

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Timpanogos Cave National Monument Rural Route 3, Box 200 American Fork, UT 84003

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Timpanogos Cave NM News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 4, 2017 Contact: BJ Cluff (801) 756-5239, Jim Ireland (801) 756-5239

Timpanogos Cave Open for Tours Saturday May 20

Timpanogos Cave National Monument will begin its 95th season of cave tours on May 20, 2017. Tours are expected to run through September 5.

The monument's caves are open only to ranger guided tours during the summer months, since heavy winter snows cover the 1.5 mile trail which climbs about 1,100 feet from the floor of American Fork Canyon to the cave entrance.

This summer will see a new series of interpretive exhibits along the trail, featuring a "Walk Through Time" exploring the rock layers that reveal almost 600 million years of change through geologic time. Canyon plants, wildlife, history, and physical fitness tips for hikers will also be part of the new exhibits, generously donated to the park through a grant from Intermountain Healthcare to the Friends of Timpanogos Cave. The new exhibits should be in place by mid to late June.

The park had hoped to open a new visitor contact station early this summer, replacing the current visitor center trailer, but unfortunately the project has been delayed at least another year by contracting and budget challenges.

Cave tours remain extremely popular, and frequently sell out well in advance, especially on weekends and holidays. The park strongly encourages visitors to plan in advance and buy tour tickets well in advance. Details about ticket purchases, tour schedules, and other programs are available on the park website at <u>www.nps.gov/tica</u>.

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