

Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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For Immediate Release

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JEWEL CAVE CLEANS LINT TARPS ALONG TOUR ROUTE

JEWEL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT, SD -- Jewel Cave's annual lint removal project is nearly complete. Every year, each of over 80,000 visitors leaves behind a small amount of clothing fibers, hair, and dead skin cells, which over time accumulate in thick mats on cave surfaces and formations. An average of 13 pounds of debris collects under just one platform in a year! Much of this debris is caught in nylon "lint tarps," which are suspended beneath each stairway and platform along the Scenic Tour route. Each year, park staff and volunteers take the tarps down and wash them. This year's cleaning has been accomplished with the assistance of volunteers from the Paha Sapa Grotto, the local caving club. For more information on cave tours and volunteer opportunities, call the Jewel Cave visitor center at (605) 673-2288.

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