

The Sun Country Striders
Welcomes You to
Rockhounds State Park
Luna County
AVA Sanctioned Year Round Event



This walk is composed of 3 separate trails in the Rockhounds State Park giving you the options of 2 to 10k total distance. These trails are rocky and will gain between 100 and 900' feet in altitude. Although you may get by with good walking shoes, hiking boots and poles are recommended, especially for the Lover's Leap Trail, the most difficult of the three.

Walk Registration:

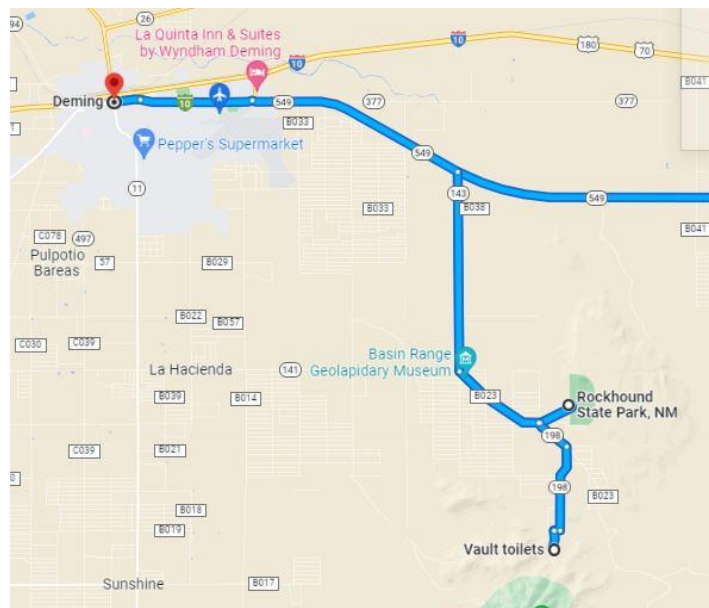
Please use the Online Start Box (OSB) to register and complete the event or contact the POC for remote registration. The directions and stamps will be available in Silver City during the Sun Country Striders Week of Walking April 13-16, 2023. If wishing to do the walk on the way to the events, contact the POC.

Walk Completion and Walk Credit:

Once you have completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may choose to print out.

Driving Directions to Start Point:

Drive to the Rockhound State Park Visitor Center at 9880 Stirrup Rd, Deming. From Deming, take NM-549 east to NM-143, then right (south) on NM-143. Follow signs for Rockhound State Park and the Visitor Center on the right. Stop at the self-pay registration station and pay the \$5 parking fee. This fee is valid for all NM state parks on the same day including the City of Rocks State Park.



Additional Trail(s) Information:

The state park offers several trails, some more challenging than others. Our goal is to enjoy the walk and the park. **Hiking boots and poles are recommended for balance and ankle support as all trails entail 300' or more of elevation gain.** Feel free to do whatever hike you wish and for whatever distance. Remember, although you might start out on a long hike, you can always turn around whenever you wish.

Jasper & Thunder Egg Trail - Distance: 2.2 mile (short 4k) loop with an elevation rise of about 350 feet. Starts at park visitor center parking lot. Trail climbs up, then descends to the campground (and restrooms) where it then turns back uphill and loops around back to the campground offering nice views and the opportunity to collect rocks.

Lover's Leap Trail - Distance 2.8 miles (long 4k) or so with elevation gain of 900'. Rocky up/down trail, but easy to follow to great views. Can continue even a bit further if so desired. No rock collecting on this trail.

Spring Canyon Loop with spur - Distance .6 miles for the loop only, or continue uphill to the probably dried up spring or maybe find a trickle for another .6 miles up/back (1 or 2k). No rock collecting on this trail.

Table of Contents:

Use the following table to guide what portion of this document you may wish to print out.

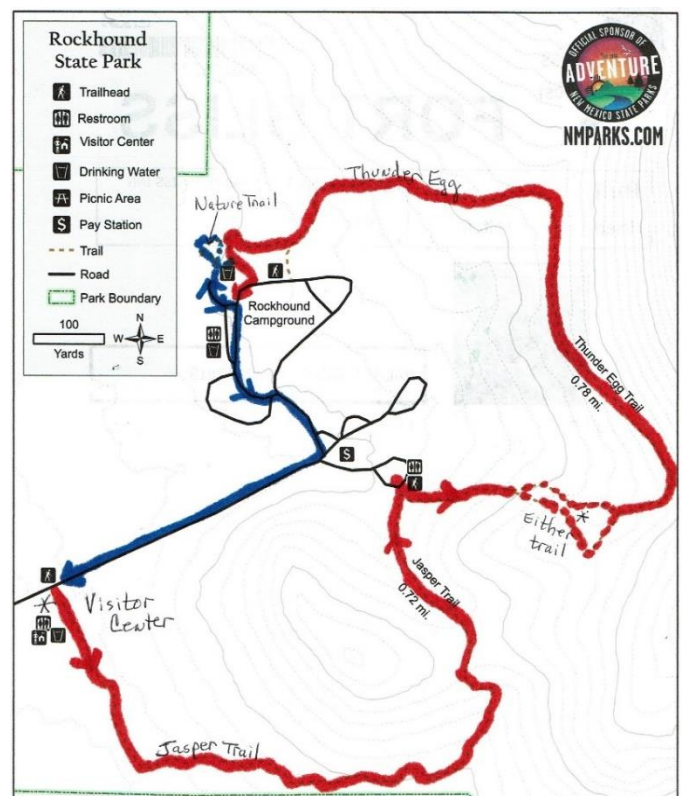
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Rockhound State Park – Luna County

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

1. After paying the parking fee, continue to the Visitor Center on the right. Restrooms available at VC. The center and exhibits may be open, but the center is staffed at only certain times of the day.
2. Look for the Jasper Trailhead at the far end of the parking lot.
3. Follow the trail for .72 miles staying to the left whenever other trails intersect. Continue to the campground and the trailhead for the Thunder Egg Trail (Restrooms available at trailhead.)
4. Return to the trailhead and look for the Thunder Egg Trail to the left.
5. Follow the Thunder Egg Trail upward and above the campground. At the fork in the trail, you may take either trail as they merge shortly.
6. Continue to the campground road.
7. **RIGHT** on park road to the nature trail on the right.
8. **RIGHT** on the nature trail as it circles back to the park road.
9. **RIGHT** on park road and follow it out of the campground and back to the Visitor Center.
10. **END** of 2.2 mile route (short 4K)

Event related assistance:
Helen Hull: 972-530-1026



Spring Canyon Trails

From the Rockhound Visitor Center, return toward town and watch for the Spring Canyon trail signs on the left. Follow the road to the vault toilets and parking lot and the Lover's Leap Trailhead (end of road).

Lover's Leap Trail (2.8 miles) adds long 4k (give yourself 5 due to difficulty) as the trail gains about 900' and is rocky. Nice views up to the saddle and then return. This is an in/out with no side trails. Simply follow the trail as far as you wish, and then return to the parking lot.

Spring Canyon Trail adds either .6 miles (loop only, ranger told me that it was the old road and is not that difficult) or 1.2 mile (2k) if continuing on to the dry springs (rocky and gains about 500' altitude). You may drive back down the road to the Spring Canyon Trailhead on the right (limited parking) or walk to it from the Lover's Leap parking lot. If you walk down to the second trail and back to your car, give yourself another 1k of distance. Look at the map and hike to the far end of the oval loop. Take the spur trail up/down to the old springs.

