

MONUMENTAL MARC 2011

June 5-8, 2011

Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center; Rapid City, S.D.

Hosted by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

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REGISTERED GUEST BRIEFING

Family Fun Tour Registrants

We are looking forward to your visit to South Dakota for MONUMENTAL MARC 2011, June 5-8, in Rapid City! We hope the following information will be helpful as you prepare for your trip.

Here's a hint...print this briefing and bring it with you to the conference.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

MARC attendees and guests staying at the Ramkota Hotel who are flying into Rapid City Regional Airport can catch a ride on the Airport Express Shuttle by using the Ramkota courtesy phone in the baggage claim area or speaking to a representative at the Airport Express Shuttle podium near the baggage claim exit doors. Rides to and from the airport on the Airport Express Shuttle are free for Ramkota guests. Return trips to the airport should be arranged one day in advance with the Ramkota front desk staff.

The Grand Gateway Hotel provides airport shuttle transportation for registered guests between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. Grand Gateway guests should arrange their airport pickup in advance by calling 1-866-742-1300. Arrangements for return trips to the airport should be made a day in advance with front desk staff.

Local taxi services include Rapid Taxi (605-348-8080) and Affordable Taxi (605-399-3232).

RAMKOTA HOTEL & WATERPARK

Attendees of MONUMENTAL MARC 2011 who are staying at the Ramkota Hotel will want to save some time to play in the hotel's waterpark. Be sure to ask for your free waterpark passes when you check in.

REGISTRATION

All MONUMENTAL MARC 2011 attendees, guests included, must stop by the MARC registration desk in the Ramkota's Convention Center II Foyer to pick up name badges, conference materials and information related to conference events. The registration desk will be open on Saturday, June 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 5, from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Your MARC name badge is your official identification as a MARC guest and your ticket into meals and activities for which you have registered. If you need to reach MARC registration staff during the conference, call (605) 343-8550, ext. 4009 or (605) 280-4327.

WELCOME RECEPTION, Sunday, June 5

As a registered MONUMENTAL MARC 2011 guest, you are invited to attend the Welcome Reception at the Canyon Lake Chophouse in Rapid City on Sunday, June 5. Buses will depart from the Convention Center II Foyer at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center beginning at 5 p.m. and cycle continuously between the Chophouse and the Ramkota until 9 p.m. Reception guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks and the chance to catch up with or make new MARC acquaintances. Paddleboats are available to take a cruise out onto the lake. Life jackets are required and provided and adult supervision of children is necessary. The atmosphere is relaxed and the dress code is casual and comfortable.

FAMILY FUN TOUR, Monday, June 6

You have registered for the [Family Fun Tour](#) on Monday, June 6. We have a full day of activity planned beginning with a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. in the Washington Room in the Ramkota's Convention Center II. Buses will load from the Convention Center II Foyer at 8:45 a.m. to depart for the tour at 9 a.m. First stop is [Storybook Island](#), an outdoor fairytale adventureland. After ample time to explore, play and enjoy a ride on the park's train, we'll have a pizza lunch at Storybook Island. Then the adventure continues with an excursion to [Reptile Gardens](#), famous for its collection of exotic animals including alligators, snakes and a rare Komodo dragon. After a couple of hours of making reptilian and amphibian friends, it's back to the Ramkota around 3 p.m. You'll have a chance to rest, freshen up and get ready for more fun that evening.

Snacks and cool beverages will be provided on the Family Fun Tour. You'll want to be sure to bring your camera, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and a light jacket in case the weather is cool. You will be away from the Ramkota Hotel all day, from 9 a.m. to about 3 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S DINNER & PROGRAM and YOUTH DINNER & PROGRAM, Monday, June 6

The evening's events on Monday, June 6 begin with the President's Reception and Dinner for grown-ups and the Youth Dinner and Program for the kids at the Ramkota at 5:30 p.m. Adults will enjoy a hosted reception followed by an awesome meal and a program featuring motivational speaker V.J. Smith in the Rushmore Room. Young 'uns will appreciate the kid-inspired meal served in the nearby Badlands Room. After the last cookie has been consumed, they'll head outdoors to the Ramkota Courtyard (have a jacket handy!) for a program by the Black Hills Raptor Center to see and learn about live birds of prey from South Dakota's hills and prairies.

The fun's not over yet ... At about 8 p.m., kids will join their families in the Rushmore Room for a performance by illusionist Reza. This impressive family-friendly show is sure to be a highlight of the day.

Chaperones will be with the children during the youth dinner, raptor program and Reza's show. Family members may join their kiddos for Reza's show in a special seating area if they wish.

Parents/grandparents will be required to sign their children in and out with a youth supervisor for Monday evening's activities.

MOUNT RUSHMORE TOUR/CUSTER STATE PARK COOK-OUT, Tuesday, June 7

The entire MONUMENTAL MARC 2011 group, guests included, will load buses at the Ramkota on Tuesday, June 7, and head out at 2 p.m. for an afternoon and evening in the Black Hills. We'll visit Mount Rushmore National Memorial first (about a 45 minute drive from Rapid City) for a refreshing ice cream social and everyone will have time to tour the memorial on their own. At 5 p.m., we'll load up the buses and motor down to Custer State Park (about an hour's drive) for an Old West Buffalo Burger Cookout at the State Game Lodge Outdoor Pavilion. Following dinner, we'll be treated to a performance by a Black Hills folk musician, playing some of his original pieces. We'll wrap up the evening at 9 p.m. and head back to the Ramkota. The return trip to Rapid City will take about 45 minutes.

We will be gone from the hotel for about eight hours, so you should take everything you will need for the day and evening when we depart. It's wise to wear comfortable shoes and clothing, and bring along sunscreen for the afternoon and a jacket for cool evening temps.

Be prepared that we will be driving on some curving, mountainous roads on the way to Mount Rushmore and Custer State Park. The pace is leisurely and the view is picturesque. The return drive from Custer State Park to Rapid City will occur over straighter roads and take less time.

If you opt to drive your personal vehicle to Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Custer State Park, you will be responsible for the parking fee at Mount Rushmore and the entrance fee at Custer State Park.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Children must be accompanied by a registered MARC attendee or registered adult guest for all MARC activities. Chaperones are provided for the Youth Dinner, which includes the raptor program and illusionist show, only.

SCHEDULE – ON TIME DEPARTURES

Please be on time for all scheduled activities, especially those that involve group transportation. Tours must depart at the appointed times to stay on schedule.

See a map of the Black Hills and planned driving routes on the [MARC 2011 website](#).

CHANGES

If you will not attend any activity for which you have pre-registered (refer to the confirmation email you received when you pre-registered for a list of the events you selected) contact MARC 2011 staff as soon as possible to let us know about your changed plans. You can reach us at MARC2011@state.sd.us or by calling 605-773-3201. Having accurate counts for meals, tours and activities is essential for a successful event.

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

Pre-registered adult and youth guests and those pre-registered for the golf tournament and Crazy Horse Memorial Volksmarch canceling their registration in writing by 5 p.m., CDT, May 26, 2011, will receive a refund of payment minus a \$20 administrative fee. No refunds will be granted after May 26, 2011. Send requests for refunds to MARC2011@state.sd.us. Refunds will be issued in the manner in which the fee was paid – credited back to the charged credit card or refunded by check if payment was sent by check. Include your full name, phone number, e-mail address and mailing address for refund, if paid by check. Please allow 60 days for refund processing.

Thanks for your attention and interest. See you soon!