

2025 SUMMER ADVENTURE SERIES*

June 7	Bear Trap Cave ⁴
June 14	Miner's Hotel ³
June 21	Spokane Ghost Town ²
July 5	Center Lake ¹
Aug 2	Devil's Bathtub Hike ⁵
Aug 9	Harney Peak Full Moon Hike ⁵
Aug 16	Grizzly Bear Falls Hike ⁷

DIFFICULTY

- 1 – everyone can easily participate
- 3 – approachable for nearly all abilities
- 5 – mildly strenuous but approachable for most
- 8 – adventurous spirit and/or fitness required

*See the Sunday bulletin for weekly info, updates, and changes\

June 7 Summer Adventure Series #1. Bear Trap Cave. It's a short hike to explore this small, well hid cavern located in the Jasper fire burn scar, an hour from Hill City. Entry to the cavern requires approximately 10 ft of hands and knees crawling, followed by a short ladder (eight rungs) down. Difficulty: "4"; wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty; bring a headlamp/flashlight, water and consider packing a lunch or snacks, whether you keep it in your car or take it along on the hike to the cave. The final mile to the cave requires a higher clearance vehicle, but can also be hiked. Coordinates: 43.873647, -103.907631.

June 14 Summer Adventure Series #2. Miner's Hotel. Geographically close to Mystic via China Gulch Rd and Forest Service Rd 606, about 14 miles north of Hill City. A short hike (less than ½ mile) along Slate Creek takes you to this obscure piece of local history. Four-wheel drive or a higher clearance vehicle is recommended. Difficulty: "3"; wear good shoes, bring water, sunscreen, and snacks. Coordinates: 44.068575, -103.624451

June 21 Summer Adventure Series #3. Spokane Ghost Town. Located close to the intersection of N. Playhouse Rd and 16A, this is another off the beaten track explorers' special including various buildings, a marked grave, and relics from days gone by. Difficulty: "2"; total walk of about 1.5 miles. Wear good shoes, bring water, sunscreen, and snacks. Parking: 43.843100, -103.384484. Site Coordinates: 43.840753638443914, -103.37615383699104

July 5 Summer Adventure Series #4. Picnic @ Center Lake. It's Independence Day weekend, which means we're patriotically obligated to do two things: go to a lake and grill. Center Lake has a nice little beach and just might avoid the crowd Sheridan and Pactola will draw. There's also several miles of easy-moderate hiking trails around the lake. Difficulty: "1"; everyone can easily participate. Meat provided. Bring a side to share plus all the other things you normally pack for a day at the beach. Parking: 43.803856, -103.419496

Aug. 2 Summer Adventure Series #5. Devil's Bathtub Hike. Yes, it's located in the northern Hills, 1:30 hours away, but this is a beautiful and fun adventure that every local should experience for themselves, even if it has gotten rather crowded in recent years. The hike to the rock slides and "bathtub" is approximately 1 mile in length. Difficulty: "5"; Moderate – the trail is easy enough, but there are extended sections where you will be walking in the rocky creek. Parking area: 1917 Spearfish Canyon Hwy, Lead, SD 57754. The trailhead is located north of the parking area, a short walk down Cleopatra Pl. and just over the bridge. Wear water shoes; bring water, sunscreen, bug spray, lunch, snacks, and, if needed, a walking stick/trekking poles for balance. Parking area coordinates: 44.398293, -103.896666. Devil's Bathtub Coordinates: 44.396241, -103.888606

Aug. 9 Summer Adventure Series #6. Harney Peak Full Moon Hike. Not many people can say they've watched the full moon rise from the highest point between the Alps in Europe and the Rockies. Meet at church at 5pm. This hike is within Custer State Park which requires a \$20 7-day pass, or a \$30 annual pass so consider carpooling with other participants. The trailhead is located at the southeast side of Sylvan Lake. Difficulty: "5"; Moderate – mildly strenuous but approachable for most. Round trip hike of 7 miles with an average hiking time of 4-5 hours with 1000 feet of elevation gain. Sunset: 8:06pm; Moonrise: 8:36pm. Wear good shoes, bring water, sunscreen, snacks, and a flashlight/headlamp for the hike back. Parking/Tailhead Coordinates: 43.846627, -103.560169

Aug. 16 Summer Adventure Series #7. Grizzly Bear Falls Hike. Our most out there adventure. We will start at Mt. Rushmore (\$10 parking pass required), crossing highway 16 and taking the .8 mile long, gravel Blackberry Trail down to its end at the Centennial Trail and Grizzly Creek. A further .8 mile trek and bushwack leads to the falls – it's not Niagara by any means, but it's a beautiful location. Difficulty: "7"; Intermediate; adventurous spirit required - expect wet feet and the possibility of a chest high dip in water; wear water shoes, bring water and snacks. Falls' Coordinates: 43.86342, -103.46320

Secondary location via Grizzly Creek Primitive Campground: 43.86466, -103.45395. (\$4 park fee)

Ice Cave; Coordinates: 43.879170, -103.915800.