

Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 41D, Rincon Mountains

Desert View High School, February 4th, 2020



Group photo

Desert View High School, in the Sunnyside School District, has helped the park monitor saguaros for over a year now. A huge thanks to teacher Cynthia Uber, and to our partners with Ironwood Tree Experience and National Park Foundation for supporting Cynthia and other dedicated teachers who are willing to go the extra mile in bringing students out of the school and into the outdoor classroom of Saguaro National Park. The students worked hard on a very cold and windy day, enduring a few cactus spines to collect data for us.

Plot 41D is one of the oldest monitoring plots in the park, having been established in 1941. There were just over 100 saguaros on the plot 79 years ago. However, the loss of many older plants and lack of establishment of younger plants led to a long decline, and by the 1970s there were just over 40 saguaros on the plot. Since then a new generation of saguaros has grown up and by 2002 there were more than 200 saguaros on the plot. The number has declined more recently, probably due to the death of some of the older individuals and a slow down in the survival of young ones. However, the students counted more than 110 saguaros in 2020, nearly three times as many as in 1975.

Plot #41D

