

Saguaro National Park



Not So Junior Ranger



Desert Explorations
For All Ages

Get Ready To Explore !

Hit the Trail ... Maximize Your Points

Groups of all sizes and ages should use this book to gain points by answering questions and becoming a well-informed and inspired park visitor. The more you explore, the higher your score!

Trails range from flat and paved to rocky climbs -- everyone can enjoy our desert or mountain environments.

After your exploration bring this book to a visitor center. A ranger will review your work and award you (and your group) badges and a certificate.



Rincon Mountain District, Winter



Tucson Mountain District, Summer

Scoring:

Do all pages marked with an *
File a Hike report (page 8)
Bring back to Visitor Center
for scoring by ranger.

Need Help? We're Here ...

Visitor Centers
(9-5 daily except Christmas)

Rincon Mountain (520) 733-5153
Tucson Mountain (520) 733-5158

<http://www.nps.gov/sagu>

[facebook.com/saguaronationalpark](https://www.facebook.com/saguaronationalpark)
and find us on Twitter.

Park brochure and newspapers
available at all times outside
Visitor Centers.



Safety First, Take the Pledge ...



Match the pictures to the Safety Tips...

___ Watch where you put your hands and feet. Who knows what lives under that rock?

A

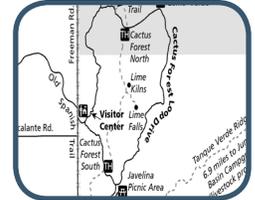


___ Drink plenty of water, thirsty or not. At least a liter every two hours in summer.

B



C



___ Don't touch! Long pants and sleeves help protect against spines & thorns.

___ Shade it with a wide-brimmed hat and plenty of sunscreen protection.

D



E

___ Respect all wildlife. No feeding, petting, biting. Photos encouraged!

F



___ Take us along. Invite a friend, a map, a compass, & a cell phone to your hike.

We, the undersigned, pledge to avoid danger, follow the rules, and have a safe, fun, and memorable visit to Saguaro National Park ...

Saguaros By The Numbers



Everyone wants to know the saguaro's vital statistics. Each blank needs a number.

Find the answers in our exhibits and publications, or ask park staff.

What's more, we've given you the answers: the numbers in the background. PLUS ... you get five points just for trying.



A section of fully-hydrated saguaro, 1' wide and 1' high weighs _____ pounds.

1.8

A saguaro's inner tissue may contain up to _____ per cent water.

33

A large saguaro could weigh as much as _____ tons.

2. A saguaro fruit can contain _____ thousand seeds.

61

In its lifetime a saguaro might produce _____ million seeds.

Of all those seeds an average of _____ mature cactus will be produced.

1

80

Scientists believe that saguaros can live to be about _____ years old.

85

There are about _____ million saguaros growing in Saguaro National Park.

There are _____ major desert areas in the United States.

President Hoover issued a proclamation creating Saguaro National Monument on March 1, 19 _____.

8

President Kennedy added a Tucson Mountain District to the Monument on November 15, 19 _____.

20-40

200

Congress passed and President Clinton signed the Saguaro National Park Act on October 14, 19 _____.

4

94

In One Saguaro's Lifetime ...



Follow the life of this one saguaro from seed to skeleton. Draw an arrow or line to put the pictures in the proper order!

Historic events during the saguaro's life will help you figure out what year it started to grow.



Fruits, seeds, and July rains START a saguaro's life. President Adams moves to the White House.



After 200 years the saguaro's life ENDS, but it has produced 40 million seeds! George W. Bush wins the presidency.



Finally, the saguaro gets an arm, at 12 feet and 65 years of age. The Civil War ends too!

The first flowers appear on this saguaro at age 35. The first passenger trains in U.S. also appear!



At 21 the saguaro is only 2 feet high. It is now living in a brand new country: Mexico.



The saguaro has grown to be 9 feet tall. And this year there's a new flag in Tucson: the Stars & Stripes. Age 56.



The 133 year old Saguaro is 35 feet high. President Hoover protects it in a new Saguaro National Monument.

For Five Points: What year did this saguaro sprout? _____

Your Day, Your Park, Your Adventure

We are all partners in stewardship of Saguaro National Park.

What have you done in your park, for your park, and with your park today?

You can earn points for being an active visitor, for sharing special park moments, or for being a good Friend, neighbor & citizen.



Name the area where you had a picnic in the Park for 1 point. _____

Show us your back-country camping permit and earn 3 points.

Got married here? Yep, it's possible with a permit. Give us the date and location for 10 points! _____



For 2 points name the ranger or volunteer who led your naturalist program. _____

Show us your youngster's Junior Ranger Badge for 2 points.

Name the video(s) you watched in the Visitor Center for 1 point each: _____

Show your gift shop receipt and earn 1 point per \$5 spent.

Membership card in Western National Park Association gets 4 points.

Member of the Friends of Saguaro National Park? Earn 4 points.

Stamp your National Park Passport booklet and earn 1 more point.



Scout Out A Visitor Center



Drop in to at least one of our visitor centers and sleuth-out the answers to these intriguing questions.

Rincon Mountain District Saguaro East

What's the name of the ranger or volunteer on duty? _____

What year did this center open? _____

Name a plant & an animal that lives here but not at Saguaro West:

What mountain range do you see to the north through the lobby window?

What animal often naps under the lobby window in the summer? _____

What flower is out today? _____

How tall is this saguaro? _____



Tucson Mountain District Saguaro West



What kind of rocks are these?

What's the name of the ranger or volunteer on duty? _____

What year did this center open? _____

Name a plant & an animal that lives here but not at Saguaro East:

What National *Monument* do you see in the distance from the west porch?

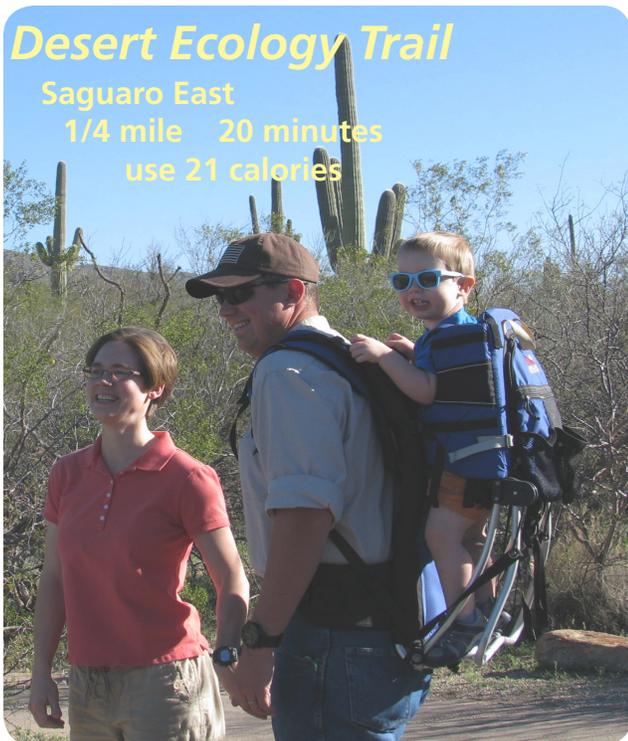
What large hoofed mammal is featured in the diorama? _____

Find the National Parks passport stamp for the district and stamp it on the corresponding photograph.

Travel an Accessible Trail



Get out onto at least one of these flat, paved trails to start your exploration of the Sonoran Desert. Interpretive signs will help answer the questions.



Desert Ecology Trail

Saguaro East

1/4 mile 20 minutes

use 21 calories

Desert Discovery Trail

Saguaro West

1/2 mile 30 minutes

use 42 calories

Which poisonous lizard is found in the park? _____

What's the fishy name for prickly pear fruit? _____

Name a bird that nests in cholla cactus.

What insect lays its eggs in a tarantula's body? _____

Extra Credit (on your own): What's that mountain with telescopes on the southwest horizon?



What bird eats mistletoe berries?

What tree has pods that can be ground into sweet powder? _____

Who lives in a saguaro apartment?

What animal might steal your unattended car keys? _____

Extra Credit (on your own): What two park summits do you see from this trail?

Healthy Parks, Healthy People: Pick-A-Trail

Walking in the desert is great exercise! Discuss your interest and ability with a ranger, then take a longer hike on one or more of these wonderful park trails. Score 2 points for every mile and a bonus point for every 100 calories.

Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East)

_____ Loma Verde “Loop,” an easy route in the Cactus Forest, uses 3 trails to pass Loma Verde Mine and Pink Hill on a 3.6-mile trip using 275 calories.

_____ Hope Camp Trail begins on Camino Loma Alta in the Rincon Valley and connects to the Arizona Trail. Out and back to the cowboy line camp is 5.6 miles and 475 calories.

_____ Douglas Spring Trail is a moderately strenuous hike that leads 5.2 miles to Bridal Wreath Falls (seasonal) and back. Long rock stairways will burn about 450 calories.

_____ Tanque Verde Ridge Trail is an 18-mile round trip challenge to summit 7,000-foot Tanque Verde Peak. Steep and rock-bound with fabulous views, it'll wrestle you 1,500 calories!

And about 100 miles more ...

Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West)

_____ Signal Hill Trail is a 0.5-mile round trip that will burn 40 calories. A short climb up stone steps leads to dozens of Native American petroglyphs.

_____ King Canyon Trail starts near the Desert Museum. Use the trail or the canyon bottom, then loop back by way of Gould mine, burning 200 calories on a 2.4 mile trip.

_____ Sendero Esperanza Trail crosses the desert to climb a high ridge before dropping down to Mam-a-gah picnic area. Round trip distance is 6.2 miles for 525 calories.

_____ Hugh Norris Trail is the longest trail at Saguaro West, a 10-mile round trip that uses 850 calories. Steep with rock stairs, it is intensely scenic every step of the way!

And about 35 miles more ...

Be A Citizen Scientist

You can contribute to our knowledge of Saguaro National Park. Visit one or both of these park trails and record your observations. Over time, your data will increase our understanding of the living Sonoran Desert.

Use the photos on the back cover to assist in your study.



Saguaro East
1 mile
1 hour
60 calories



Saguaro West
3/4 mile
45 minutes
50 calories

DATE: _____ TIME: _____ WEATHER: _____

Freeman Trail

Valley View Trail

Phenology (Life Cycle Events):

Are there saguaros in bloom along the trail today? _____

Are there leaves on the ocotillo plants today? _____

Non-native Species:

Did you see any buffelgrass along the trail? _____

Population Dynamics:



On the trail:

How many Cactus Wren nests did you see? _____

How many Harris' Antelope Squirrels did you see? _____

Did you see a Desert Tortoise? _____

Citizen Science Key Photos:



Saguaro Blossom

Arizona's State Flower. Main blooming time is May.



Buffelgrass

Grows in broad clumps with purplish seed heads.



Ocotillo

A spiny shrub. The leaves come and go with rainfall.



Desert Tortoise

A land-dwelling member of the turtle family.



Harris' Antelope Squirrel

Desert look-alike of a chipmunk, but no line in face.



Cactus Wren Nest

Made of grass, size & shape of a foot- ball, side entry.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Experience Your America --
Find Your Park

Funding support provided by
IBM and the
Friends of Saguaro National Park

Photos: Paul & Shirley Berquist
and NPS Staff



"The creation of a National Park is a promise from the past to the future ... We are that future and we too must act on behalf of ... a new generation of citizens in a changing world."

-- National Park Advisory Board for the 21st Century

Grand Total Score: