

Happy Thanksgiving!

Mark Your Calendar!

November 9-12, Camping at Huntsville State Park

Come join us for a fall campout in Huntsville State Park. Lose yourself among the majestic trees and beauty of the East Texas Pineywoods. Rent a canoe, kayak or paddle-boat! You can also explore the hiking trails or just relax by the lake. This campout will be led by Nancy Lee and MJ Steele. Sign up sheet will be at the meetings or contact MJ to get on the list.

Trip Leaders:

MJ & Nancy Lee
texassteele@yahoo.com



Shady Lake



Photos by Barb

What's Inside!

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Holiday Party 4:00 Sunday, Dec. 3

Suzi's Home
3317 Creekbend Dr.,
Garland, Texas

Remember to bring a food item to share and beverage of your choice. If you want to participate, a \$15 Gift exchange with something fun & creative with an outdoor theme.

NEXT TOWN MEETING

MONDAY
NOV. 6, 2017

LA MADELEINE
5290 BELT LINE RD
ADDISON, TX

6:30-7:00 Social Hour
Meeting 7:00

NPS Proposes Steep Fees at Popular Parks

Would more than double prime-time entrance costs, as administration seeks to cut National Park Service's budget.

by Adam Roy



A new plan from the National Park Service would more than double peak season entrance fees at 17 of the country's most visited national parks, with the extra money going towards maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

In a press release on Tuesday, the NPS said that the entry fee for a private, non-commercial vehicle would rise to \$70 during peak season – the five busiest months of the year – with motorcycle entries rising to \$50 and foot or bike entry costs rising to \$30.

The fee hikes would take effect on May 1, 2018 at Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Denali, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Olympic, Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Zion, and on June 1 in Acadia, Rainier, Rocky Mountain, and Shenandoah. In Joshua Tree National Park, the increase would take place “as soon as practicable.”

The price of an annual pass would remain level, at \$80.

“The infrastructure of our national parks is aging and in need of renovation and restoration,” said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in the release. “Targeted fee increases at some of our most-visited parks will help ensure that they are protected and preserved in perpetuity and that visitors enjoy a world-class experience that mirrors the amazing destinations they are visiting.”

The National Park Service currently faces a \$12 billion maintenance

backlog, and Zinke has said that closing the gap is one of his main priorities. However, the Trump administration’s proposed budget would slash the NPS’s budget even further, reducing discretionary funding by 13 percent and cutting 6 percent of the agency’s staff, or about 1,200 full-time jobs.

In a statement, Theresa Pierno, president and CEO of the National Parks Conservation Association, said that the parks’ maintenance costs “cannot and should not be largely shouldered by its visitors.”

“The administration just proposed a major cut to the National Park Service budget even as parks struggle with billions of dollars in needed repairs,” she wrote. “If the administration wants to support national parks, it needs to walk the walk and work with congress to address the maintenance backlog.”

The National Park Service will be accepting comments on the plan for the next 30 days on its site. <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=75576>

Taken from Backpacker Online

How to Stay Dry in the Rain

Getting soaked in cold weather isn't just uncomfortable – it's dangerous. Use these tips to stay out and stay safe.

By Kristr Karlson

1) Check your system. Your hood should snug down tight enough to seal out windblown rain, and your jacket's hem should extend well below your waist. Make sure cinching your hipbelt or bending over doesn't expose a gap.

2) Protect your feet. Reseal your boots before the trip, and wear water-proof gaiters under your rainpants.

3) Seal your sleeves. Hard rain can sneak in at your wrists. Shorten your trekking poles so your forearms angle downward, and avoid hooking your thumbs around your pack straps. Tuck baselayer cuffs under your shell to keep them from wicking water upward.

4) Keep gear dry. Use a pack liner (or trash compactor bag) and/or waterproof stuffsacks. Add a pack cover to keep water weight down.

5) Avoid overheating. Even in cold temps, you'll sweat while working hard in a waterproof jacket. Wear only a light baselayer under your shell and moderate your pace to stay cool.

6) Carry an umbrella. There's no



better or more breathable protection (unless it's really windy). Rig it to your pack with a stick and duct tape.

7) Be realistic. After consecutive days of hard, steady rain, getting wet is inevitable. Hike in your damp clothes, and save dry stuff for camp.

Ask a Bear

Do Bear Bells Really Work?

Q: I visited Yellowstone for the first time this summer, and I wanted to go for a trail run. It was my first time alone in grizzly country, so I decided to buy some bear bells. At the checkout, the lady decided to warn me that because so many people use bear bells now, you might actually associate the sound

with humans and come to investigate. You wouldn't really do that, would you!? – **Boomer from Wisconsin, via email**

A: Dinner bells, hiker hamburger hail, afternoon-snack alarm – the bear bell is a bear-country souvenir store staple that gets a lot of flack from locals and backcountry veterans. Whether it works on me isn't exactly clear.

Bear biologist Tom Smith jingled bear bells in varying volumes in front of brown bears in Katmai National Park. Regardless of how vigorously he shook, 15 different sets of bruins ignored the bells. And yet they snapped at attention the second he broke a pencil in half. This isn't 100-percent proof that bears don't respond to bear bells; But it means that in this specific case, the bells failed to warn and change my behavior as intended.

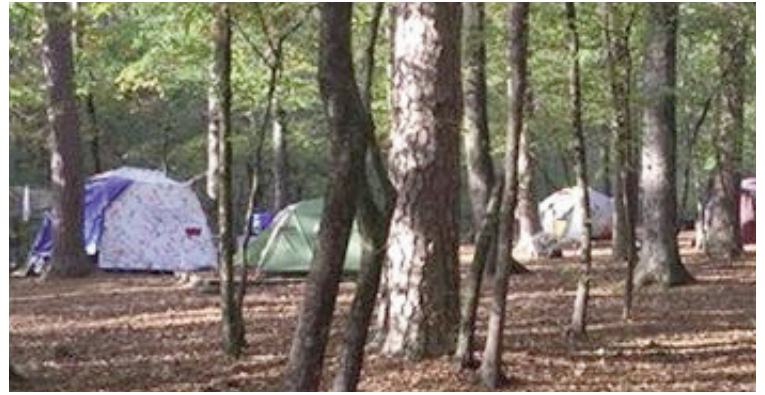
It's possible that bells aren't loud or unfamiliar enough; I might be tuning them out. It's much safer and smarter to use your own voice: Sing, shout my name, or, if you're Herrero, yodel. It's the best, most reliable way to alert me to your unfamiliar presence and ensure that I head in the opposite direction. Supporters point out that in a study in Glacier National Park conducted in 1982, the only people who got charged by bears that year were not wearing bells.

– Bear



Mission Statement

The TOWN mission is to provide all women the opportunity to learn and experience outdoor activities in natural surroundings through a non-threatening, safe and supportive environment.



Shady Lake

