



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Badlands National Park

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## Badlands News Release

Release Date: July 13, 2022

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### **Badlands Astronomy Festival to Be Held July 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK, INTERIOR, S.D. — Badlands National Park has partnered with the NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium to co-sponsor the **2022 Badlands Astronomy Festival, July 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>**. The festival brings together space science professionals, amateur astronomers, educators, and visitors for a three-day celebration.

Novices and experts alike will enjoy the spectacular dark night skies of Badlands National Park at public star parties each evening. During the afternoon each day, a variety of family-friendly activities will provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the night sky, the sun, and space exploration. Telescopes will be provided by astronomers from the Black Hills Astronomical Society, Badlands National Park, Dark Ranger Telescope Tours and the University of Utah for day and night observations.

The schedule of events includes solar observing opportunities activities, special guest speakers, Webb Space Telescope first images, public stargazing activities, static displays, as well as equipment demonstrations by professional and amateur astronomers.

This free event is made possible through funding and support from the Badlands Natural History Association, NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium, Dark Ranger Telescope Tours, Black Hills Astronomical Society, The Journey Museum and Learning Center, International Dark Sky Association, University of Utah, Badlands National Park Conservancy, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, and Badlands National Park.

#### **Schedule of Events:**

##### **Planet Walk**

Friday, July 29; Saturday, July 30; and Sunday, July 31

1:30-3:00 pm Meet in front of the Ben Reifel Visitor Center Theater for a short walk through our solar system.

##### **Sun Fun Solar Observing**

Friday, July 29; Saturday, July 30; and Sunday, July 31

3:00-5:00 pm at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center

*View solar flares and sunspots through our special solar telescopes, 100% safe for eyes. Various other sun-based activities will also be offered.*

**Guest Speakers/Evening Programs/Public Stargazing**

Friday, July 29; Saturday, July 30; and Sunday, July 31

9pm - 11:30 pm (Fri, Sat, Sun) at the Cedar Pass Campground Amphitheater

*Nightly evening presentations will be provided by invited guest speakers followed by hands-on experience with multiple state-of-the-art telescopes and amateur astronomers providing constellation tours while guiding visitors around the universe. View planets, star clusters, nebulae, and double stars while going down the “scope line.”*

9:00 p.m. Friday night guest speaker: Tom Durkin, NASA SD Space Grant Consortium

9:00 p.m. Saturday night guest speaker: Megan Ostrenga, The Journey Museum

9:00 p.m. Sunday night guest speaker: “Dark Ranger” Kevin Poe, Dark Ranger Telescope Tours

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*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for more than 400 parks in the National Park System and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov), on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice](https://www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice), Twitter [www.twitter.com/natlparkservice](https://www.twitter.com/natlparkservice), and YouTube [www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice](https://www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice).*