



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

June, 2011

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June Programs Offered at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this summer that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West, 2700 North Kinney Road):

June 4, 17, 18, 24, 25 2:15 p.m. The CCC in Saguaro National Park *Illustrated Talk: 45 min.*

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Depression-era work program that had a great influence on national, state, and county parks. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. A brief history of the CCC in this area will be illustrated with old photo images and movie clips. *Wheelchair accessible.*

June 4, 18, 24, 25 11:45 a.m. Tarantula *Talk: 45 min.*

They look big, hairy, and scary, but they're really just big (8 legged) pussycats! Come meet a live tarantula and learn more about this fascinating desert creature. *Wheelchair accessible.*

June 4, 5 10:45 & 3:15 Saguaro: Not Just a Pretty Face *Illustrated Talk: 45 min.*

What has droopy arms, upward arms, no arms, multiple arms, serves as a hotel, and loves dry arid climates? Find out what's growing in the Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

June 6, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, 26, 29, 30 9:45 a.m. Neighborhood Characters *Walk: 45 min.*

An easy morning walk in the Cactus Garden will bring you face to thorns with plants that June remind you of people you know, friendly and otherwise. *Wheelchair accessible.*

June 7, 14, 21, 28 2:15 p.m. Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert *Talk: 45 min.*

Learn about the natural history, behavior, and other fascinating facts about this colorful creature: the roadrunner.

June 17 7:00 p.m. The Desert After Dark *Easy Walk: 90 min. ¼ mile*

Join a Park naturalist right around sunset for a PowerPoint slide presentation about the animals--and plants--that come to life in the desert after the sun goes down. After the program, we'll take a short walk around the Visitor Center to see if we can find some of these denizens of darkness.

June 23 7:30 a.m. Coffee And Cactus *Walk: 60 minutes, 1 mile*

Rise and shine! Grab your coffee, beat the heat, and see what we can find during an early morning walk in the desert. Meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center to begin this conducted hike over easy territory. No sandals, please!

June 26, 29, 30 2:15 p.m. Fast Food in the Desert: A Corny Subject *Illustrated Talk: 45 min.*

Sonoran Desert indigenous people of centuries past looked to the natural world for sustenance. The Big Three of corn, beans, and squash of more recent times had some interesting predecessors on the grocery list -- like mammoths and mesquite. What other foods did indigenous people eat, and just where did that corn come from, anyway? *Wheelchair accessible.*

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

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

June 17 **7:00 p.m.** **Night Walk** *1 mile Hike* - **CANCELLED DUE TO FIRE RESTRICTIONS**
Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-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, Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

June 4 & 11 **11:00 a.m.** **Saguaro National Park: A Common Heritage** Video
This 20-minute video explores the history and heritage of those who settled the Tanque Verde and Rincon Valleys. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

June 5 & 12 **3:00 p.m.** **Yesterday, Today ...and Saguaro?** *Illustrated Talk*
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.* ♿

June 15 **3:00 p.m.** **People and Places of Saguaro's Past** *Illustrated Talk*
Join Park Ranger Arlo Ogden in the Visitor Center auditorium for this photo tour of the park's historic past, focusing on the stories told by its historic structures. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

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

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org

www.rinconinstitute.org