



Saguaro National Park (West)

Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. Program schedules are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates or to make *RESERVATIONS*. *Programs marked with an * are wheelchair accessible.*

January 11 – January 17, 2010

Monday – January 11

10:45 a.m. Rattlers!

Explore the life and lore, myths and misunderstandings concerning one of the desert Southwest's most intriguing icons.

11:45 a.m. Road Kill! Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? – Patio Talk*

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.

1:30 p.m. Birdless Bird Talk/Walk*

Lets head to the Cactus Garden to try and hear a bird call you may not recognize. Perhaps you will see a bird new to you, even if no real birds actually grace us with their presence!

2:15 p.m. Neighborhood Characters – Talk/Walk

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.

Tuesday – January 12

10:45 a.m. Adaptations: Recipe for Survival – Walk/Talk*

A Cactus Garden Walk to discover some physical and behavioral adaptations of desert plants.

11:45 a.m. Life Cycle of the Saguaro – Walk/Talk*

Some astonishing reasons given on why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

2:15 p.m. Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert – Talk/slides w/power point

Learn about the natural history, behaviors and fascinating facts about this colorful creature: the Roadrunner.

Wednesday – January 13

2:15 p.m. Those Who Came Before – Patio Talk*

Learn about the Hohokam (those who are gone), who inhabited this area from A.D. 300 to A.D. 1450.

Thursday – January 14

2:15 p.m. Geology of the Tucson Mountains – Patio Talk*

This program explores how the Tucson Mountains came to be where they are now, their composition and forces that built and continue to shape them.

3:15 p.m. Signs of Life in the Desert

Enjoy an easy ½ mile walk around the Red Hills Visitors' Center to look for evidence of animal life.

Friday – January 15

10:45 a.m. Homesteading Adventures in the Desert – Patio Talk*

Join a park ranger as she presents the oral history surrounding Mexican American Homesteaders' adventures around Saguaro National Park communities.

3:15 p.m. Snakes – Patio Talk*

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.

Saturday – January 16

10:45 a.m. Homesteading Adventures in the Desert – *Patio Talk**

Join a park ranger as she presents the oral history surrounding Mexican American Homesteaders' adventures around Saguaro National Park communities.

3:00 p.m. Buffelgrass: Saguaro National Park's Greatest Threat? – *Patio Talk**

Please join our guest speaker to learn why Buffelgrass is a threat, how to identify it, and what you can do to help get rid of it.

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.

Reservations required; call 733-5158

Sunday – January 17

10:45 a.m. Homesteading Adventures in the Desert – *Patio Talk**

Join a park ranger as she presents the oral history surrounding Mexican American Homesteaders' adventures around Saguaro National Park communities.

11:45 a.m. Road Kill! Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? – *Patio Talk**

National Parks and others work to put a stop on road kill. Find out the extent of the problem and how you can help.

2:15 p.m. Romance in the Desert – *Patio Talk**

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.

3:15 p.m. Snakes – *Patio Talk**

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.