



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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March Programs Offered at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this spring 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):

Mar. 4, 11 **4:00 p.m.** **Silhouettes at Sundown** *Hike: 2½ hrs, 2½ miles*

Mar. 18, 25 **4:15 p.m.**

Trek along an arroyo as the setting sun magically silhouettes the Southwest's most famous icon – the giant saguaro. **Reservations required: 733-5158**

Mar. 5 **3:00 p.m.** **Gourd Artist Bonnie Gibson** *Talk/slideshow, 1 hr.*

Guest Speaker Bonnie Gibson is an accomplished artist in many forms of 3 dimensional arts and fine crafts. Her current passion is creating fine art from hardshell gourds. Many of her award winning gourds will be for sale as well as her signed book, "Gourds: Southwestern Techniques and Projects". To see some of her works, go to: <http://ArizonaGourds.com>. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Mar. 6 **3:00 p.m.** **Wildflowers of the Tucson Mountains** *Talk: 40 mins. Walk: 20 mins*

Guest Speaker Dr. Brad Fiero teaches Natural History of the SW and Environmental Biology at Pima Community College. He will introduce us to some of the many wildflowers that adorn the Tucson Mountains. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Mar. 14 **3:00 p.m.** **Wasson Peak Moonlight Hike** *6½ to 7 hrs, 8 miles*

This hike climbs 1,700 feet to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Enjoy the 360° view of the sunset, and then descend by the light of the moon. The hike is at an easy pace but is considered difficult due to the elevation gain and hiking after dark. **Reservations required; 733-5158**

Mar. 16 **4:15 p.m.** **Sunset** *Hike: 3½ hrs, 3½ miles*

The route gains 700 feet (with some switchbacks) before reaching a ridgeline for sunset; the descent is by the light of the moon. **Reservations required; 733-5158**

Mar. 17 **5:00 p.m.** **Moon Take Night Make Day** *Hike: 3 hrs, 2½ miles*

Hike up a gentle, relatively flat desert wash during the transition from day to night, enjoy the sunset atop a hill, and then return under the moonlight. **Reservations required; 733-5158**

Mar. 19 **7:30 p.m.** **Moonrise Over the Mountains** *Talk: 45 min.*

Relax around a campfire on the visitor center patio as the full moon rises above the cactus forest. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations required. *Wheelchair accessible.*

