



Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail. Program schedules are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5153 for updates or to make *RESERVATIONS*.
*Programs marked with an * are wheelchair accessible.*

January 3, 2011 – January 9, 2011

Monday, January 3

11:00 a.m. Desert Adaptations*

Join a park naturalist on this 30-minute garden walk to learn how plants have unique ways of adapting to their desert environment.

Tuesday, January 4

9:00 a.m. Desert Morning Hike

Join a park naturalist for this 3-hour, 4-mile exploration of Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and a trail snack.

10:00 a.m. Sonoran Lifestyles

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

11:00 a.m. Natural History Table*

Join a park naturalist on the visitor center patio to have your questions answered about the natural history of the Sonoran Desert. This is an on-going, 30-minute program.

2:30 p.m. Reptiles and Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert*

Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians.

Wednesday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Desert Morning Hike

Join a park naturalist for this 3-hour, 4-mile exploration of Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and a trail snack.

Thursday, January 6

2:00 p.m. Wildlife Detective*

Join a park naturalist on the visitor center patio to learn how you too can become a wildlife detective by knowing what signs to look for.

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. *Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling: 520-733-513.*

Friday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Desert Bird Walk

Join volunteer naturalists Vicki Powers and Ralph Terry for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

10:00 a.m. Sonoran Lifestyles

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

11:00 a.m. Desert Adaptations*

Join a park naturalist on this 30-minute garden walk to learn how plants have unique ways of adapting to their desert environment

Saturday, January 8

11:00 a.m. Saguaro National Park: A Common Heritage*

This 20-minute video explores the history and heritage of those who settled the Tanque Verde and Rincon Valleys.

2:00 p.m. Death by Fire*

NPS Fire Ecologist Perry Grissom helps the park's ecosystems keep their natural fire regimes. In the desert portions, that means keeping fire out, as well as non-native plants that can spread fire in the park. He will discuss buffelgrass's impact on the Sonoran Desert's plants, animals and human residents. Learn the results of recent research into fire behavior in buffelgrass

3:00 p.m. Desert Adaptations*

Join a park naturalist on this 30-minute garden walk to learn how plants have unique ways of adapting to their desert environment

5:00 p.m. Sunset Stroll

Join a park ranger for a stroll up Tanque Verde Ridge to enjoy the Sonoran Desert. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water.

Sunday, January 9

11:00.m. Gathering the Desert*

Join Park Ranger Laura Bolyard in the Cactus Garden for an easy 45-minute stroll to learn how desert plants have been used for food, shelter, medicine and more.

2:00 p.m. Yesterday, Today and...Saguaro? (The Walk)

Change is coming to the Cactus Forest and we can't do anything about it! But don't worry – change has been happening here for thousands of years. Come explore the life cycles of the saguaro cactus and the changing face of its Sonoran Desert home on this ¼ mile, 90-minute walk.

3:00 p.m. Back from the Brink*

What do you mean there were grizzly bears in Arizona? Join a park ranger in the visitor center auditorium to explore the natural history of the grizzly (and 2 other top predators) that once roamed in what is now Saguaro National Park. We will take a look at their past, present and future status in the American Southwest.