



# 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 one-mile, round trip hike.

**Fri., 12/7, 4:30-6:00 pm**

### West Canyon Discovery Hike

Join us on this two-mile, round trip walk with a ranger and talk about the discoveries we find along the way—you can even bring your canine pal!

**Sat., 12/8, 9:00-10:30 am**

**Sat., 1/5, 9:00-10:30 am**

### Lava Tube Hike

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

**Sat, 12/22, 1:00-2:30 pm**

### Star Walk: North Star

Join us for a stroll under the stars and learn more about our north star and its neighboring constellations.

**Fri., 1/4, 6:30-8:00 pm**

### Moonlit Hike

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

**Fri., 1/18, 6:00-7:30 pm**

**Sat, 1/19, 6:30-8:00 pm**

### Star Walk: Winter Circle

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

**Fri., 2/1, 7:00-8:30 pm**

### Kite Critters:

#### Great Horned Owl

Decorate and craft your own kite while learning about Great Horned Owls. Designed for ages 10 and older, adults welcome.

**Sat., 2/2, 10:00-Noon**

### Moonlit Hike

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

**Fri., 2/15, 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Sat., 2/16, 6:30-8:00 pm**

## Did You Know?

- Spotted Towhees can often be heard in the underbrush as they make a two-footed, backwards-scratching hop. This "double-scratching" is used by a number of towhee and sparrow species to uncover the seeds and small invertebrates they feed on.

- Spotted Towhees live in drier habitats than Eastern Towhees. Some scientists have suggested that the bold white spots on Spotted Towhees' backs help them blend in to the sun-dappled undergrowth.

*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.*



—Spotted Towhee, photograph by Rick Fridell

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 Magic in Snow Canyon

Yellowed leaves rattle in the canyon's cottonwoods, soon to hitch a ride with the wind. Days are shorter, temperatures cooler, and with Thanksgiving behind us, most regular park visitors observe the distinct calm that seems to have settled over the canyon. It is not uncommon now to find parking lots almost vacant. Trails seem to belong solely to the occasional hiker. Where did the collective hum of the fall crowds go?

Entering the winter season can offer a dramatically different park experience for canyon visitors. Although wildlife may be sparse, grasses dried, the landscape subdued, and temperatures nippy, you might be surprised to learn this is actually a favorite season for many. To discover the magic that only this season in the canyon can offer, and to make the most out of your next winter excursion in the park, you may find the following helpful.

### No crowds means more opportunities:

- There are many birds that don't migrate, but instead reside in the canyon year-long. For instance, listen for sounds of the Spotted Towhee who can be heard scratching and hopping underneath dense tangles of brush. So, pick up a bird list and learn more about what species you might keep an eye (or ear) out for while out on the trails.
- Photography is popular, especially if you prefer your landscapes 'people-less'! There is a surreal feel to the canyon that many capture this time of year, so bring your camera and get inspired!
- Find serenity and take time to reflect. Getting lost with your thoughts in this amazing landscape, without the chatter of others, can be very rewarding. Pause and enjoy the natural sounds of the canyon.
- Even though it is winter, many plants and wildflowers are already setting the stage for spring. Grab a plant guide and learn which plants are taking advantage of this growing season.
- Short days leave more opportunity for viewing the night sky. Get a star guide and learn a new constellation or two. You can still be home and in bed by 9 p.m.!

Remember to take plenty of water on your adventures and adapt your hiking attire/gear for the season. Be mindful of how long you expect to be out on the trails—especially with the early sunsets—and always let someone know of your plans and expected return.

Before long, the temperatures will begin to warm and the hum of spring crowds will return, so don't miss the magic wintertime offers to learn more about the canyon and make new connections.