

# GEOFORCE MONTHLY

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Changing lives since 2005



Photo of Enchanted Rock

## ENCHANTED ROCK: A SPOOKY SPECTACLE

Deep in the heart of Texas Hill Country, nestled amidst the sprawling landscapes and rugged terrain, stands a geological wonder that has captivated the imaginations of locals and tourists alike for centuries. Enchanted Rock has long been the subject of wonder, fascination, and, in some circles, eerie speculation. This month, we at GeoFORCE wanted to explore the intriguing legend of Enchanted Rock being haunted, blending history, folklore, and the supernatural tales that continue to circulate around this iconic landmark.

Before delving into the ghostly legends, let's first appreciate the geological marvel that is Enchanted Rock. Formed over a billion years ago, this colossal landform is one of the largest exposed batholiths in North America. A batholith is a very large igneous intrusion extending deep in the earth's crust. Its pinkish hue and impressive elevation of 1,825 feet above sea level make it an awe-inspiring sight. Geologists believe it was formed through the slow cooling of a magma chamber beneath the Earth's surface and was later exposed through millennia of erosion. Enchanted Rock is an exfoliation dome (as are the other domes in the area). That means it has layers like an onion. After the rock and soil on top wore away, the granite expanded slightly because there was less weight bearing down on it. That expansion caused the dome to split into curved sections.

Human presence on Enchanted Rock can be dated back to around 12,000 years ago, when prehistoric people in the area used the rock to grind and pound their food. Enchanted Rock has been known by various names throughout history and has been revered by local Native Americans to be a sacred and mystical place. It is believed to be inhabited by spirits or supernatural beings, and it is said that locals offered sacrifices at the base. Tribes such as the Comanches and Tonkawa in the area referred to it as "Spirit Rock" or "Big Ghost Mountain," attributing the eerie sounds and unusual geological formations to the presence of these spirits.



GeoFORCE students visiting Enchanted Rock

## NOVEMBER 1ST: SUMMER 2024 STAFF APPLICATIONS OPEN

We are hiring for the following positions:  
trail driver, instructor, educational  
coach, research group lead, counselor!  
Volunteer positions: professional mentor,  
alumni mentor

### JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL INFO SESSION!

Wednesday, November 1st  
6-7 pm  
[Zoom link HERE!](#)

## SOURCES:

- <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/enchanted-rock-legends>
- <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock/>
- [https://www.101highlandlakes.com/news/haunted-highland-lakes-enchanted-rock-fredericksburg\\_](https://www.101highlandlakes.com/news/haunted-highland-lakes-enchanted-rock-fredericksburg_)
- <https://www.beg.utexas.edu/texas-through-time/enchanted-rock.html>

## ENCHANTED ROCK CONT.

One of the most intriguing aspects that fuel the haunting legends of Enchanted Rock is the "booming" or "creaking" sounds emitted by the rock. Visitors have reported hearing these mysterious noises, which some attribute to the spirits of Indigenous Americans or pioneers who met their untimely demise in the area. Geologists offer a more scientific explanation. They suggest that the sounds result from temperature changes. As temperatures fluctuate, particularly in the evening, groaning and popping noises are caused by the sheets of granite contracting and expanding across one another.

Over the years, countless visitors to Enchanted Rock have shared their experiences, further cementing its reputation as a haunted location. Some have claimed to see apparitions of Native American warriors or early settlers wandering the granite expanse, while others report encountering cold spots or feeling an otherworldly presence.

One legend tells of a band of warriors who defended themselves from an attack. The warriors, who were the last of their tribe, were defeated and legend says their spirits roam the area.

Perhaps the most famous ghostly tale is that of the "White Ghost of Enchanted Rock." This legend tells the story of a young Native American woman who tragically died on the rock and is said to appear as a spectral figure dressed in white, silently wandering the slopes and occasionally vanishing into thin air.

While the legends of Enchanted Rock being haunted continue to intrigue and mystify visitors, it's essential to remember that the supernatural stories are often intertwined with the rich indigenous history and geological wonders of the region. Enchanted Rock is a place of deep cultural significance to Native American tribes, and its captivating features are a testament to the earth's geological processes.

Visitors to Enchanted Rock can experience its beauty and wonder for themselves, whether they come seeking ghostly encounters or simply wish to marvel at the natural world's remarkable creations. Whether you believe in the supernatural or not, one thing is certain: Enchanted Rock will forever hold its place as an enchanting and mysterious destination in the heart of Texas.

# IMPORTANT DATES

Here are a list of dates to keep in mind for **November** and **December**:

NOVEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Future Students

Alumni

Current Students

<p><b>Nov 1st</b> - Summer Staff Applications Open <u>VIRTUAL INFO SESSION 6 - 7 pm!</u></p>	<p><b>Dec 6th</b> - GeoFORCE Longhorn End of Semester Social Event</p>
<p><b>Nov 15th</b> - GeoFORCE Longhorn Social Event</p>	<p><b>Dec 13th -16th</b> - AGU Bright STaRs @AGU</p>
<p><b>Nov 30th</b> - Summer Staff Applications Due</p>	

## STAY CONNECTED WITH GEOFORCE THIS SUMMER!

Make sure you don't miss out on any of the events going on this summer, internship opportunities, or school year events!

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