



Heart of the Monster



Heart of the Monster is one of 38 sites comprising Nez Perce National Historical Park.

The Site

A unit of the National Park System, Nez Perce National Historical Park is truly unique: a park about a people... for all people. The park is not limited to one historical event or some significant natural or physical phenomenon. Rather, its story is inclusive of all aspects of the Nez Perce people's past, present, and future.

The Heart of the Monster is a key site in Nez Perce culture. It was here that the trickster and teacher of Nez Perce legend, Coyote, slew a terrible Monster, whose

death resulted in the creation of the Nimiipuu, or Nez Perce.

The large, fenced rock outcrop near the center of the site represents the monster's heart, while a smaller outcrop to the north is its liver.

This ancient place, known and occupied since time immemorial, continues to hold deep religious and cultural meanings among the Nez Perce today.

Stewardship

The National Park Service, along with its tribal partners, manages this significant cultural site for the benefit of all Americans.

As visitors to a spiritual place for the Nez Perce, the National Park Service asks you treat this property with the same respect and honor you would show to any other sacred or religious site.

You are free to explore the natural setting on its trails, paths, and picnicking areas. But please help maintain and protect this site for future generations by joining us in its stewardship.

We ask that you:

Do not approach, climb upon, or deface the rock features.

Keep dogs leashed at all times.

Keep all motorized vehicles on the designated road and parking area.

Metal detecting, digging, and collecting of any kind are prohibited by federal law, and will be investigated and prosecuted.

Report any suspicious or destructive activities by calling (208) 843-7010, or by notifying local or tribal law enforcement.

Enjoy Your Visit

Take nothing but photographs and memories with you as you join in celebrating the vibrant culture of the Nez Perce.

For additional information visit the Nez Perce National Historical Park museum and visitor center at Spalding, Idaho approximately 55 miles west on U.S. Highway 12.

Spalding is the park headquarters, and admission is free.

The visitor center is open year-round from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day, and from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the rest of the year.

To plan your visit and learn more about this and the other 37 sites comprising Nez Perce National Historical Park, go to <http://www.nps.gov/nepe/>.