

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST RESPONDERS FREE at the HEART MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE CENTER

For the month of February, first responders will receive free admission to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. This benefit includes fire fighters, police officers, EMTs, paramedics and any other emergency personnel from all federal, state and local agencies. In addition, a small display depicting first responders from the Heart Mountain Relocation Center will be on view.

“This is our token of thanks to those who work tirelessly for all of us on a daily basis,” said Brian Liesinger, Executive Director of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. “Winter around here provides a particularly harsh environment in which these brave men and women do their work, so we thought it appropriate to welcome them to our Center free of charge in February.”

Liesinger has personally witnessed the response of both the Powell Fire Department and Powell Police Department for late-night calls to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. “One was a false alarm, thankfully, but we did have a break-in last winter that was responded to quickly and professionally by the police department,” Liesinger said. “As a result, there was no damage done and nothing was missing. I have a tremendous amount of respect and gratitude for the service of emergency personnel.”

The Heart Mountain Fire Department organized in September 1942. They worked in freezing conditions during the winter and stifling conditions in the summer. With coal-burning stoves in wood and tarpaper barracks, fire was a huge concern at Heart Mountain. The Heart Mountain Fire Department stayed busy year-round as stoves overheated and electrical lines overloaded. The firemen took immense pride in their work, saving all the barracks and possessions they could.

In addition, the ambulance at Heart Mountain ran non-stop. When not in an emergency situation, the ambulance served as a distribution vehicle for baby formula. Five hundred fifty eight babies were born in the Heart Mountain Relocation Center.

Free admission will be granted to any first responder who shows ID from February 4–28. Winter hours at the Interpretive Center are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. Visits can also be arranged by appointment with at least 24-hour notice.

Located between Cody and Powell, Wyo. on Highway 14a, the Heart Mountain World War II Japanese American Confinement Site features an Interpretive Center, WWII Memorial, and Walking Trail.

Winter hours are Wednesday – Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is \$7.00 for Adults, \$5.00 for seniors and students and children under 12 are free. For more information please call (307) 754-8000 or visit www.HeartMountain.org.

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