecting of natural, historic or prehistoric objects is prohibited.

Weather

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<th>Month</th>
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<th>Average Rainfall (Inches)</th>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average annual precipitation for Pine Springs (1980-2000) 17.4

Hiking

Pinery Trail
Distance: 67 mile
Difficulty: Easy. Wheelchair accessible, slight incline on return trip.

Discover the desert as you walk to the ruins of the Pinery, a stagecoach station on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route in 1858. Trailside exhibits. Pets on leash are allowed on this trail.

McKittrick Canyon Trail
Distance: to Pratt Cabin 4.8 miles roundtrip, to the Grotto, 6.8 miles roundtrip
Difficulty: Moderate, level but rocky trail, 200’ elevation gain to Grotto Trail.

Follow an intermittent stream through the desert and canyon woodlands to the historic Pratt Cabin. A guidebook is available at the trailhead. The Grotto Picnic Area and Hunter Line Cabin are one mile beyond the Pratt Cabin. Please do not drink the water or wade in the creek.

Guadalupe Peak Trail
Distance: 8.4 miles
Difficulty: Strenuous. Approximately 1,000’ elevation gain, steep, rocky path.

Hike to the “Top of Texas” at 8,249’ for spectacular views. Avoid the peak during high winds and thunderstorms. During warm temperatures, carry a gallon of water per person.

Camping

Water and restrooms are available, but there are no showe rs, RV hookups, or dump stations. The fee is $8.00 per night, per site, $4.00 with a Senior Pass (or existing Golden Age Passport) or Access Pass (or existing Golden Access Passport). No wood or charcoal fires are permitted; camp stoves are allowed.

Pine Springs Campground
Located near the Pine Springs Visitor Center, there are twenty tent and nineteen RV campsites (including a wheelchair accessible tent site) available on a first-come, first-served basis. Two group campsites are available for groups of 10-20 people. Reservations (for group sites only) can be made by phoning 903-835-3244 up to 60 days in advance. Campers planning on day hiking in McKittrick Canyon, to Guadalupe Peak or the Bowl will want to stay here.

Dog Canyon Campground
Located at the end of New Mexico Highway 137, 70 miles from Carlsbad and 10 miles from Park Headquarters, at an elevation of 6,390’. A secluded, forested canyon on the north side of the park. The campground has nine tent and four RV campsites (including a wheelchair accessible tent site). There is one group site for groups of 8-10 people. Reservations for the group site only can be made up to 60 days in advance by calling 903-835-3244.

Backpacking

Eighty-five miles of trails lead through forests, canyons, and desert to ten backcountry campsgrounds. A free permit is required if you plan to spend a night in the backcountry. Permits are issued at the Pine Springs Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station. For those coming through Carlsbad, Dog Canyon is a great place to begin a backpacking trip because it requires less elevation gain to get into the backcountry.

Wood and charcoal fires are prohibited. Camp stoves are allowed. Pack out all your trash. Pets are not allowed on park trails.

Preparation is the key to an enjoyable backpacking trip. Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Carry plenty of water—there are no water sources in the backcountry. Topographic maps, hikers’ guides, and information can be found at the Pine Springs Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

Horseback riding

Sixty percent of the park’s trails are open to stock use. A backcountry permit is required for all stock use. These free permits are issued at the Pine Springs Visitor Center and Dog Canyon Ranger Station. Stock riding is limited to day trips only.

Stock corrals are available at Dog Canyon and near Frijole Ranch. Each has four pens and will accommodate a maximum of 10 animals. Reservations may be made by calling 903-835-3244.

Other Popular Hikes...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trailhead</th>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pine Springs</td>
<td>Down’s Hall Trail</td>
<td>4.2 miles</td>
<td>Moderate. Rocky hike in Pine Spring Canyon to the Hikers’ Stanzaza and Devil’s Hall. After the first mile, the trail drops into the wash. Turn left and follow the canyon bottom to Devil’s Hall, where a sign marks the end of the trail.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Bowl</td>
<td>8.5 miles</td>
<td>Strenuous. The Bowl sheltered a highcountry conifer forest. Recommended route: Tejas Trail to Pine Top, Bowl Trail to Hunter Peak, Bear Canyon Trail. Hike to trail back to campground. Trail (Fire 2, 500’). Bear Canyon Trail is very rocky and extremely steep.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>El Capitan Trail</td>
<td>11.3 miles</td>
<td>Moderate. Desert lovers will appreciate the rocky arteries and open vistas while skirting along the base of El Capitan. Recommended route: El Capitan Trail, Salt Basin Overlook, and return to Pine Springs on the El Capitan Trail.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frijole Ranch</td>
<td>Manzanita Spring</td>
<td>4 miles</td>
<td>Easy. Path is paved and wheelchair accessible. A hike to a small pond that serves as a desert oasis. Dragonflies, butterflies, and birds are active here in the warmer months. During winter, bluebirds frequent the area. Opportunities for changing upon other wildlife are higher here as well.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smith Spring Trail (entire loop)</td>
<td>2.3 miles</td>
<td>Moderate. Look for birds, deer and elk as you pass Manzanita Spring on the way to the shady oases of Smith Spring. Trees around Smith Spring include madrones, maples, oaks, chokecherry, sundews, pines and oaks.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>McKittrick Nature Loop</td>
<td>0.9 miles</td>
<td>Moderate. Climb the foothills and learn about the natural history of the Chihuahuan Desert. Trailside exhibits.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Permian Reef Trail</td>
<td>8.4 miles</td>
<td>Strenuous. For serious geology buffs, this trail has stop markers that can be used with a geology guidebook sold at the Visitor Center. There are excellent views into McKittrick Canyon from the ridge top. Trail climbs 2,000’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Canyon</td>
<td>Indian Meadow Nature Loop</td>
<td>0.6 miles</td>
<td>Easy. A guide pamphlet describes ecology and geology.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marcus Overlook</td>
<td>4.6 miles</td>
<td>Moderate. Follow the Bush Mountain Trail to the ridge top for a view into West Dog Canyon. Trail climbs 2,000’.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lost Peak</td>
<td>6.4 miles</td>
<td>Strenuous. Climb out of Dog Canyon on the Tejas Trail to visit the conifer forest above. Outstanding views of Lost Peak. Lost Peak is a short distance off trail to the right before the horse hitches. Trail climbs 1,500’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Guadalupe Mountains National Park turns 40 on September 30, 2012. Anniversaries are excellent times to reflect on the past and plan for the future. During the year, ranger-led activities will help you discover why Guadalupe Mountains National Park was created and what makes the area unique. Call 915.828.3251 for the current schedule.

Just over the hill, you’ll discover a relict conifer forest consisting of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and southwestern white pine. On the clearest days, you can see over 100 miles away, and on clear nights the Milky Way stretches from horizon to horizon.

Looking to the future, park managers are planning to preserve wilderness character through the creation of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan, which will help protect the untrammeled, natural, and undeveloped qualities of wilderness character while providing outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. The human story of the Guadalupe Mountains Wilderness will be preserved as well from the earliest traces of the big game hunters 10,000 years ago to its ranching past in the 20th century.

What will the next 40 years bring and what role will you play in helping to preserve one of our national treasures? Join us this year in celebrating 40 years as a national park.

LIVING DESERT ZOO & GARDENS STATE PARK
575-887-5516
Come face to face with a mountain lion at this unique zoo and botanical garden offering an opportunity to experience the Chihuahuan Desert first-hand. See a large collection of live animals, including the rare Mexican gray wolf, and the roadrunner, the state bird of New Mexico. There is also an unusual collection of cacti and other succulents from around the world.

The park is located high atop the Ocotillo Hills overlooking the northwest edge of Carlsbad, just off U.S. Highway 285, and features exhibits, an art gallery, gift shop, and refreshments.

Open daily except December 25.
Wheelchair accessible.

BRANTLEY LAKE STATE PARK
575-457-2384
Located 12 miles north of Carlsbad on U.S. Highway 285, the campground has 52 RV sites with water and RV electric hookups (a few with sewer), a dump station, playground, restroom with hot showers, tables, and grills. Other facilities include picnic areas with sheltered tables and grills, playground, a fishing dock, boat ramps with docks, and a visitor center.

Open all year—24 hours/day.
Wheelchair accessible.

Fees
Day Use Only—$3.00 per vehicle
Camping—$14.00 per night ($10.00 for each additional vehicle driven into the same site)
Primitive Camping Area—$8.00 per vehicle per night.

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FIVE POINTS & INDIAN VISTAS
Eleven miles south of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 540, an improved gravel road. A panoramic view of the desert from the top of the Guadalupe Mountains. Interpretive signs explain natural features.

Just Over the Hill
8 Visitor Guide