Standing Tall at 75 – Saguaro National Park Celebrates its Diamond Anniversary!

On March 1, 1933 President Herbert Hoover signed a proclamation creating Saguaro National Monument. Now, seventy-five years later, the National Park consists of 91,440 acres in two districts, east and west of Tucson. From its modest beginnings, Saguaro has evolved into an integral part of the National Park System. “The value of Saguaro National Park to local Tucsonsans, as well as all Americans is immeasurable,” said the park’s Superintendent, Sarah Craighead. “In 1933 Congress and the President were amazingly far-sighted in preserving this place in perpetuity. Their efforts ensure this unique piece of the Sonoran Desert, and the icon species of the American Southwest, the saguaro cactus, is protected for this and future generations,” added Craighead. When the park was created, the Rincon Mountains were fairly remote – nothing like today where urban development extends to the park’s boundary in both districts. Said Craighead, “while the park’s proximity to a large metropolitan area presents some management challenges, it also provides our visitors and community with extraordinary educational, scientific and recreational opportunities.”

The public is invited to help Saguaro celebrate its 75th anniversary on Saturday, March 1st. In both of the park’s districts, entrance fees will be waived and a variety of special interpretive programs will be offered. A formal celebration is scheduled for 10:00 am at the Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro West). Dignitaries scheduled to speak include Dorothy “Doro” Bush Koch (President Bush’s sister), Tricia Reilly Koch, Congressman Raul Grijalva, Kristin Almquist, Director of the Governor’s Southern Arizona Office, and Lindi Harvey, the Deputy Director of the National Park Service. The Tucson Girls Chorus will perform. And the Park Service’s Teacher to Ranger to Teacher program will be highlighted, with teachers and children from Esperanza Elementary School, Sierra Middle School, Duffy Elementary School and Secrist Middle School recognized.

MEDIA ADVISORY – Doro Bush Koch will be available for interviews and photographs during a volunteer event on Saturday morning at approximately 8:30 am (Buffelgrass pull at Saguaro West) and following the formal 75th Anniversary presentations, at approximately 11:00 am. Please contact Chief Ranger Bob Love at the above phone number for more information.
Special interpretive programs being offered on March 1st include:

**Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West)**

9:00 am  Footprints on the Landscape
10:00 am  *Formal 75th Anniversary Presentations*
12:15 pm  Homesteading Adventures in the Desert
1:15 pm  The CCC and its impact on Saguaro National Park
2:15 pm  Masters of Microscopes – 75 years to Decode the Desert
3:00 pm  Mountain Lions and Bobcats in the Tucson Mountains – 75 Years of National Park Service Stewardship
4:00 pm  They’re MINING in our National Park?

**Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East)**

9:00 am  Tea with Homer and Viola
10:00 am  1933 to Today – Saguaro National Park
10:00 am  Meet the Saguaro
10:00 am  Children's Corner – Arts and Crafts Activities
10:30 am  Signs of Life
11:00 am  Little House on the Desert
12:00 pm  75 Years at Saguaro National Park – An Illustrated History
1:00 pm  History of the Rincon’s
1:30 pm  The Giant Saguaro – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
2:00 pm  The Changing Cactus Forest – A History of Saguaros at Saguaro National Park
3:00 pm  Saguaro National Park – The Next 75 Years

To obtain more detailed information about the above programs, visit the park’s website at [http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/75th-anniversary.htm](http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/75th-anniversary.htm).

**Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers**

Red Hills Visitor Center  (Saguaro West)  
2700 North Kinney Road  
Tucson, AZ  85743  
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center  (Saguaro East)  
3693 South Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ  85730  
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park or its partners who have generously supported 75th Anniversary events – Friends of Saguaro National Park and the Western National Parks Association, visit these websites:

[www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu)  
[www.friendsofsaguaro.org](http://www.friendsofsaguaro.org)  
[www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)

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