



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 10,277 people have attended the Forest's 101 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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2008



Schedule

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

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

2008 Moon Walk Schedule

MAY 24 - AMPHIBIAN AWARENESS AND CONSERVATION

This walk is located in the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. Learn how to recognize your local amphibian species by sight and sound. Find out what makes these animals important to the ecosystem and what you can do to help them survive.

JUNE 21 - SOUTH DAKOTA'S WILD TURKEYS

This walk is located in the French Creek Natural Area of Custer State Park. A wildlife biologist and author will discuss the distribution, origin, behavior, ecology and management of turkeys in the Black Hills.

JULY 19 - WYOMING'S MOUNT MARIAH CEMETERY

This walk is located near Sundance, Wyoming. A local historian will connect the lives and names of early homesteaders with the names of prominent natural features in the Bearlodge Mountains.

AUGUST 16 - PINE BEETLES AND THE NEXT FOREST

This walk is located south of Deerfield Reservoir. Visitors will view the work of the mountain pine beetle on a landscape scale while U.S. Forest Service entomologists discuss the distribution, ecology and management of these forest pests.

SEPTEMBER 13- CONATA BASIN MANAGEMENT

This walk is located near Scenic, SD in the Conata Basin area. The Nature Conservancy will discuss a recent land acquisition in the black-footed ferret recovery area, the ecology of the basin, and efforts to reduce conflict between ranchers and prairie dogs.

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.