



What is a Moon Walk?

The Moon Walks take National Forest and Grassland visitors to fire lookout towers, mining towns, beaver dams, caves and more.

Their purpose is to provide a family-oriented activity that introduces visitors to the cultural and natural history of the Black Hills. Through this introduction we hope to foster an understanding and appreciation for these resources that will lead visitors toward stewardship of public lands.

Since 1996, over 8,500 people have attended the Forest's 85 Moon Walk programs. An average of 125 people attend each walk.

A Typical Moon Walk Program

Moon Walks are held on a Saturday night close to the official full moon and begin at 7:00 p.m. Most Moon Walks last from 1-2 hours.

We usually walk an average of 1 mile round trip. Each Moon Walk starts with a short introduction to the night's program, then we hike to a designated area in the forest where we enjoy a 30-minute presentation. Presenters are experts in their field and are from local Black Hills communities.

Be Prepared

The Moon walk evening experience includes traveling to the site. Drive slowly and give yourself time to enjoy scenic forest vistas and wildlife.

Remember that a 30-mile drive through the forest on gravel roads could take up to an hour of driving time without stopping.

Dress in layers because the weather in the forest is often different than it is in town. Pack water and snacks for the return trip. Bring a flashlight for cloudy nights.

All Moon Walk times and places are subject to change due to the weather or other unforeseen circumstances.



For More Information Contact:

Black Hills National Forest
803 Soo San Drive
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-343-1567
www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills

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2006



Schedule

*A Series of
Natural History Walks
During a Full Moon*

*Sponsored by the
Black Hills National Forest
and Black Hills
Parks and Forests Association*

2006 Moon Walk Schedule

MAY 13 - FLYING SQUIRRELS

This walk is located in the central Black Hills.

A graduate biology student will discuss the habitats and distribution of flying squirrels and the important role they play in dispersing fungal spores in the forest.

JUNE 10 - HARDY GUARD STATION AND CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP

This walk is located southwest of Lead near O'Neil Pass and the Wyoming border.

Forest archaeologists will impersonate a forest ranger and a 1930's CCC enrollee to provide an historic look at life as a ranger in 1906, and at the contributions of the CCC program to forest development.

JULY 8 - MOUNTAIN LIONS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

This walk is located near Sheridan Lake in the central Black Hills.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks biologists will discuss the habitat, distribution and management of mountain lions in the state.

AUGUST 5 - THE WILDLAND—URBAN INTERFACE

This walk is located west of Rapid City.

Black Hills National Forest fire management officers and foresters will discuss how they are working together to reduce the wildfire risk in a populated area of the National Forest.

SEPTEMBER 9 - BISON RESTORATION

This walk is located off Highway 79 near Buffalo Gap.

The Nature Conservancy will discuss bison management and restoring a pure bison herd on their Lane Johnny Creek property.

OCTOBER 7- SOUNDS OF THE FOREST

This walk is located near Cement Ridge Lookout.

Forest wildlife biologists will present a program featuring the sounds of wildlife in the forest, which may include elk bugling, raptors, songbirds and more.

All walks are held on a Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Detailed directions to each program and cancellation information can be obtained from the local newspaper, the US Forest Service number and website listed on this brochure or by becoming a member of the Moon Walk email list.