



Saguaro National Park News Release

14-12

For Immediate Release

December 23rd, 2014

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

Saguaro National Park January Program Schedule

Saguaro National Park is offering a variety of hikes and talks this winter that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Program listings also are available on the park's website, www.nps.gov/sagu, or visit us on Facebook. Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations.

Naturalist Programs at Tucson Mountain District (West, 2700 N. Kinney Road):

Jan. 12 4:00 p.m. **Twilight Glow To Moon Shadows** Hike: 3½ hours, 2½ miles roundtrip
This easy hike bridges sunset and darkness. Hikers will experience the desert both in the twilight glow and in moon shadows. Reservations required; 733-5158

Jan. 13 3:30 p.m. **Sunset Hike** Hike: 3¾ hours, 3½ miles roundtrip
This moderate hike gains 700 feet with most of the elevation change in switchbacks near the ridgeline. Hikers will watch the sunset before descending under moonlight. Reservations required; 733-5158

Jan. 14 4:15 p.m. **Moon Take Night, Make Day** Hike: 3 hours, 2½ miles roundtrip
Visitors will enjoy the sunset before returning in the moonlight. This hike is considered easy but includes a few high-stepping rocky outcroppings in the wash. Reservations required; 733-5158

Jan. 15 6:00 p.m. **Moonrise Over The Mountain** Campfire Talk: 45 minutes
Listen to music as you view the full moon rising over the mountains at the Red Hills Visitor center. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing to enjoy this campfire program. *No reservations required.*

Jan. 1, 4, 5, 18, 19, 26 11:45 a.m. **Neighborhood Characters** Walk: 40 minutes, 100 yards
An easy morning walk in the Cactus Garden will bring visitors face to thorns with plants that remind them of people they know, including "Bill Gates". *Wheelchair accessible.*

Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 1:15 p.m. **Against All Odds** Talk: 30 minutes
A saguaro might produce 40 million seeds in its lifetime, but only one or two seedlings will survive into maturity. Discover how the "deck is stacked" against their survival and what conditions are needed for growth into the majestic icon of the desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 2:15 p.m. **Geology of the Tucson Mountains** Talk: 45 minutes
The Tucson Mountains used to be part of the Santa Catalinas. A geologist explains how they separated and what is shaping the Tucson Mountains today. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 2:15 p.m. **Puma: Predator, Prey, and Peril** Talk: 45 minutes
Often called puma, cougar, or mountain lion, discover the true nature of this secretive, nocturnal and elusive predator. Explore the threats that this creature faces as it struggles to survive within an ever shrinking habitat. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Jan. 7, 21 10:45 a.m. **Adaptations: Recipe for Survival** 100-yard Walk
Take a walk in our Cactus Garden to discover some physical and behavioral adaptations of desert plants.

Jan. 7, 21 11:45 a.m. **Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant** Walk: 45 minutes, 100 yards
Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Naturalist Programs at the Rincon Mountain District (East, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail):

January 2 7:00 p.m. **Star Party** *Illustrated Program & Activity*

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations required. Call 733-5153. Wheelchair accessible.

January 3, 17, 24, 31 1:30 p.m. **Ranger's Choice/Visitor's Choice** *1.5 mile Guided Walk*

Here's your chance to take a walk with a ranger with twenty years' experience in the Sonoran Desert. Bring your favorite question or topic, or just enjoy the best stories of the day: wildlife, wildflowers, or wilderness, as the weather and the seasons change. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 3:00 p.m. **History is a Work in Progress** *Presentation*

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to explore the almost forgotten names of people and places from the late 1800's in the area of the Rincon Mountains. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 4, 11, 25 2:00 p.m. **Wilderness Ramble** *1 mile Guided Walk*

Here's your chance to take a walk with a ranger with twenty years' experience in the Sonoran Desert. Bring your favorite question or topic, or just enjoy the best stories of the day: wildlife, wildflowers, or wilderness, as the weather permits and the seasons change. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

January 5, 12, 19, 26 8:30 a.m. **Desert Bird Walk** *1 mile Guided Walk*

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

January 5, 12, 19, 26 10:00 a.m. **The GIANT Cactus** *¾ mile Guided Walk*

Saguaro National Park is famous for its gigantic saguaros. Still, you have to know where to look to find a real giant among giants. The best way is to join a ranger for a walk along a desert wash for a lesson in trees of the desert and a look at the only tree-like cactus in the U.S. You'll be surprised by the size! Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

January 5, 12, 19, 26 2:00 p.m. **Walk with the Past** *1 mile Guided Walk*

Join park staff as we step into the past to learn about the lives of the prehistoric Hohokam. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

January 7, 14, 21, 28 2:00 p.m. **Reptiles & Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert** *Illustrated Talk*

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

January 15, 22, 29 1:00 p.m. **The Saguaro Nursery** *½ mile Guided Walk*

The reports of the saguaro's demise were greatly exaggerated! Take a stroll along a trail to see the next generation of young saguaros and the gradual renewal of the "Cactus Forest"

January 24 7:00 p.m. **Night Walk** *1 mile Guided Walk*

Join a park naturalist for this easy two-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, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153

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

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