



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Aztec Ruins National Monument
Chaco Culture National Historical Park
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National Park Service - News Release

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Chaco Culture NHP to Host Equinox Event and Astronomy Festival

Nageezi, NM – The public is once again invited to join us for our annual Equinox sunrise observation. This centuries old tradition will continue September 22. If the skies are clear visitors will see the sun gently rise above the horizon to shine directly through two perfectly aligned windows that flank the entrance to the Great Kiva Casa Rinconada. This alignment is another wonderful example of the Ancestral Pueblo practice of using architectural features to track what was happening in the sky above. Visitors will be able to make their way to Casa Rinconada when the gates open at 6am. This program is limited to 100 people.

The following two days will see the return of Chaco’s Astronomy Festival. The 5th annual event will feature indoor planetarium shows and special tours throughout the day. We’ll be joined by Jon Ghahate from the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Jon will be discussing indigenous views on astronomy at 8pm on September 23rd and 24th. This will be followed by telescope viewing with volunteers from the Albuquerque Astronomical Society. Jon will also be leading bike tours to the Wijiji Great House at 1pm on September 23 and a bike tour to the Casa Chaquita Great House at 1pm on September 24th.

For more information on these events, please visit our website at <https://www.nps.gov/chcu>.

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees who care for America’s 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.



STAR PARTY 2022

Celebrating Mesa Verde's Dark Skies

Saturday, September 24, 7-9 PM

Morefield Campground Amphitheater

7:00 PM **The Importance of Dark Skies**
Ranger Presentation

7:30 PM **Navajo Astronomy & Star Stories**
with Ravis Henry, Diné Storyteller from Canyon de Chelly

8:00 PM **Stargazing & Telescope Viewing**
with Dr. Erica Ellingson, CU Professor of Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences

National Public Lands Day: Free park entry all day!

Please dress warmly and bring a flashlight or headlamp.