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(S.D.)-Holiday Open House To Be Held at Wind Cave

By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 11/30/2012 11:16 AM

(WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, S.D.) – Holiday events at Wind Cave National Parkbegin with the park's open house on Wednesday, December 12, followed by the
annual Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 16.

The open house on December 12 will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the visitor center. Light refreshments will be served, and students from the Hot Springs' third grade will sing carols at 1:30 p.m. The visitor center Christmas tree will be decorated by the students.

"We always look forward to this event as a way to meet with our neighbors and wish people in our surrounding communities a happy and safe holiday season," said superintendent Vidal Davila.

The public will be able to view park exhibits and browse through the visitor center's bookstore which is operated by the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association. Cave tours will also be offered, as they are throughout the winter, at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.

The park's 17th annual Christmas Bird Count is patterned after the National Audubon Society's effort to document trends in wintering birdlife throughout the United States. The count area will include all of Wind Cave National Park and areas of the Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park.

People wishing to participate should meet at the park visitor center at 8 a.m. on Sunday, December 16. Participants are asked to dress warmly, bring a lunch, field guides and binoculars, something to share for dinner and a place setting. Participants will return to the park's VIP Center at 4:15 p.m. to compile results and share in a potluck dinner. For more information, contact Barb Muenchau or Dan Roddy at 745-4600.

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The visitor center and cave will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day to allow staff to celebrate the holidays with their families. Throughout the remainder of the winter, the visitor center will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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