



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Saguaro National Park

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## Saguaro National Park News Release

*For Immediate Release*

February 21, 2008

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# Standing Tall at 75 – Saguaro National Park Celebrates it's 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 district, 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 Tucsonans, 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 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presentations, at approximately 11:00 am. Please contact Chief Ranger Bob Love at the above phone number for more information.*

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### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Special interpretive programs being offered on March 1<sup>st</sup> include:

### **Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West)**

- 9:00 am Footprints on the Landscape
- 10:00 am *Formal 75<sup>th</sup> 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>.

### **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 75<sup>th</sup> 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)