



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 visitor center was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps and both buildings are listed on the National Historic Register. 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 the schedule 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. No food is sold inside the park but water is available right next to the ranger station at the foot of the Tower. Food can be purchased immediately outside the park entrance to satisfy your cravings.

We're Pleased 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 enter 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 you: 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.

The Tower is a truly unique feature within the Black Hills area. It is enjoyed by many people in many different manners: It is a significant sacred site to Indian tribes throughout the United States and is the beacon that welcomes local community members home, as well as being a premier crack climbing site due to the columns and their distinct shapes. You may see multi-colored prayer bundles along your walk, please do not disturb these offerings.

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."

While you are here, remember that national parks belong to the public who share the tremendous responsibility of park stewardship. Please be mindful of this as you spend time taking in the grandeur of the Tower and its surrounding natural and cultural resources. Leave only footprints and take only memories. Above all be safe and thank you for visiting, we look forward to seeing you again!

*Dorothy FireCloud
Superintendent*

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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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 recre-

ational 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 24 tribes are 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's west side in 2007. The nesting pair are back this summer.

DRIVE 25 & KEEP WILDLIFE ALIVE!

After driving hours to get here at speeds up to 75 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 often make sudden

movements into the road without warning. Driving at 25 mph or slower gives you a much better chance of avoiding a collision with wildlife. Last year there were 27 animals killed inside the monument by motor vehicles. Please observe posted speed limits.

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 (*Aphona lacertosa* and *Aphona 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 1880's, 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. 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 1930's, 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.

The Old Settlers' Picnic tradition continued until

the 1960's, and was just recently revived in June 2006 as one of five special events during the Centennial Celebration of Devils Tower National Monument.

The next Old Settlers' Picnic at Devils Tower is scheduled for Sunday, June 22, 2008. 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 non-denominational 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 fun as this old tradition becomes new again!



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

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 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.

Theodore Roosevelt's Conservation Legacy

"We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."

Theodore Roosevelt

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 and two years later, the Tower continues to have many meanings for many people. When he became President in 1901, Roosevelt pursued his interest in natural history by establishing the first 51 Bird Reserves, 4 Game Preserves, and



150 National Forests. He also established the U.S. Forest Service, signed into law the creation of 5 National Parks, and signed the 1906 Antiquities Act under which he proclaimed 18 National Monuments. The area of the United States placed under public protection by Theodore Roosevelt totals approximately 230,000,000 acres.

Theodore Roosevelt was this nation's 26th President and is considered by many to be our

"Conservationist President". Here in the Black Hills he declared Wind Cave National Park (SD) - 1903, Devils Tower National Monument - 1906, and Jewel Cave National Monument - 1908. Roosevelt is also represented on Mount Rushmore National Memorial (SD). Two of his homes are part of the National Park

Service: Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site (NY) and Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (NY), as well as the site where he was sworn in as president (Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site in Buffalo, NY) a park in Washington D.C. (Theodore Roosevelt Island) and has a park named for him where he used to ranch: Theodore Roosevelt National Park (ND).

"We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils have still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields and obstructing navigation."

Theodore Roosevelt, after camping in Yosemite National Park:

"It was like lying in a great solemn cathedral, far vaster and more beautiful than any built by the hand of man."

If you would like to learn more about the National Parks and Monuments created by Theodore Roosevelt, visit the National Park Service web page (www.nps.gov). Many books have been written about Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt, he himself, wrote numerous books.

For more information on Theodore Roosevelt, visit your local library.

Construction near the Amphitheater for The Circle of Sacred Smoke

Visitors this summer stand a good chance of encountering flag persons and lane closures near the park amphitheater on the way to the campground.

The construction is in preparation for the sculpture "Circle of Sacred Smoke". The sculpture symbolizes the first ring of smoke from the sacred pipe. It is being donated to Devils Tower National Monument by the Japanese sculptor Mr. Junkyo Muto, as part of his international peace project.

The start of construction for the base of the sculpture is not known. Every effort will be made to minimize delays. If stopped, take the opportunity to look for wildlife and enjoy a little different view of the Tower.

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

May 26 – August 31, 2008

Program Title Time	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Tower Walk 9:30 am							
 Ranger Talks 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 4:00 pm							
 Evening Program 9:00 pm							
Full Moon Walk 9:00 pm	June 18, July 18, August 16						

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 – Whooooooo 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.

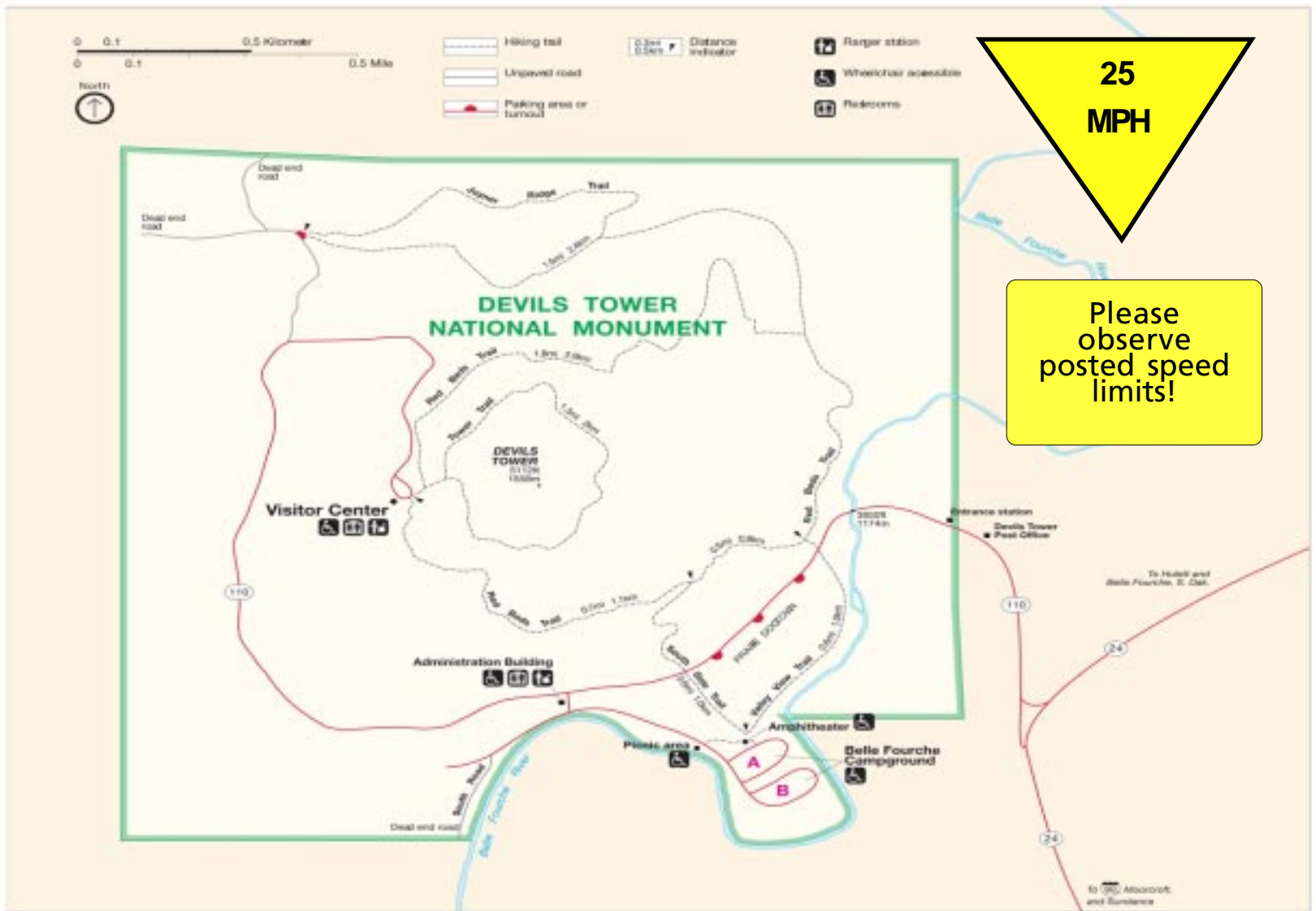
Visitor Center Hours

May 1-May 23 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *Daily*
 May 24-August 31 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. *Daily*
 September 1-September 30 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *Daily*
 October 1- November 29 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *Wed-Sun*

2008 Cultural Program Series

May 31 7:00 pm Picnic Shelter	Jan Conn Tales of Climbing
June 1 9:00 pm Amphitheatre	Allison Sage Arapaho History and Song
June 21 7:00 pm Amphitheatre	Wind River Dancers
June 25 9:00 pm Amphitheatre	Pat Frolander Ranching: The Land, The Lifestyle, The Legacy
June 29 11:00-1:00 pm, 3:00-4:30 pm, 5:30-7:00 pm Tower Area	Michael Terry 18 th & 19 th Century Plains Indian Culture
June 30 11:00 am -1:00 pm 3:00-5:30 pm Tower Area	Michael Terry 18 th & 19 th Century Plains Indian Culture
July 2 4:00 pm Tower Area 8:00 pm Amphitheatre	Gib Young Theodore Roosevelt
July 15 & 16 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, 3:00 - 5:00 pm Tower Area	David Osmundsen Historic Blacksmithing
July 18 & 19 8:00 pm Amphitheatre	"Buffalo Bill" Boycott Cowboy musician and storyteller
July 26 9:00 pm Amphitheatre	Nello Williams The Skies Over the Tower
August 13 8:00 pm Amphitheatre	Gloria Runs Close To Lodge-Goggles American Indian Storytelling
August 14 10:30 am, 1:30 pm Tower Area	Gloria Runs Close To Lodge-Goggles Traditional Use of Native Plants
August 31 1:00 – 4:00 pm Picnic Area	14th Annual Cowboy Poet Festival

Park Map, Trail Information, 2008 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

Entrance Fee - 7 day pass	
Vehicle	\$10
Pedestrian, bicyclist, motorcyclist (Children under 16, no charge)	\$5
Devils Tower Annual Pass	\$20
Allows entrance to Devils Tower National Monument for 12 months from date of purchase.	
Interagency Annual Pass	\$80
Allows entrance to federal fee areas for one year from date of purchase.	
Interagency Senior Pass	\$10
One time fee - lifetime entrance to federal fee areas to American citizens 62 or older.	
Interagency Access Pass	Free
Lifetime entrance to federal fee areas to American citizens with permanent disability.	
Camping	
Per night	\$12
Group site (per person - min. \$12)	\$2

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.