



# Saguaro National Park (West) Naturalist Program Schedule

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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. See [www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu) for other programs.

**Mar. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 15, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30**    **3:15 p.m. Life on the Edge: Plant and Animal Survival Strategies** *Walk: 100 yards.*

Adaptations to seemingly harsh conditions allow many species to survive and even flourish, but will desert plants and animals be able to weather climate changes? *Wheelchair accessible*

**Mar. 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31**    **9:45 a.m. Lost and Gone Forever** *Hike: 2 hrs., 1 ½ miles*  
Learn how species become threatened, endangered or extinct. What are the consequences of habitat loss or climate change to those that call this place home?

**Mar. 1, 15**    **11:45 a.m. Rattlers** *Talk: 30 min.*

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

**Mar. 1, 15, 29**    **10:45 a.m. They are Mining our National Park?** *Talk: 45 min.* No, but they did before it became a National Park. If you are interested in the mining in this region and other local history, join us for this program. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**    **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. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**    **2:15 p.m. Those Who Came Before** *Talk: 45 min.*  
Learn about the Hohokam ("those who are gone"), who inhabited this area from A.D. 300 to A.D. 1450. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**    **10:45 a.m. Desert Sojourn** *Patio talk*  
Find out why this human perceived "harsh" environment is "Heaven on earth" for animals and plants. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**    **1:15 p.m. Ancient Graffiti** *Illustrated Talk*  
Learn about the different kinds of rock art from the past, who made them and how we determine their age. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**    **2:15 p.m. Geology: the Tucson Mountains** *Talk: 45 min.*  
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. *Wheelchair accessible*

**Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**    **3:15 p.m. Signs of Life** *Walk: 35 min, ½ mile*  
Enjoy an easy walk around the Red Hills Visitors' Center to look for evidence of animal life.

**Mar. 4, 11** 4:00 p.m. **Silhouettes at Sundown**

**Mar. 18, 25** 4:15 p.m. **Silhouettes at Sundown**

Trek along an arroyo as the setting sun magically silhouettes the Southwest's most famous icon – the giant saguaro.

**Reservations required: 733-5158**

**Mar. 4, 11, 18, 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.

**Mar. 4, 18, 25** 10:45 a.m. **Thirsty Mammals Hike: 3/4 mi, 1 hr.**

Sonoran Desert mammals are seldom seen, but they are present in great diversity and numbers. Where are they? How do they survive in the desert climate? Come along to learn the answers.

**Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25** 2:15 p.m. **The CCC in Saguaro National Park Slide presentation: 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.*

**Mar. 5** 3:00 p.m. **Gourd Artist Bonnie Gibson Talk and 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: [arizonagourds@gmail.com](mailto:arizonagourds@gmail.com). *Wheelchair accessible.*

**Mar. 1, 15, 17, 28** 9:45 a.m. **Climate Change Talk: 40 mins.**

Join us as we examine and explore methods used to determine past, present, and possible future climate change. What risks could a warmer planet pose to our native plants and animals in Saguaro National Park? *Wheelchair accessible.*

**Mar. 12** 1:15 p.m. **Road Kill Restaurant**

The Road Kill menu changes daily but, unfortunately, is always plentiful. Find out what is being done and what you can do to help protect both motorists and animals.

**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. 6, 20, 27** 1:15 p.m. **Don't Forget to Turn Off the Lights Talk: 45 min.**

Birds crash into buildings; some animals stop mating. Stars disappear from view. Learn what the National Park Service is doing about light pollution – and how YOU can help flip the switch to save the night skies. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**Mar. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 27** 9:45 a.m. **Neighborhood Characters Talk: 45 min.**

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

**Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28** 10:45 a.m. **Birdless Bird Walk Walk: 30 min, 100 yards**

Have you heard a bird call you didn't recognize? Have you seen a bird new to you and wonder what it is? Even if no real birds actually grace us with their presence, we'll show you what the common birds look and sound like. *Wheelchair accessible.*

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

This hike is considered difficult because of the 1,700 ft. elevation gain. It has rough and rocky terrain. The 360 degree views at the top are well worth the climb. **Reservations required; 733-5158**

**Mar. 16** **4:15 p.m. Sunset Hike** *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.*

**March 26** **2:00 p.m. Saguaro Book Club** *Discussion: 90 minutes.*  
George Olin's book "House in the Sun" is the March book for Saguaro Book Club, which will meet in the Environmental Education Building at Saguaro West. *Wheelchair accessible.*

### **Visitor Center**

**The Red Hills Visitor Center** is open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day. A slide show is shown every half-hour.

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

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

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