



Saguaro National Park News Release

14-3

For Immediate Release

November 2013

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Saguaro National Park November Program Schedule

Saguaro National Park is offering a variety of hikes and talks this fall that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. This listing is also 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):

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10:45 a.m. **Living With Giants** Talk: 30 minutes

The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25 1:15 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.*

Nov. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 30 2:15 p.m. **The CCC in Saguaro NP** Talk: 45 minutes

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Great Depression-era work program that greatly influenced national, state, and county parks. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. Old photos and movie clips illustrate a brief history of the CCC in this area. *Call to confirm. Wheelchair accessible.*

Nov. 5, 6, 7, 12, 16, 17, 24, 28 2:15 p.m. **Homesteading Adventures in the Desert** Talk: 30 min.

Enjoy the fascinating oral history surrounding Mexican American Homesteaders' adventures around Saguaro National Park communities. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 10:45 a.m. **Petroglyphs: Communications Etched In Stone** Talk: 30 minutes

The Hohokam people carved and pecked symbols into stone, leaving meanings still subject to speculation centuries later. What is the current thinking about the meanings of petroglyphs, and what might have indigenous people been communicating? *Wheelchair accessible.*

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 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.*

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 1:45 p.m. **Lizards: Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool** Talk: 30 minutes

Frequently overlooked, discover how these small denizens of the desert become a critical component of our desert community. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Nov. 2, 3, 4, 9, 18, 23, 25 10:45 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.*

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):

November 1, 8, 29 2:00 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.

November 1, 8, 22, 29 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*

November 1, 15, 29 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.

November 2, 9, 16, 30 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 and the seasons change. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

November 3, 10, 17, 24 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.

November 3, 10, 17, 24 2:00 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.

November 5, 12, 19, 28 2:00 p.m. Reptiles & Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert Illustrated Talk

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

November 6, 13 2:00 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".

November 21 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.*

November 24 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. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

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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