



Call of the Canyon

Winter Calendar of Events

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Sunset Hike

Explore the twilight sights and sounds of the canyon during a 1.5-mile, roundtrip hike.

Fri. 1/6, 4:45-6:30 p.m.

Nature Sketch Hike

Explore the fun of sketching nature and learn how to make a new connection with the canyon on this short nature hike.

Fri. 1/13, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Winter Circle: Star Walk

Join us for a stroll under the stars and explore the 'Winter Circle'—a bright pattern of stars adorning our chilly skies!

Fri. 1/20, 7:30-8:00 p.m.

Fri. 1/27, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Lava Tube Hike

Join park staff for a two-mile, roundtrip hike and the chance to explore the unique formations of a lava tube!

Sat. 2/4, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Moonlit Hike

Join park staff for a moonlit, two-mile hike. Enjoy the unique opportunity to see the canyon by moon-glow!

Fri. 2/10, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Sat. 2/11, 8:00-9:30 p.m.

The Dirt World of Archaeology!

What is the archaeology of the area telling us? Join Steve and Samira Hall, of Bighorn Archaeological Consultants, for an evening presentation on historical and native cultures.

Fri. 3/3, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Moonlit Hike

Join park staff for a moonlit, two-mile hike. Enjoy the unique opportunity to see the canyon by moon-glow!

Fri. 3/10, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Sat. 3/11, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

*All listed events are free and open to the public. Space is limited; registration required. **Program registration is held two days preceding the scheduled event.***

Register by phone or in person. For more information or to register for a program contact park staff at (435) 628-2255.

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.

—John Steinbeck

Check out the Park's Bookstore for your holiday shopping!

We have hats, shirts, magnets, books, pottery and more...

And lots of great gifts for under \$10!

Snow Canyon State Park

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Utah State Parks:

Providing opportunities to enhance the quality of life by preserving natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

**“The comfort of
reclusion, the poetry
of hibernation”.**

— Marcel Proust, *Swann’s Way*

Winter Respite

Other than a few creaky scrub oak branches, a general hush seems to have settled across the canyon. The silence is broken intermittently by a distant quail’s call or random knockings of the red-naped sapsucker drilling for insects. Noticeably missing in the landscape are the darting movements of squirrels and lizards, or the amblings of beetles and tortoise. Winter in Snow Canyon is a time of magic. As if with a wave of a magician’s hand, all seem to have disappeared—or, have they?

With the onset of cold many canyon species haven’t gone far, they have simply entered hibernation. Many have burrowed deep underground, ventured into dens, or just retreated under rocks. Hibernation can be thought of simply as passing the winter in a state of lethargy. The purpose of hibernation is to allow animals to defend against cold temperatures and food shortages. During hibernation, wildlife drastically reduce their metabolic and heart rates, and lower their body temperatures to conserve energy. Depending upon the species hibernation can last from November to early March.

During this time, den and burrow entrances collect dried leaves and fill with sand until warmer temperatures finally return. Gradually the magician’s drowsy ‘spell’ lifts and from under the protective blanket of hibernation our absent animals begin to re-emerge. Canyon residents awake to find a renewed landscape adorned with scattered wildflowers and young annuals to greet them. Their reappearance confirms that the gift of hibernation has again done its job—offering respite and continuity of life.



- *photograph* by Maria Werner