new mexico

parks for kids

1. Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Be sure to sign up for KidsCorner at the visitor center, then take a guided cave tour and check out the Big Room. View the Giant Dome and the Bottomless Pit and keep an eye out for Mexican Free-Tailed Bats. Spend the night camping.

2. Bandelier National Monument
Become a Junior Ranger or even a Deputy Ranger! Tour ancestral Puebloan sites then hike the Main Loop Trail or snowshoe along Upper Frijoles Trail. Look for petroglyphs or go bird watching. Take a night walk then camp overnight.

3. Chaco Culture National Historical Park
Check out the Junior Ranger program! Hike out to the Pueblo Bonito Overlook or take a guided tour of the ruins. Enjoy a picnic or go biking, then participate in the Night Sky program.

4. Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
Become a Junior Ranger or even a Senior Ranger! Hike the wilderness areas, take a guided tour of the cliff dwellings, or even check out an archaeological dig. Visit the nearby hot springs!

5. Sugarite Canyon State Park
Learn about the natural history of the canyon at the visitor center. Go fishing and view Lake Alice. Hike the Coal Camp Interpretive Trail to the campsites and spend the night by a campfire.

6. Clayton Lake State Park
Start at the visitor center to see 100-million-year-old dinosaur tracks, then find petroglyphs along the nature trail. Get an up-close look at the stars in the Lake Observatory.

7. Oliver Lee Memorial State Park
Take a tour of the Oliver Lee Ranch House and visit the Chihuahuan Desert Garden. Hike the Riparian Nature Trail and explore the visitor center to learn about local geology and wildlife.

Buddy Bison’s Fact Bites!

• White Sands National Monument is a field of dunes made of gypsum crystals. The monument is the largest gypsum dune field in the world.

• New Mexico is a Four Corners state and shares a boundary at the point where Colorado, Arizona and Utah meet. Visit the Four Corners Monument and stand in four states!

• The Zia Sun Symbol is found on the New Mexico flag, derived from a Pueblo Indian tribe. The sacred design represents the circle of life to the Zia people.