



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



BLACK HILLS
PARKS &
FORESTS
ASSOCIATION

Black Hills National Forest

2025 MOON WALK SCHEDULE

June 14

Native Plant Dyes

Madi Mazur (Crawford) / Botanist

Mystic Ranger District - Boulder Hill Trail

The flora of the Black Hills showcases a range of beautiful colors, including the deep greens of the ponderosa pine, vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows of the autumn aspen trees, and purples, blues, and pinks of the flowering plants. With a little bit of botanical knowledge, we can harness the colors of nature around us to dye natural materials such as wool, silk, and cotton. Join Forest staff on a family-friendly walk to become one with nature and learn which native plants yield beautiful dyes.

July 12

Similar Goals, but Different Management Techniques

Lydia Austin / Visitor Services Program Manager – Custer State Park – South Dakota, Game, Fish and Parks Dept.

Custer State Park – Buffalo Corrals (Wildlife Loop Road)

Back by popular demand ... As many local outdoor enthusiasts know, Custer State Park is home to an array of wildlife species, many of which are also found on the Black Hills National Forest. Although both agencies manage habitat for the conservation of species, the techniques are sometimes different from one site to another. Take a hike with park staff and Forest staff in the southern portion of Custer State Park and learn how both agencies work together toward common goals. NOTE: This walk takes place in a mixed grass prairie on uneven terrain. Participants are encouraged to wear sturdy shoes or boots.

August 9

Meet the Black Hills Birds of Prey

Maggie Engler / Executive Director – Black Hills Raptor Center (Rapid City, South Dakota)

Bearlodge Ranger District – Carson Draw Trailhead

The forests and grasslands of the Black Hills provide important habitat for several raptor species, including hawks, eagles, falcons, and owls. The mixed hardwood forest and open pine savanna of the Bearlodge Ranger District are home to over 20 different species of birds of prey. Please join Forest staff and the Avian Ambassadors of the Black Hills Raptor Center for a presentation and walk to learn more about the majestic birds of prey found on the Forest. NOTE: The Black Hills Raptor Center aims to conserve and protect native birds of prey and their natural habitat through education, rehabilitation, and research.

September 6

A Nod to the Past - The Dalton Lake Campground and Preservation of a Historic CCC Pavilion

Brett Ewald / Archaeological Technician – Black Hills National Forest, Northern Hills Ranger District

Northern Hills Ranger District – Dalton Lake Trail and Pavilion

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) designed and built the Dalton Lake Campground between 1934 and 1937. Original structures included a campground, earthen dam, ski jump, and several wooden and stone structures. Through time, modernization, and the Flood of 1972, only one wooden structure remains - Dalton Lake Pavilion (or Sheltered Fireplace). The pavilion is one of only a few remaining of its kind. Constructed in 1936, it has stood as a sentinel of public recreation in the campground for 90 years. Learn about how the Dalton Lake Campground has changed over the decades and see first-hand the results of historic preservation underway to protect and preserve the Dalton Lake Pavilion for future generations.



Supporting Wonder and Exploration since 1946

The Black Hills Parks and Forests Association (BHPFA) is offering 2025 Moon Walk Collector's Pins at each event for \$5.00 each. The sale of lapel pins support the interpretive and educational efforts across the Black Hills National Forest. The Moon Walk Programs are supported by BHPFA through financial assistance and staffing; BHPFA is a non-profit partner with the U.S. Forest Service.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Get Prepared for a Moon Walk



Q; What is a Moon Walk?

A: A Moon Walk is a guided hike that introduces participants to the natural and cultural history of the Black Hills. Different topics allow participants to explore and discover the Forest (and other public land agencies) and offer a series of family-friendly activities during the summer season.

Q: What is the purpose of the Moon Walks?

A: The Black Hills National Forest is home to an array of natural features, as well as holds an abundance of cultural history. Moon Walks are geared toward the public land enthusiast that wants to learn more about western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming and be exposed to the stories behind the scenery.

Q: What do I need to know about attending a Moon Walk?

A: Moon Walks are held on a Saturday night, closest to the full moon in June, July, August, and September. They begin at 7 p.m. and last about two hours. Each event starts with a short introduction to the night's program. Then, participants follow a guided hike into the Forest, with various stops along the route. Perhaps most important, there are no fees for attending a Moon Walk.

Q: How should I prepare for a Moon Walk?

A: The Moon Walk evening experience starts with simply traveling to the various program sites. Due to summer visitation, road conditions, wildlife, and scenery along the routes, we encourage participants to allow for plenty of travel time to and from the trailheads. Dress in layers for comfort, wear appropriate footwear (no sandals or open-toed shoes), and bring a light jacket for the cool night air. Please be advised that many routes may pose challenges for those with mobility concerns and/or the pathways are not accessible for wheelchairs or strollers.

Q: What about inclement weather? Is it possible for a Moon Walk to be canceled?

A: A Moon Walk may be canceled unexpectedly for unforeseen reasons, such as lightning, high fire danger, severe weather, and other sporadic reasons beyond our control. The program will not be canceled due to rain unless lightning is spotted.

If a Moon Walk is canceled in advance due to severe weather forecasted, the notice of cancellation will be placed on the Black Hills National Forest Facebook page, Twitter account, and Forest website. If there is uncertain weather, the public is encouraged to check online before heading out to the event.

Q: Where can I find more information on programs and activities?

A: We encourage everyone to follow the Forest on social media, as well as bookmark the Forest website for future programs, happenings, and information. For additional program information and other visitor services, please visit our partners online – the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department and Black Hills Parks and Forest Association.

For More Information

Forest Headquarters

Custer, SD (605) 673-9200

Hell Canyon Ranger District

Custer, SD (605) 673-9292
Newcastle, WY (307) 746-2782

Mystic Ranger District

Rapid City, SD (605) 343-1567

Northern Hills Ranger District

Spearfish, SD (605) 642-4622

Bearlodge Ranger District

Sundance, WY (307) 283-1361

Forest Website

www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills

