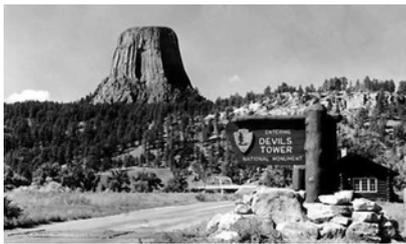


# Welcome to Devils Tower National Monument



## Make the Most of Your Visit

**If you have an hour or two...** don't miss the dogs – prairie dogs that is! Their antics are fun to watch but please don't feed them (human food will kill them). The visitor center at the base of the Tower has interpretive exhibits and items for sale at the Devils Tower Natural History Association Bookstore. The log buildings were built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Sit on a bench and look up at the 867-foot high columnar monolith. Meander across the parking lot and walk 50 yards along the Tower Trail for another view and another bench. The Trail continues 1.3 miles around the base of the Tower.

**If you have a half-day...** join a park ranger for a guided walk or talk (see inside). As you leave the parking lot and drive down the hill, look for a gravel road on the right that leads to the Joyner Ridge Trailhead for another incredible view. The low-angle light an hour before sunset is a real bonus.

**If you have a full day...** you're lucky! You can experience all of the above plus a hike along Joyner Ridge or the Red Beds Trail or a picnic at the picnic shelter. Right outside the park entrance are commercial establishments that sell food and drinks to satisfy your cravings.

## We're Glad You're Here!

Welcome to the nation's first national monument! We trust that you will have a wonderful and satisfying experience while exploring all the park has to offer.

As we begin our second century of service to the American public and international visitors, we would like to hear your ideas of how we may better serve our visitors. Please feel free to write down your ideas on the comment forms available throughout the park or on our website at [www.nps.gov/deto](http://www.nps.gov/deto).

The Tower is a truly unique feature within the Black Hills area. It is composed of phonolite porphyry, a rock found only in a few places throughout the world. The Tower's columns make it a premier crack climbing site. The rock gets its name from the sound it emits when struck. The Tower is a significant sacred site to Indian tribes throughout the United States and is the beacon that welcomes local community members home. I believe that the Native American author, N. Scott Momaday describes it best in his book, The Way to Rainy Mountain (1969):

*"There are things in nature that engender an awful quiet in the heart of man, Devils Tower is one of them."*

Remember that national parks belong to the public who share the tremendous responsibility of shared stewardship. Please be mindful of this as you spend time taking in the grandeur of the Tower. Leave only footprints and take only memories. Above all be safe, thank you for the visit, and we look forward to seeing you again!

*Dorothy FireCloud  
Superintendent*

**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the  
Interior**



### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 10  
Devils Tower, WY 82714

### E-mail

[deto\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:deto_interpretation@nps.gov)

### Park Headquarters

307-467-5283

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

# Taking Climber Services to New Heights

Since 1893, people have been climbing the Tower. That inaugural climb was accomplished by two local ranchers and a 350-foot stake ladder pounded into a crack. Today, 200 feet of the ladder remain and are visible from the Tower Trail.

Climbers now use specialized gear such as spring-loaded cams, ropes, and rubberized shoes. All climbers must register to receive a free climbing permit. Each year, four to five thousand people climb on the Tower. About one third choose to go to the top. Most climbers ascend the Durrance Route, first pioneered in 1938. Although climbing is an inherently risky activity, there have been only five falling fatalities at Devils Tower.

The 1995 Climbing Management Plan (CMP) was reviewed and updated in 2006. The CMP seeks to maintain a balance of

recreational and traditional use through a June voluntary climbing closure.

The intent of the June voluntary closure is to promote a choice to respect American Indian cultural values during a month when many ceremonies are traditionally held. Six Indian Nations have at some time inhabited the Devils Tower region and 22 tribes have been identified as culturally affiliated with the Tower.

Resource issues addressed in the CMP update include access trails to the 200+ routes, human waste management, and climber education programs. Safety issues include helmet use and professional certification of guides.

Links to the plan and the update can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/deto>.



## Prairie Falcons Nest on the Tower

A closure of some climbing routes will be in effect for part of the summer. Prairie falcons are protected under the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act and last nested on the Tower in 2006.

## DRIVE 25 & KEEP WILDLIFE ALIVE!

After driving hours to get here at speeds of 75 mph and 65 mph, it can be difficult to slow down to the posted speed limit of **25 mph** inside Devils Tower National Monument. It can be especially challenging to keep your speed down when coming downhill to exit the park (*Hint – put your vehicle in low gear when coming downhill to reduce speed without riding the brakes*). However, there are good reasons to drive slowly inside the monument. In addition to public safety reasons with pedestrians and bicyclists, there is also abundant wildlife moving across and around the roads. Animals close to the road often

make sudden movements into the road without warning. Driving at 25 mph or slower gives drivers a much better chance of avoiding a collision with wildlife. Last year there were 27 animals killed inside the monument by motor vehicles. We ask you to consider the impact of your driving on the monument's wildlife, both for its own sake and for its availability for future visitors.

**SLOW DOWN FOR WILDLIFE  
AND ENJOY YOUR STAY. KEEP  
WILDLIFE AVAILABLE FOR  
FUTURE VISITORS.**

**Please help us protect park resources and your safety by adhering to the following regulations.**



Pets may not be taken on the trails, or left unattended at any time. They may be walked in the parking areas on leash.



Collection of rocks, plants or any natural material is prohibited.



Do not feed any wildlife, including prairie dogs.



Travel above the boulder field is dangerous and requires a permit.

**25  
MPH**

Driving too fast kills park wildlife. Please obey posted speed limits!

The above regulations are often overlooked by visitors, but others apply as well. It is your responsibility to know them. When in doubt, ask any uniformed employee.



# Talk of the Tower: Resource Updates

## Black-tailed Prairie Dogs

(*Cynomys ludovicianus*) are a burrowing ground squirrel belonging to a group of four other prairie dog species found only in North America. The black-tailed prairie dog is the most abundant and widely distributed prairie dog.

- Four years is the maximum age for a prairie dog in the wild. One factor that contributes to an earlier death is feeding them human food. Prairie dogs eat and survive on green vegetation. **Please do NOT feed the prairie dogs.**
- Like all other wildlife in a unit of the National Park System, prairie dogs are protected.
- About two percent of the national historic range remains active today, due to habitat loss and eradication programs. As the “dog” population declines so do other species that prey on them, such as black-footed ferrets, badgers, coyotes, fox, and raptors.
- This “dog” town is 40 acres in size.
- Prairie dog tunnels extend downward from 3-10 feet and then horizontally for another 10-15 feet.
- Prairie dogs are active only during daylight hours where they spend hours feeding and socializing.



**Black-tailed Prairie Dog**



**Meadow Prescribed Fire, 2002**

**Fire** is an ecological factor significant to the park and has occurred naturally throughout history. By mimicking a natural process, fire management has long-term benefits that support a native ponderosa pine/mixed-grass ecosystem. Park staff manage fire in order to:

- Reintroduce fire into the ecosystem to mimic its historic role through a rotational series of prescribed fires.
- Suppress all wildfires to reduce the threat to human life and facilities while ensuring adequate protection of natural and cultural resources.
- Reduce hazard fuel levels by mechanical thinning for the safe application of prescribed fire and to provide defensible space around structures.

Both prescribed fire and chemical (herbicide) treatments are being used to restore 50 acres of the park’s southwest meadows from 2006 to 2010. Exotic invasive grasses (smooth brome and kentucky bluegrass) will be removed and replaced with native grasses. Refer to your park map and watch for the treated meadows located west of the forest next to the administration building and south of the park’s entrance road.

**Exotic Plants** are species that occur outside their native ranges as a result of human actions. Over 60 exotic plant species have replaced native plant communities and reduced the biological diversity of the monument’s ecosystems. The monument’s most aggressive or invasive exotic plants are leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), hound’s tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus inermis*).

The Northern Great Plains Exotic Plant Management Plan contains a control strategy for Devils Tower and 12 other area parks. Park staff are trained to use chemical, biological, manual/mechanical and prescribed fire methods as part of an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to control the spread of exotic plants. Each exotic plant’s natural history is evaluated before developing management strategies. Flea beetles (*Apthona lacertosa* and *Apthona nigriscutis*) are being used for biological control of leafy spurge.



**Flea Beetles on Leafy Spurge**

## Past Meets Present in Old Settlers' Picnic Tradition at Devils Tower

During the early 1880s, settlers came to the Belle Fourche River Valley. Many of the settlers were farmers and ranchers from the mid-western states. Although it was difficult to reach in the early days, Devils Tower quickly became a favorite camping and picnicking spot for people living in the vicinity. One of the inviting features was a large spring located near its base. The Tower could only be reached by horseback, wagon, or buckboard over unimproved roads. When people made a trip to the Tower, they generally spent one or two nights.

Starting in the 1930s, an annual gathering at Devils Tower on Father's Day weekend became a popular event for local settlers. The event included families sharing a picnic meal and then assembling with other attendees for entertainment later in the day. Young and old alike were said to look forward to the opportunity to gather each June for the "Old Settlers' Picnic", as the event came to be known.



1932 Old Settlers' Picnic drew a considerable crowd to Devils Tower

The Old Settlers' Picnic tradition continued until the 1960s, and was recently revived in June 2006 as one of five special events during the Centennial Celebration for Devils Tower National Monument.

The next Old Settlers' Picnic at Devils Tower is scheduled for Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, 2007. Made possible by community interest and support from around Crook County, this year's Old Settlers' Picnic promises many of the same elements of past picnics. A nondenominational church service is planned for the morning, followed by refreshments. Like in the past, families and individuals are invited

to bring their own picnic meal to enjoy. Kids' activities, western music and cowboy poetry are expected to round out the day's events. More details will be provided prior to the event.

All park visitors are cordially invited to join in the Father's Day fun as this old tradition becomes new again!

### Very Important People!!

National Park Service volunteers are, without a doubt, Very Important People! Volunteering is an American tradition that over the years has made immeasurable contributions to communities, organizations, and individuals throughout the country. Today's volunteers are active, dynamic, creative individuals of all ages who possess the skills, desire, patience, and time to accomplish a wide variety of tasks. Each year more than 120,000 volunteers donate over 4,000,000 hours of service to national park areas. Park volunteers come from every state to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

Approximately 350,000 people enjoy Devils Tower National Monument each year. Most visitors arrive between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend, making for a hectic fun-filled summer. Last year, one hundred fifty people contributed 4,600 hours to help provide an enjoyable visitor experience. In addition, area residents came together to support Devils Tower National Monument's 2006 centennial. The centennial committee members donated more than 7,000 hours to ensure that the park's centennial was a success.

If you have a talent or skill you feel would assist in serving park visitors, please let us know. For more information, contact the volunteer coordinator at 307-467-5283 x 224 or email: [deto\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:deto_interpretation@nps.gov).

# 2006 Centennial Celebrations

Rising high above the landscape, the Tower has appealed to people for centuries. On September 24, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt named Devils Tower as America's first national monument. He declared the "lofty and isolated rock . . . to be a natural wonder and an object of historic and scientific interest." One hundred years later, the Tower continues to have many meanings for many people. Last summer, park visitors helped Devils Tower National Monument celebrate its 100th birthday. A series of five special events recognized important groups in the Tower's history.

June 18 found people enjoying the Old Settlers' Picnic, a revival of an annual gathering that took place from 1932 through the early 1960s. Activities included a free catered lunch, a quilt display,



Tower tales, displays of old photos and memorabilia, and children's games.

The July Fourth Celebration focused on the Tower's climbing history. After a flag raising ceremony, visitors were able to participate in a

rock climbing clinic. Climbers of the Black Hills Coalition reenacted historic climbs, and climbing pioneers such as Todd Skinner and Jim McCarthy donated their time to meet with visitors and discuss climbing Devils Tower.

The surrounding ranch lands have maintained Devils Tower's rural character today. In late July, the Cowboy Festival two day event

celebrated this way of life. Visitors were treated to demonstrations of skills such as leather tooling, spinning, and felting. They were also able to sample the entries in a dutch oven cook-off, listen to a fiddle contest and enjoy a performance by cowboy poet Baxter Black.



The picnic area was dressed with teepees during the American Indian Heritage Weekend in August. Park visitors interacted with native people demonstrating traditional crafts such as pipe carving, basket weaving, and bead working. Dancers and musicians shared their culture through a variety of performances.

The festivities concluded with a Commemoration Ceremony on September 24, 2006. Special guests included President of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Rodney Bordeaux, U.S. Senator Craig Thomas, U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin, and Governor Dave Freudenthal. More than 650 attendees listened to the keynote address given by Theodore Roosevelt IV, great-grandson of President Roosevelt. Following the ceremony, visitors enjoyed refreshments and a video address by Vice President Dick Cheney.

Many things have changed over the past century, but the Tower remains just as awe-inspiring as when the monument was first established. We invite you to join us as we begin the next century. Explore the park and discover your own meanings in one of America's special places.

## Anticipate Traffic Delays

Visitors this summer stand a good chance of encountering flag persons and lane closures as the park does some much needed road maintenance and improvements.

At this time the start of construction and completion dates are not known. However, every effort will be made to schedule work to minimize delays. If stopped take the opportunity to look for wildlife and enjoy a little different view of the Tower. In any case, the work will be done so as to allow at least one lane of traffic to proceed at most times.

During the second half of June a youth group will be working on the Tower Trail, but no closures are anticipated. Visitors may be asked to wait for a few minutes or directed around the area of work. Much of the work will be hand powered, to minimize distracting noise.

# Park Partners

Thanks Partner! Yes, you! By paying the entrance fee, you are partnering with the National Park Service through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act



Program at Devils Tower National Monument. Your entry fees are used to support park projects, including improved signage and building restoration.

Other partners include the Black Hills National Forest, Black Hills Youth Conservation Corps, Black Hills National Forest Tribal Youth Conservation Corps, Montana Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association, Hulett and Crook County Emergency Response, Bear Lodge Alternative High School, Christian Motorcycle Association, Crook County Sheriff Department, Access Fund, Wyoming Department of Transportation, Boy Scouts of America, Bearlodge Writers and the many park climbing guides. Thanks for helping us out!



## Hey, kids ... become a Ranger!

You and your family can discover what makes this place tick. Stop at the visitor center to pick up a free Junior Ranger booklet. Return to the visitor center with your completed booklet and the ranger will honor you with a badge and certificate. You can also buy an embroidered patch for \$1.00 at the bookstore.

By learning about the plants, animals, geology, and history of this area, you can help protect the park's resources and make other people aware of how important these resources are.



## Devils Tower Natural History Association

For more information on Devils Tower National Monument's geology, wildlife, climbing history and opportunities, and cultural significance look to the Devils Tower Natural History Association (DTNHA). It, and other cooperating associations, were established to aid the National Park Service with historical, educational, and interpretive programs. The DTNHA operates the bookstore located in the visitor center at the base of the Tower. When you make a purchase at the DTNHA bookstore, profits are returned to the park in the form of donations to support park programs. Your purchase supports the junior ranger

program, interpretive exhibits, the cultural program series, and many other visitor services offered by the park. Membership benefits include a 15% discount in the DTNHA bookstore, a discount on items purchased at other National Park Cooperating Association bookstores, and the pleasure of knowing that your membership contributes to the support of the park!

### Devils Tower Natural History Association

#### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



#### Membership Rates:

- Individual.....\$10.00
- Family.....\$25.00
- Associate.....\$25.00

Send form with check or money order to:  
**Devils Tower Natural History Association**  
**P.O. Box 37**  
**Devils Tower, WY 82714**

# Interpretive Activities

## Ranger-Guided Programs

June 16 – September 1, 2007

Program Title Time	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Tower Walk</b> 9:30 am							
 <b>Ranger Talks</b> 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 4:00 pm							
 <b>Evening Program</b> 9:00 pm	☆			☆	☆	☆	☆
<b>Full Moon Walk</b> 9:00 pm	June 30, July 29, August 28						

**Tower Walk** – Learn about the significance of the park's geology, indigenous people, prescribed burns, wildlife, and plants along this paved 1.3 mile trail. Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes. Program meets at the interpretive kiosk in the visitor center (VC) parking lot. 1 ½ hours.

**Ranger Talks** – An introduction to a special place - learn about different facets of the Tower, the Climbing Management Plan and its June Voluntary Climbing Closure, President Theodore Roosevelt and the 1906 Antiquities Act, or "Devils Tower George." Program meets at the interpretive kiosk in the VC parking lot. 20 minutes.

**Evening Program** – Have a seat and relax at the park amphitheater as dusk signals day's end. Program topics include the park's natural and cultural history. During inclement weather the program moves to the picnic shelter. 45 minutes – 1 hour.

**Full Moon Walks** – Whoooooo comes out at night? Explore the nightlife and night sky at Devils Tower National Monument. Bring a flashlight (no headlamps) and jacket and meet at the Joyner Ridge Trail parking lot. Wear comfortable walking shoes. 1 ½ hours.

Schedule is subject to change. Please check at the visitor center for daily and updated schedules as well as program topics. Children must be accompanied by an adult. During inclement weather programs may be cancelled.

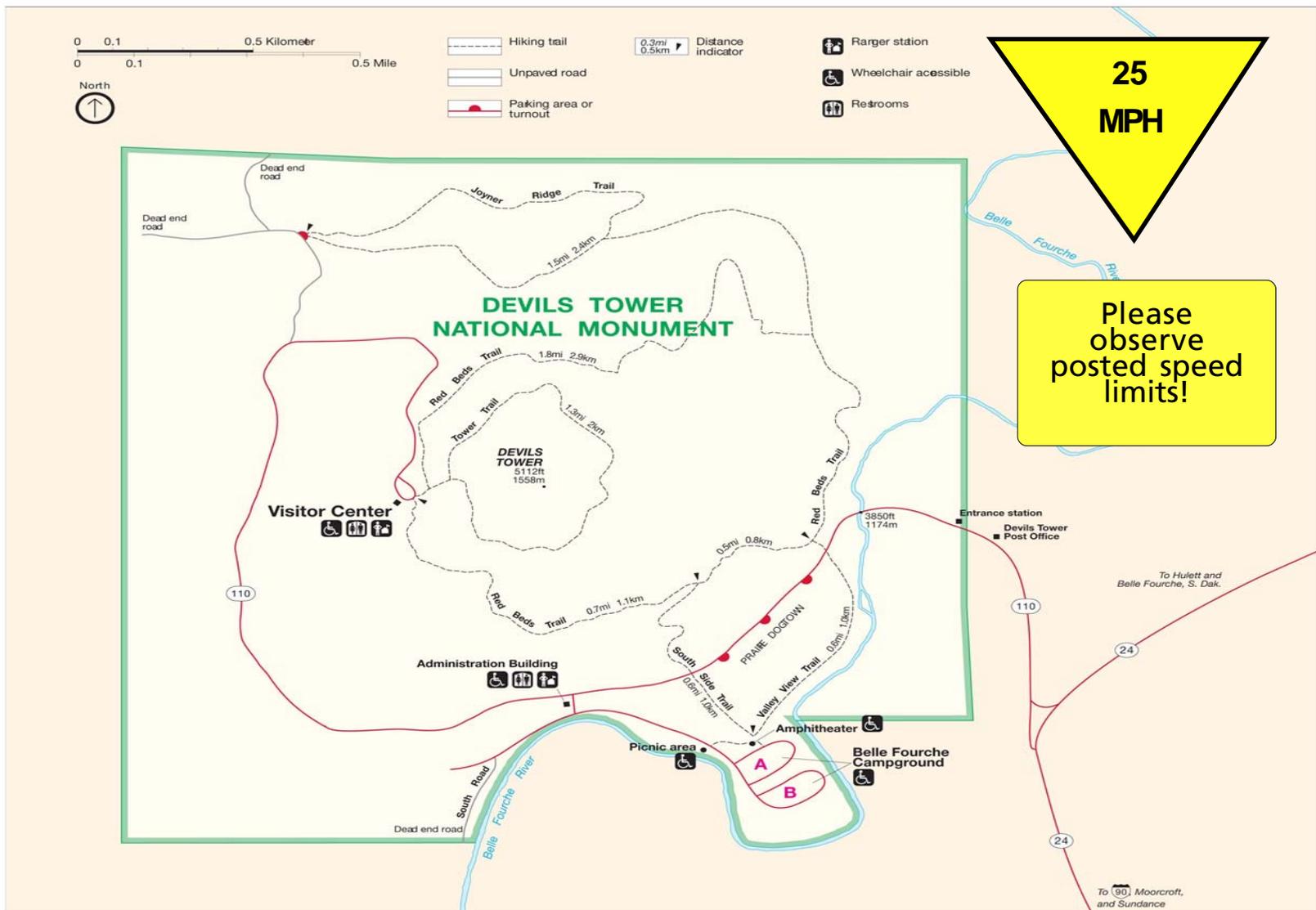
### Visitor Center Hours

April 30-May 25	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. <i>Daily</i>
May 26-September 2	8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. <i>Daily</i>
September 3-September 30	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. <i>Daily</i>
October 1-November 26	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. <i>Wed-Sun</i>

## 2007 Cultural Program Series

<b>June 1</b> 8:00 pm Amphitheater	<b>Phillip Whiteman Jr.</b> American Indian Storyteller
<b>June 8, 9</b> 8:00 pm Amphitheater	<b>David Wolfs Robe</b> Native American Flute Music
<b>June 9</b> 11:00 am, 1:00 pm Tower Area	<b>David Wolfs Robe</b> History of Flute Music
<b>June 14</b> 8:00 pm Amphitheater	<b>Pat Frolander</b> Ranching: The Land, The Lifestyle, The Legacy
<b>June 16</b> 8:00 pm Amphitheater	<b>Leonard Little Finger</b> Lakota Star Knowledge
<b>June 30</b> 11:00 am -1:00 pm 3:00-4:00 pm 5:30 – 7:00 pm Tower Area	<b>Michael Terry</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Plains Indian Culture
<b>July 1</b> 11:00 am -1:00 pm 3:00-5:30 pm Tower Area	<b>Michael Terry</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Plains Indian Culture
<b>July 5</b> 8:00 pm Amphitheater	<b>Gib Young</b> Theodore Roosevelt
<b>July 8</b> 2:00 pm Tower Area	<b>Jan Conn</b> Tales of Climbing
<b>July 13</b> 9:00 pm Amphitheater	<b>Dennis Knight</b> How Human Values Change The Wyoming Landscape
<b>July 14</b> 9:00 pm Amphitheater	<b>Nello Williams</b> Skies Over the Tower
<b>July 20, 21</b> 8:00 pm Amphitheater	<b>"Buffalo Bill" Boycott</b> Cowboy musician and storyteller
<b>July 25</b> 8:00 pm Amphitheater	<b>Gloria Runs Close To Lodge-Goggles</b> American Indian Storytelling
<b>July 26</b> 10:30 am, 2:00 pm Tower Area	<b>Gloria Runs Close To Lodge-Goggles</b> Traditional Use of Native Plants
<b>August 18</b> 8:00 pm Amphitheater	<b>Little Sun/High Eagle Drum And Dance Group</b>
<b>August 24, 25</b> 8:00 pm Amphitheatre	<b>Willie LeClair</b> Native American Awareness and Traditions
<b>September 2</b> 1:00 – 4:00 pm Picnic Area	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Annual Cowboy Poet Festival</b>

# Park Map, Trail Information, 2007 Entrance Fees



## Know Before You Go

- \* Take plenty of water.
- \* All plants & wildlife are protected.
- \* Wear comfortable walking shoes.
- \* Be respectful of this quiet place. Voices and noise travel long distances.
- \* Traditional cultural landscapes are protected. Please do not disturb prayer bundles.



## Fee Schedule for Devils Tower National Monument

<b>Entrance Fee - 7 day pass</b>	
Vehicle	<b>\$10</b>
Pedestrian, bicyclist, motorcyclist (Children under 16, no charge)	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Devils Tower Annual Pass</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$20</b></span>	
Allows entrance to Devils Tower National Monument for 12 months from date of purchase.	
<b>National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$80</b></span>	
Allows entrance to federal fee areas for one year from date of purchase.	
<b>National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$10</b></span>	
One time fee - lifetime entrance to federal fee areas to American citizens 62 or older.	
<b>National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Access Pass</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Free</b></span>	
Lifetime entrance to federal fee areas to American citizens with permanent disability.	
<b>Camping</b>	
Per night	<b>\$12</b>
Group site (per person - min. \$12)	<b>\$2</b>

## Take a Hike!

Trail - Distance	Trail Highlights	Trail - Distance	Trail Highlights
Valley View 0.6 miles	Hike along "dog" town and view the Belle Fourche River.	Tower Trail 1.3 miles	Get close to the Tower along this asphalt trail.
Red Beds 3 miles	Ponderosa pines intertwine with open meadows.	Joyner Ridge 1.5 miles	See meadow grasses wave in the wind.