



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 9,500 people have attended the Forest's 94 Moon Walk programs. An average of 120 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
Mystic Ranger District
8221 South Highway 16
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-343-1567
www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills

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2007



Schedule

A Series of Natural History Walks During a Full Moon

Sponsored by:

Black Hills National Forest

The Journey Museum

SD School of Mines and Technology

Black Hills Parks and Forests Association

2007 Moon Walk Schedule

MAY 5 - BIG HORN SHEEP

This walk is located at Silver City near Pactola Reservoir. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks wildlife biologists will discuss the habitat, biology and survival challenges of Big Horn Sheep in the Black Hills.

JUNE 2 - SINK HOLES AND HYDROLOGY

This walk is located west of Sturgis, SD off Vanocker Canyon. Participants will watch a stream disappear underground as the speaker discusses the geology and mining of the Bear Butte Creek drainage.

JUNE 30 - CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CONTRIBUTIONS

This walk is located west of Custer, SD at Tepee Work Center. Forest archaeologists will impersonate a forest ranger and a CCC enrollee to provide a look at life in a CCC camp in the 1930s, and discuss the contributions of the CCC to forest development.

JULY 28 - STEWARDSHIP AND CONSERVATION PARTNERS AT SLATE CREEK

This walk is located near Slate Creek Dam west of Hill City, SD. The Nature Conservancy, Black Hills Flyfishers and Norbeck Society will discuss how a stream, hiking trail and land exchange project fulfills the Black Hills National Forest mission on multiple levels.

AUGUST 25 - SECLUDED NICHES OF THE FOREST

This walk is located in the western half of the forest. Black Hills National Forest botanists and Research Station staff will discuss the on-going research projects and plant communities of a Research Natural Area on the forest.

SEPTEMBER 22- CLEAN WATER – A FOREST PRODUCT

This walk is located on Rapid Creek of Rapid City, SD. Local hydrologists and biologists will discuss the challenges of increasing development and drought in maintaining water quality for wildlife and people in the Black Hills.

OCTOBER 27 - GOLD MOUNTAIN MINE

This walk is located west of Hill City, SD. A professor from a local university will discuss the history, claims and methods of processing ore by hard rock mining at the last standing mill left on the forest.

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.