



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

September 28, 2010

Contacts: Saguaro East - Melanie Florez (520) 733-5153
Saguaro West - Richard Hill (520) 733-5158

October Programs Offered at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this fall that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

Special Programs offered at the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10:45 a.m. “Spiders and Bats and Owls... Oh My!” *Illustrated Talk*
Many creatures common to the Sonoran Desert are associated with Halloween. How did these animals obtain their spooky images, and what are the facts about their natural histories? Sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction. *Programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 2:15 p.m. “The CCC in Saguaro National Park” *Illustrated Talk*
The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Depression-era work program that had a great influence on National, State, and County parks throughout the Nation. 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. *Programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

October 3, 10, 17, 30, 31 9:45 a.m. “Neighborhood Characters” *Nature Walk*
A 30-minute, easy morning walk in the cactus garden or in a nearby wash will bring you face to thorns with plants that may remind you of people you know, friendly and otherwise.

October 3, 10, 17, 30, 31 1:15 p.m. “Don't Forget to Turn Off the Lights” *Illustrated Talk*
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. *Programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

October 22 5:45 p.m. “Moonrise Over the Mountains” *Patio Talk*
Relax around a campfire on the visitor center patio as the full moon rises above the cactus forest. This program is approximately 45 minutes long. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations required. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

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Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:

October 3, 10, 24 **11:00 a.m.** **“Gathering the Desert”** *Nature Walk*
Join a park ranger in the cactus garden for an easy 30-minute stroll to learn how desert plants have been used for food, shelter, and clothing. *Programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

October 6, 13, 20, 27 **3:00 p.m.** **“People and Places of Saguaro’s Past”** *Illustrated Talk*
Join Park Ranger Arlo Ogden in the visitor center auditorium for this photo tour of the park’s historic past, focusing on the stories told by its historic structures. *Programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

October 6 **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. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

October 8, 22 **7:00 p.m.** **“Night Walk”** *1 mile Hike*
Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

October 9, 16, 30 **3:00 p.m.** **“Yesterday, Today ...and Saguaro?”** *Illustrated Talk*
What will the world’s changing climate mean for the National Parks? Will our children find glaciers in Glacier, coral reefs in Hawaii, Joshua trees in Joshua Tree? And what does a warmer, drier Arizona future hold for our signature Giant Saguaro? Ranger Jeff Wallner will pose these questions that only your future decisions can answer. Meet at the visitor center for this 45-minute auditorium presentation. *Programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

October 22, 29 **7:30 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.

October 28 **7:00 p.m.** **“Living With and Without Reptiles”**
Join herpetologist and volunteer Bob Brandner in the visitor center auditorium to learn about the biology of Sonoran Desert reptiles and how we can share this desert with them. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

Daily Programs

The park’s two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

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 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
www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org
www.rinconinstitute.org