



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot  
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## National Park Service News Release

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### Zuni Craftsman to talk at Montezuma Castle NM on Recognizing Authentic Indian Arts and Crafts

On July 19, 2009, from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tony Eriacho, Jr., of the Zuni Tribe, will offer a hands-on presentation, “Which is Authentic Indian Handmade?” at Montezuma Castle National Monument.

Mr. Eriacho is the President of the Council for Indigenous Arts and Culture, based in New Mexico. He was a recent keynote speaker at the Zuni Festival, Museum of Northern Arizona, where he outlined the Council’s goal of educating consumers on how to evaluate authentic arts and crafts.

Mr. Eriacho’s presentation will offer examples of stone or other raw materials that are used in authentic American Indian jewelry and will illustrate materials that have been treated or stabilized. He will also discuss the distinction between items hand fabricated from raw materials by the artist, handcrafted, or the assembly of pre-made components, and Indian-crafted, when fabrication may be completed by machinery. Monitoring for the illicit use of any animal parts or feathers from endangered species is also a goal of the Council for Indigenous Arts. Eriacho will also discuss the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990, detailing why it is illegal to misrepresent some items as authentic Indian Arts and Crafts. Any queries about possible counterfeit reproductions, he added, are directed to the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Indian Arts and Crafts Board. Visitors will be able to handle authentic stones and other natural materials and make comparisons with plasticized or machine-made components.

The July 18 and 19 weekend is also a nationwide Fee Free Weekend for all National Park Service units, including Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments. Come visit the monuments for free. For further information, call (928) 567-3322, extension 0.