



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Guadalupe Mountains  
National Park

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## Guadalupe Mountains News Release

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### Guadalupe Mountains National Park Announces Summer Interpretive Program Schedule

(Pine Springs, TX) Guadalupe Mountains National Park Superintendent John Lujan announced the park's schedule of interpretation programs for Summer 2011. The park will offer a wide variety of patio talks, ranger-led hikes and evening programs from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. These programs will provide excellent opportunities for visitors to learn about the plant life, wildflowers and wildlife, geology, ecology, human history, and night skies of the Guadalupe Mountains as well as learn outdoor skills to have a safe visit to the Guadalupe Mountains. Whether coming for a day hike on the 86 miles of trails, a visit to historic Frijole Ranch, Williams Ranch, Pratt Cabin or Ship on the Desert, a foray into the second largest gypsum dunes in North America, a weekend stay in the Pine Springs or Dog Canyon campgrounds or the Frijole Ranch Group Campground or a backpacking experience in the backcountry or wilderness area, the Guadalupe Mountains offers wonderful opportunities for solitude, recreation, family fun and learning and exercise, including ranger-led programs.

Every Wednesday and Thursday, from June 1 through September 1, and Monday, July 4 (Independence Day Holiday), there will be Patio Talks at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the Pine Springs Visitor Center. These short (15-20 minute) talks may encompass any topic relating to the park, so stop by, chat with a ranger and learn about the Guadalupe Mountains.

On Sundays, May 29, June 19, July 3, July 17, August 7 and August 21, there will be open houses at Ship on the Desert from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Take a tour of this historic home with a park ranger or explore on your own.

On Sundays, June 5, July 24, and September 3, Pratt Cabin will be open in McKittrick Canyon. Tour the historic cabin with a park ranger. Please make sure to bring sun block, a hat or cap, and plenty of water and snacks.

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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

On Sundays, June 26, July 31 and August 28 and Mondays, May 30 (Memorial Day Holiday) and July 4 (Independence Day Holiday), put on your hiking boots and join a ranger on a longer hike to such places as Guadalupe Peak (the highest peak in Texas), the Permian Reef, The Bowl, Pratt Cabin or the Notch. Please contact the Pine Springs Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 x2124 to find out where the hike will go, the time and location where it will meet, the duration, difficulty level (Easy, Moderate or Strenuous) and any other details, and accompany a ranger on an adventure in the Guadalupe. Please make sure to bring sun block, a hat or cap, and plenty of water and snacks. Please call ahead, as some of these hikes may not be appropriate for small children.

On Sundays May 29 (7:00 PM), June 12 (7:00 PM), July 10 (7:00 PM) and August 14 (6:30 PM), there will be ranger-led Evening Bird Walks at historic Frijole Ranch.

On Friday, June 17 and Saturdays, July 16 and August 13, the Gypsum Dunes Salt Flat Visitor Contact Station in Dell City will be open from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM, then join a park ranger and explore North America's second largest gypsum dunes, on the west side of the park, by the light of the full moon. Meet the park ranger at the Gypsum Dune Salt Flat Visitor Contact Station at 5:00 PM and bring a flashlight, drinking water, snacks, walking shoes and a sweater.

Beginning Friday, May 27, the park will offer evening programs at the Pine Springs Campground on Fridays and Saturdays (except June 17, July 16 and August 13). Evening programs presented will include *Exotic Species: Strangers in your Backyard*, *Signs of Wildlife: What you may be Missing*, *Islands in the Sky*, *A Very Dry Reef: A Look at the Permian Reef*, *Across the Cosmos: Appreciating the Night Sky*, *Elk in the Desert*, *Star Party Astronomy Program*, *The Bizarre and the Beautiful: Invertebrates of the Guadalupe*, *Overlooked and Underfoot: Reptiles of the Guadalupe*, *History of the Peoples of the Guadalupe*, *The Burning Issue: Wildfire and our National Parks*, *Birds of Prey*, *From High Tide to High Desert: Water in the Guadalupe*, *23 Days Eating Dust: the Butterfield Overland Stage* and *Migratory Birds*.

Families will want to ask about our Junior Ranger, Junior Paleontologist and Senior Ranger activity booklets at the Pine Springs Visitor Center. Children of all ages who complete the activities will receive a certificate and badge and are eligible to purchase a Junior Ranger or Senior Ranger patch.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are eligible to earn awards made available through partnerships with the National Park Service. Please inquire at the Pine Springs Visitor Center (915) 828-3251 ext. 2124 for more information.

A park slide presentation is available in the Pine Springs Visitor Center Auditorium. Ask the park ranger at the information desk to start the film for you. A push-button operated film about McKittrick Canyon, narrated by Petroleum Engineer Wallace E. Pratt who was instrumental in the creation of Guadalupe Mountains National Park is available on the patio of the McKittrick Canyon Visitor Contact Station. The Pine Springs Visitor Center and bookstore, which is operated by the park's non-profit cooperating association partner Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association ([www.ccgma.org](http://www.ccgma.org)) are open daily from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM (closed Christmas Day). Be sure to stop by to get a map, site bulletin, brochure, post card, books or film about Guadalupe Mountains National Park. The McKittrick Canyon, the Frijole Ranch Ranch House, Dog Canyon or Gypsum Dunes Salt Flat (Dell City, TX) Visitor Contact Stations are

open irregularly. Please call the Pine Springs Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 ext. 2124 to find out whether they are open.

For additional information about Guadalupe Mountains National Park, please contact the Pine Springs Visitor Center at 915-828-3251 ext. 2124 or visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/gumo/](http://www.nps.gov/gumo/).

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