



# Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule February, 2016

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](http://www.nps.gov/sagu) for other programs.

**February 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12** 10:00 a.m. **Sonoran Lifestyles** *Guided Walk*  
**15, 16, 19, 22, 23, 26, 29**

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

**February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** 2:00 p.m. **Grizzlies, Jaguars and Wolves – Oh My!** *Presentation*

Come listen in as we discuss the animals that once called Saguaro National Park home. Is there a chance that some of these creatures might return one day? What techniques are available to assist in their comeback?

**February 2, 16, 23** 11:15 a.m. **A Taste of the Desert** *Garden Walk*

Join us for a stroll through our cactus garden and learn what plants can be used for food, clothing, medicine, shelter and much more. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 2, 23** 12:30 p.m. **Living With and Without Reptiles** *Presentation*

Join volunteer and herpetologist Bob Brandner in the visitor center auditorium to explore the biology of Sonoran Desert reptiles and how we can share the desert with them, *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 2, 9, 16, 23** 3:00 p.m. **Birds of the Desert Southwest** *Presentation*

Join a park naturalist in the visitor center auditorium to explore the wide variety of birds found here in the desert southwest. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 3, 10, 17, 24** 9:00 a.m. **Desert Morning Hike** *Guided Hike*

Join volunteer Dick Hollenback on this 3-hour, 4-mile hike to explore Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring water and a trail snack.

**February 3, 10, 24** 10:00 a.m. **Desert Discovery** *Guided Walk*

Join a park naturalist on this 2-mile, 2-hour hike to discover what's out there in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

**February 3, 24** 10:00 a.m. **A Sticky Situation at Saguaro** *Presentation*  
**13** 1:00 p.m.

Here at Saguaro National Park East we have 20 species of cactus and each is beautiful in its own way. Finding them all can be a challenge, but we will see each one in a stunning photo gallery and learn a few uses these plants have to those living here and beyond. Theater presentation. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 10, 24** 2:00 p.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! *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 4, 18** 10:00 a.m. **Visitor's Choice/Naturalist's Choice** *Guided Walk*

Here's your chance to take a walk with a park naturalist with 10+ 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.

**February 4, 11**      2:00 p.m.      **Drive-Thru Geology**      1 ½ -hour auto tour

Hop in your car for a journey through 25 million years of earth history...in one hour! We'll observe the varied landforms of the desert – bajadas, washes, outcrops – and find out why geology students from around the world come to see the Rincon Mountain foothills. (Hint: it's the mylonitic gneiss!)

**February 4**      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.*

**February 5, 12, 19, 26**      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.

**February 5, 19**      3:00 p.m.      **A Century of Tales**      Presentation

Join us in the visitor center auditorium as we review a century of fun and interesting stories from those who lived and worked in what is today Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 5, 19**      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 (520) 733-5153.**

**February 6**      10:00 a.m.      **Sharing the Desert's Stories**      Activity

Children 5 to 10 years of age and parents are invited to come join us in the visitor center auditorium as we bring some of the Sonoran Desert's stories to life. This month's theme will be Desert Reptiles. **Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.** *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 6, 27**      1:00 p.m.      **Flash, Whoosh, Gush, and Growth: Sonoran Desert Monsoon Rain\***  
17      11:00 a.m.      Presentation

The summer heat and humidity bring the mighty and sometimes destructive monsoon rain. Saguaros, toads, and others *depend* on these drenching storms to begin a new season of life in the dry desert. A fabulous video opens this theater presentation. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 6, 27**      2:30 p.m.      **Living in a Cactus Forest**

Our "Cactus Forest" was protected as a National Monument in 1933. But that doesn't mean it hasn't changed. Take an easy stroll through this desert preserve to learn about the past AND discuss the future of your National Park and the growing Tucson community.

**February 6, 27**      5:30 p.m.      **Sunset Hike**      Guided Hike

Sonoran Desert sunsets are famous for their blazing colors. Join a park ranger to discover how nature will paint the sky tonight. Wear sturdy walking shoes.

**February 7, 14, 21, 28**      11:00 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.

**February 7,14, 21, 28**      3:00 p.m.      **CENTENNIAL!**      Presentation

Celebrate the National Park Service's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a tour through time. We'll share history and scenery from every corner of the country, going back 100 years and more!

**February 9**      12:30 p.m.      **Tortoises of the United States\***      Presentation

Join volunteer and herpetologist Bob Brandner to discover the different species of tortoises found in the U.S and which ones call Arizona home.

**February 10**                    11:00 a.m.            **The Point of the Matter is Cactus**            *Presentation*  
**20**                                    1:00 p.m.

Cactus 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. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 11, 25**                    10:00 a.m.            **Where Have All the Saguaros Gone?**    *2 mile Guided Hike*

Why does it look like our saguaros are disappearing? Join a park naturalist to discover what historic activities, including lime kilns, have affected our saguaro forest and learn how these giant cacti are faring today.

**February 12, 26**                    11:00 a.m.            **The Changing Cactus Forest\***    *Presentation*

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to discover how the changes in the Cactus Forest over the years relate to potential changes in the future. Included will be a discussion of major climate change effects on parks, relating each to Saguaro National Park.

**February 12, 26**                    3:00 p.m.            **Creating Saguaro National Park**            *presentation*

Join staff in the visitor center auditorium to discover how abuse, failure, politics, commitment, recovery and the Tucson Garden Club all played a part in creating today's Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 13 & 27**                    10:00 a.m.            **Meet the Cholla**            *Guided Walk*

On this easy walk, you will be introduced to the diverse members of the cholla cactus family and their relationships with the desert community. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

**February 16**                    12:30 p.m.            **Venomous Reptiles at Saguaro National Park**            *Presentation*

Come discover the fascinating lives of the venomous reptiles that call the Sonoran Desert their home in this auditorium presentation by volunteer and herpetologist Bob Brandner. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**February 19**                    9:00 a.m.            **The History of the Rincon Valley**            *Guided Hike*

Take a stroll down the Hope Camp Trail and learn about the homesteaders and ranchers who settled here, as well as other aspects of the Rincon and Tanque Verde Valleys. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water and a trail snack. **Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.**

**February 20**                    2:30 p.m.            **Sunset and Moonlight 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. **Reservations are required and can be made by calling the visitor center at (520) 733-5153.**

**February 27**                    9:00 a.m.            **The Destruction of Granite: A Trip to the Fault**    *Guided Hike*

Join a ranger on a guided auto tour and hike inside the loop drive at Saguaro National Park. We will discuss the geological history of the park as well as southeastern Arizona. The hike portion will be 5 miles round trip. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and a trail snack. **Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.**