



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Curecanti
National Recreation Area

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Curecanti National Recreation Area

Release date: Immediate

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Fee Free Weekend at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Are you looking for something fun and inexpensive to do with the family this Father's Day weekend? Why not visit your local national park? Father's Day weekend (June 20-21) is one of three fee free weekends at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

According to Superintendent Connie Rudd, "We're inviting you to come by for a visit, to relax, to learn a little bit about your local national park...and to just have some fun. The fee free weekends are June 20-21, July 18-19, and August 15-16, but you are invited to join us whenever you can fit it into your busy schedule!"

What is there to do once you get there? Viewpoints along the South Rim Drive provide breathtaking photo opportunities. Short hiking trails give you a chance to stretch your legs and enjoy the fresh air. Junior ranger programs are offered at the visitor center on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Families can participate in fun activities with a ranger on Sundays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. See the movie in the visitor center, browse the bookstore or just chat with a ranger. There are many other activities available. For more information, call the South Rim Visitor Center at (970) 249-1914, ext. 423.

Nearby, Curecanti National Recreation Area, between Montrose and Gunnison on Highway 50, has lots of things going on as well. Though there is no entry fee at any time, it too is a great place to enjoy your weekends.

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Free programs include our Saturday Night Sky Programs – astronomy when the moon is small, moonlight hikes at Dillon Pinnacles when the moon is full or nearly so (July 4, August 8 and September 5). Children may be particularly interested in the Jr. Ranger programs, designed especially for them, every Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Elk Creek Visitor Center. For more information, or to sign up for those moonlight hikes, call the visitor center at (970) 641-2337, ext. 205.

The Morrow Point Boat Tour departs every day except Tuesday, through Labor Day. Tour times are 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$16, children \$8, Adults with Senior Pass or Access Pass \$8. Prepaid reservations are required for the boat tour and may be made by calling the visitor center as well.

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