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## Saguaro National Park News Release

*For Immediate Release*

October 29, 2009

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### November Programs Offered at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering a series of special programs this fall that will explore the wonderful natural and cultural history of the park. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in the visitor center. Programs will be offered at both districts. There is no charge for interpretive programs, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates, or to make a reservation when required.

#### **Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:**

**November 5                      7:00 p.m.                      “Seeing with Wild Eyes”**

A mockingbird calls a warning, telling you that a Cooper’s hawk is nearby. A mountain lion scrape lets you know there may be a fresh kill nearby. Tracks show where a rattlesnake just ate a mourning dove. Join desert naturalist and author Pinau Merlin in the visitor center auditorium to discover how to develop all our senses to become more aware observers and how to understand the language of the wild (including calls, tracks, scats, feeding sign, burrows and odors). We’ll learn from the animals how to move, listen, observe, smell and use natural camouflage. With this greater awareness comes the fun of seeing more wildlife. Advance reservations are recommended, and can be made by calling the visitor center at 733-5151. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**November 6                      7:30 a.m.                      Desert Bird Walk**

Join volunteer naturalists Vicki Powers and Ralph Terry for an easy two-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water. Advanced reservations are recommended, and can be made by calling 733-5153. ***This walk will also be offered on November 13, 20 and 27.***

**November 6                      7:00 p.m.                      Night Walk**

Join a park naturalist for this easy two-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. ***This walk will also be offered on November 20.***

**November 8                      11:00 a.m.                      “People and Places of Saguaro’s Past”**

Explore the 75+ years of history at Saguaro National Park through a look at some of the structures built here over the years. Join park ranger Arlo Ogden in the visitor center auditorium for this 30-minute presentation. ***This program will also be offered on November 15, 22 and 29. These programs are wheelchair accessible.*** ♿

**November 11                      9:00 a.m.                      Desert Morning Hike**

Join a park naturalist for this three-hour, 4-mile exploration of Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and a trail snack. Advanced reservations are recommended, and can be made by calling 733-5153. ***This hike will also be offered on November 18 and 25.***

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**November 14**                    **7:00 a.m.**                    **Buffelgrass Weed Pull (Rincon Mountain District)**  
Volunteers will work with park staff to remove a patch of buffelgrass, an invasive non-native plant which threatens the Sonoran Desert. We will meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitors Center and then carpool to a work site near Javelina Picnic Area. Please park in the Administration Parking Lot (first right after entering the park, follow road to the parking lot just south of the visitor center parking area). Wear sturdy hiking shoes, long pants and a hat. Bring plenty of water and gloves (if you have them); tools and gloves will be provided. Following the event we will relax over snacks and beverages. Advanced reservations are recommended, so we can get a general participant count. Call 733-5187, or sign up at the visitor center.

**November 14**                    **3:00 p.m.**                    **“Arizona’s National Treasures”**  
Arizona is home to many beautiful and fascinating national park areas. Join Park Ranger Jeff Wallner in the visitor center for a 45-minute photo tour of these special places. ***This program will also be offered on November 28.*** *These programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**November 16**                    **10:00 a.m.**                    **“Sonoran Lifestyles”**  
Join a park naturalist on this two-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring some water. ***This walk will also be offered on November 23 and 30.***

**November 19**                    **7:00 p.m.**                    **“Star Party”**  
Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**November 29**                    **3:00 p.m.**                    **“Yesterday, Today and Saguaro”**  
What will the world’s changing climate mean for the National Parks? Will our children find glaciers in Glacier, coral reefs in Hawaii, Joshua trees in Joshua Tree? And what does a warmer, drier Arizona future hold for our signature Giant Saguaro? Ranger Jeff Wallner will pose these questions that only your future decisions can answer. Meet at the visitor center for this 45-minute auditorium presentation. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

### **Special Programs offered at the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:**

**November 7**                    **9:00 - 4:00 p.m.**                    **“American Indian Heritage Cultural Fair”**  
Native American craft demonstrators, dancers, musicians, and speakers will gather again at Saguaro National Park for our Ninth Annual American Indian Heritage Cultural Fair. The Fair takes place at the Tucson Mountain District’s Red Hills Visitor Center. Artisans from several Arizona native Nations will display their craftworks, share American Indian dances, and give insights into Southwestern native cultures. In addition, a special children’s activities area will feature craft activities and demonstrations from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Traditional food will also be available for purchase. Entrance fees for the park’s west district (Saguaro West) will be waived for this special event. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**November 8**                    **10:15 a.m.**                    **“Homesteading Adventures in the Desert”**  
Join a park ranger as she presents the oral history surrounding Mexican American Homesteaders’ adventures around Saguaro National Park communities. ***This program will also be offered on November 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29.*** *These programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**November 8**                    **11:15 a.m.**                    **“Road Kill! Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?”**  
National Parks and others work to put a stop sign on road kill. Find out the extent of the problem and how you can help. ***This program will also be offered on November 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30.***

**November 8**                    **2:15 p.m.**                    **“Romance in the Desert”**  
Romance is Alive and Well in the Desert. Come hear about the suitor with the Stradivarius, the jousting suitor and other romances in the desert. ***This program will also be offered on November 22.*** *These programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

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### **EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

**November 8**                      **3:15 p.m.**                      **“Snakes!”**  
Join a Park Naturalist for a 20-minute patio presentation on communication skills, special adaptations, and defense systems of these often misunderstood creatures. A bit of folk lore is also shared. ***This program will also be offered on November 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29.*** *These programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**November 9**                      **2:15 p.m.**                      **“Neighborhood Characters”**  
See if you recognize plant versions of your friends and relatives as you take a 30-minute nature walk in the Red Hills Visitor Center neighborhood. ***This program will also be offered on November 15, 16, 23, 29 and 30.***

**November 13**                      **11:15 a.m.**                      **“The CCC and its impact on Saguaro National Park”**  
The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Depression-era work program that had a great influence on National, State, and County parks throughout the Nation. Saguaro’s trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. A brief history of the CCC in this area will be presented by a park ranger, using PowerPoint slides of old photographs and movies. ***This program will also be offered on November 14, 20, 21, 27, and 28.*** *These programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**November 13**                      **2:15 p.m.**                      **“Critter of the Week”**  
Join a Park Ranger for a program about an animal found in the Sonoran Desert. What will it be? A snake? Scorpion? Tarantula? Tortoise? Come and find out. Meet the ranger and the animal downstairs at the visitor center. ***This program will also be offered on November 20, 21, 27 and 28.***

**November 14**                      **3:00 p.m.**                      **“Being Neighbors with Monsters, Vipers, and Toads”**  
Ed Moll, our Guest Speaker this month is Professor Emeritus at Eastern Illinois University. Learn to recognize which animals are harmless and which are dangerous. The presentation will also discuss what to do in an encounter and how to limit such encounters. Several non-venomous snakes and a Gila Monster will be available for viewing!

**November 14**                      **3:30 p.m.**                      **Twilight Hike**  
Enjoy the desert as the sun goes down! This 2-mile, 2 hour hike begins approximately 2 hours before sunset. The hike travels up a sandy wash. A couple of rock outcroppings are encountered along the way, but are easily traversed. We will return to the parking area in the fading light after sunset along a rocky old mining road. As space is limited, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling the visitor center at 733-5158.

**November 28**                      **3:45 p.m.**                      **“Twilight Glow to Moon Shadows”**  
This hike is an easy 2½ -mile, 3½-hour stroll that affords an opportunity to experience the desert in the twilight glow and then discover the mystic moon shadows which will accompany us to the end of the hike. Advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

**November 29**                      **3:00 p.m.**                      **Sunset Hike**  
The Sunset Hike is a 3½ to 4 hour, 3½-mile round trip that climbs 700 feet to a beautiful ridgeline for the sunset. The descent of the trail is solely under the light of the moon. As space is limited, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

**November 30**                      **3:45 p.m.**                      **“Moon Take Night Make Day” Hike**  
This gentle, relatively flat, 2½ mile hike travels up a desert wash during the transition from day to night. The hike takes approximately 3 hours. Enjoy the sunset and stroll in the moonlit desert. As space is limited, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

**December 2**                      **5:00 p.m.**                      **“Moonrise Over the Mountains” Patio Talk**  
This campfire talk on the patio of the Red Hills Visitor Center provides a relaxing view of the full moon as it rises above the cactus forest. The program is approximately 45 minutes long. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations are required for this program - everyone is welcome. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

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## **Daily Programs**

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

## **Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers**

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)  
2700 North Kinney Road  
Tucson, AZ 85743

(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)  
3693 South Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85730

(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

[www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu)

[www.friendsofsaguaro.org](http://www.friendsofsaguaro.org)

[www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)

[www.rinconinstitute.org](http://www.rinconinstitute.org)

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