



Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule December, 2017

Programs meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail unless otherwise noted. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5153 for updates. See www.nps.gov/sagu for other programs.

December 1, 15, 29 3:00 p.m. **Creating Saguaro National Park** *Presentation*
Saguaro National Park has a unique and interesting history. This theater presentation will highlight the commitment, compromise, and decision's that created the Park. **Accessible program**

December 2, 16, 23, 30 10:00 a.m. **Easy Being Green** *Garden Walk*
In the desert, you'd think it's not easy being green. But there are plants everywhere in the Sonoran desert! We'll give you a model that shows how every plant gets by in this land of little rain. **Accessible program**

December 2 & 23 1:00 p.m. **A Sticky Situation at Saguaro** *Presentation*
December 13 11:00 a.m.

Here at Saguaro National Park East we have over thirty species of cacti and each is beautiful in its own way. Finding them all is hard, but we will look at them in a stunning photo gallery and learn a few uses these plants have for those living here and beyond. **Accessible program**

December 2, 16, 23, 30 2:00 p.m. **Yesterday, Today and Saguaro** *Presentation*
Climate change has come to the National Parks. Let's discuss what's happening today, and learn about a specific threat to our Sonoran desert and the Saguaro cactus. **Accessible Program**

December 3 5:00 p.m. **Full Moon Hike** *2-mile, 2-hour Guided Hike*
Explore the Sights and Sounds of the Sonoran Desert as it comes to life under the full moon. Sturdy walking shoes, water and a flashlight are recommended. Reservations are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153.

December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 10:00 a.m. **Sonoran Lifestyles** *Guided Walk*
Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

December 4, 11, 18 11:00 a.m. **A Taste of the Desert** *Garden Walk*
Discover the many uses of desert plants, from food and medicine to clothing and shelter. **Accessible Program**

December 4, 11, 18 2:00 P.M. **The Adventures of Thelma the Tortoise** *Presentation*
Go on a fantastic trip across the Sonoran Desert with one adventurous tortoise who called Saguaro National park her home – until she set her eye on farther horizons! **Accessible Program**

December 4, 11, 18 3:00 p.m. **Desert Adaptations** *Garden Walk*
Stroll through our Cactus Garden with a park naturalist and discover how these plants have adapted to life in the Sonoran Desert. **Accessible Program**

December 5, 12, 26 9:00 a.m. **Birds of the Desert** *Guided Walk*
Join a park naturalist on this one-mile walk in search of our desert birds. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended; bring your binoculars.

December 5, 12, 19, 26 11:00 a.m. **Exploring the Saguaro Wilderness** *Presentation*
Saguaro National Park includes over 70,000 acres of wilderness within its boundaries. Explore what's "up there" with a park naturalist. **Accessible Program**

December 5, 12, 19, 26 2:00 p.m. **Here Come the Hummers** *Presentation*
Discover these tiny winged jewels that call Arizona their home. **Accessible Program**

December 6, 13, 20, 27 9:00 a.m. **Desert Morning Hike** *Guided Hike*
Join a park naturalist on this fitness hike to explore scenic Saguaro National Park. Sturdy hiking shoes, water and a trail snack are recommended.

December 6 & 27 11:00 a.m. **Flash, Whoosh, Gush & Growth: Monsoons** *Presentation*

December 16 1:00 p.m.
The summer heat and humidity bring the mighty and sometimes destructive monsoon rain. Saguaros, toads, and others depend on these drenching afternoons to begin a new season of life in the dry desert. A fabulous video opens this theater presentation. **Accessible Program**

December 7, 14, 21 10:00 a.m. **Walk with the Saguaros** *Guided Walk*
Join a park naturalist for an in-depth look at our namesake – the Saguaro Cactus. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

December 7, 14, 21, 28 2:00 p.m. **Night as Day: Nocturnal Life in Saguaro National Park** *Presentation*
Discover the ecological community that comes to life in the nighttime, including nocturnal animals, night-blooming plants and pollinators. **Accessible Program**

December 7, 21 3:00 p.m. **Who's Who?** Garden Walk

The Sonoran Desert is home to many unique and delightful characters. Walk through the garden and get some hints for remembering their names and faces. **Accessible program**

December 7 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 are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153. Accessible Program**

December 8 9:00 a.m. **Douglas Spring Hike** Guided Hike

Come explore the sights along the Douglas Spring Trail, including Bridal Wreath Falls (will there be water?) and Wildhorse Tank. This is 5-mile, 4-hour hike. Sturdy hiking shoes, water and a trail snack are recommended.

December 8, 15, 11:00 a.m. **Cactus Caravan** Auto Tour

Begin your exploration of the Cactus Forest Drive with a park ranger and become familiar with some of the common cacti. A great introduction to the park! **Accessible Program**

December 8, 15, 22, 29 2:00 p.m. **Is it a Cactus or A ... spargus?** Garden Walk

We all know a cactus when we see it, right? Maybe not! Find out how our two families of spiny succulent plants are the same, but different. **Accessible program**

December 8 & 22 3:00 p.m. **A Century of Tales** Presentation

Join us as we review a century of fun and interesting stories from those who lived and worked in what today is Saguaro National Park. **Accessible Program**

December 9 & 30 1:00 p.m. **The Point of the Matter is Cactus** Presentation

December 20 11:00 a.m.

Cacti are much more than strange plants with spines. They are uniquely equipped to thrive in the desert environment, and every year bloom with spectacular flowers. This theater presentation will highlight these survival marvels with a beautiful photo gallery. **Accessible Program**

December 10, 17, 31 10:00 a.m. **Desert Botany 101** Garden Walk

Review the basic principles of desert botany on this easy walk through our Cactus Garden. **Accessible Program**

December 10, 17 11:00 a.m. **The GIANT Cactus** 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! Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

December 10, 17, 24 3:00 p.m. **Hidden Wildlife** Garden Walk

You want to see the park's wildlife, but the wildlife doesn't always want to be seen. Learn how to enjoy your visit by looking for the signs animals leave behind as they eke out a tough existence in the desert.

Accessible Program

December 13 & 20 10:00 a.m. **History of the Rincon Valley** Guided Hike

Take a stroll down the Hope Camp and Ridge View Trails and learn about the homesteaders and ranchers who settled here, as well as other aspects of the Rincon and Tanque Verde Valleys. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

December 16 2:00 p.m. **D-SLR Photography Workshop** Activity

Join park staff and photographer Alan Johnson for a 2-hour workshop covering the basics of digital SLR photography and an opportunity to practice shooting on the scenic trails of Saguaro National Park. **Reservations are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153.**

December 21 11:00 a.m. **The Saguaro TIME HIKE** Guided Hike

What was it like to live in a Cactus Forest? What do people do in this valley today? And what about an uncertain future? Explore all three eras on a short hike to the Loma Verde Copper Mine historic site. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

December 22 10:30 a.m. **Children's Desert Art Class** Activity

Children of all ages are invited to meet our ranger/nature artist Maria at the Visitor Center to create their own holiday greeting cards. **Reservations are recommended. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153.**

December 22 7:00 p.m. **Night Walk** 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. Comfortable walking shoes, water and a flashlight are recommended. **Reservations are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153**

December 28 5:00 p.m. **Holiday Caravan** Auto Tour

Explore the natural lore of the solstice holiday on a unique nighttime drive through the park's loop drive. Auto tours will be offered at 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., and will feature several stops along the 8-mile Cactus Forest Drive. Each tour lasts approximately 1½ hours. Cookies and cider will be offered at the visitor center all evening. Samples of desert food products will also be available for tasting. **Reservations are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153. Accessible Program**

December 31 2:00 p.m. **Sunset & Moonrise Hike** Guided Hike

View the Arizona sunset from a perch high in the foothills of the Rincon Mountains, then experience the magic of a walk through the moonlit Cactus Forest. Sturdy hiking shoes, water and a trail supper are recommended.

Reservations are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153.