

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

SCHEDULE OF SUMMER INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

The National Park Service and the Staff of Wind Cave National Park cordially invites you to take part in some of the many interpretive activities which are scheduled during the summer months. These activities are made available to add to your enjoyment and understanding of the park.

Cave Tours and Programs

For all cave activities, except the Subterranean Program, there is a special 75 cent elevator and guide fee. This fee is charged to all persons 16 years of age and older.

Traditional Cave Tour: Park Rangers will lead guided tours into Wind Cave from April through October. The hour to hour and a half tour features indirect lighting and paved trails. Tours are scheduled four times a day in the early and late part of the season. During the peak season a tour leaves every 15 minutes.

Candlelight Tours: Candlelight tours are held daily in June, July and August. If you would like to experience a cave tour reminiscent of the turn-of-the-century this activity is a must. Limited to 30 people on a first-come, first-served basis, the hour long features a leisurely walk through the Garden of Eden section.

Subterranean Program: This activity is a special hour and one half evening program given to introduce you to the science of speleology and the sport of spelunking. Basic skills, techniques and equipment will be demonstrated in the cave environment. Elevators will be used to take you 200 feet underground for this program. Scheduled for 6 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday the group will assemble on the terrace behind the Visitor Center.

Spelunking Tours: Conducted Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 12 Noon. This is a special cave crawling tour into a primitive section of the cave. Tours are limited to 10 persons, who must register in advance. Several hundred feet of passageway will be explored using basic spelunking techniques and equipment.

Special Cave Tours: Personnel permitting, special cave tours may be arranged in advance for the physically handicapped, educational groups, photographic tours, etc. Please write to the Superintendent outlining your request.

Surface Tours and Programs

Campfire Programs: These programs are held each evening, weather permitting, in the Elk Mountain Campground amphitheater. Park Rangers present illustrated talks on a variety of subjects. Here is an opportunity to join in warm human fellowship in front of a campfire. Each program will be preceded by 20 minutes of taped musical selections. Check the bulletin boards for the exact time of the program and the daily topic.

Nature Hikes: Park Interpreters lead a daily four hour hike into one of several interesting canyons in the park. Hikes leave daily, during June, July and August from the Elk Mountain Campground. Assemble at 8 a.m. in front of the Campground Ranger Office in your own vehicle.

Wildlife Caravans: Auto caravans leave each evening from the Elk Mountain Campground beginning on June 15 and ending on September 1. This activity gives you an unsurpassed opportunity to view and photograph wildlife in its natural habitat. Assemble in the amphitheater parking lot at 6 p.m. in your car.

Self-Guiding Trail: If you wish a do-it-yourself hike, drive to the parking area at the base of Rankin Ridge just off Highway 87. From there a gentle mile and one half trail takes you up onto the ridge and back to the parking area, passing beneath the fire tower. Be sure to pick up a trail leaflet from the box as you start on the trail.

For additional information ask any Park Ranger or write the Superintendent, Wind Cave National Park, Hot Springs, South Dakota 57747.

ALL LISTED TOURS AND PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE