

# Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule February 2018

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**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. For any additional programs visit Saguaro National Park's website ([www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu)).**

**February 1, 8, 15, 22 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.

**February 1, 22 11:00 a.m. 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.

**February 1, 8, 22 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! Accessible Program

**February 1, 22 3:00 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

**February 2, 9, 16, 23 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.

**February 2, 9, 23 10:00 a.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

**February 2, 9, 23 11:00 a.m. Life and the Desert Tour/Activity**

Explore the basic principles and structures of life. Then, use this knowledge to investigate life in the

desert to determine the forces various species have had to overcome and the adaptations those species have acquired to thrive in the desert. Accessible program

**February 2, 16, 23      2:00 p.m.      The Saguaro Nursery      Guided Walk**

Stroll through an natural desert garden where a new forest of giant saguaros is being born. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

**February 2, 16      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

**February 3, 10, 17, 24      10:00 a.m.      Meet the Chollas      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. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.

**February 3, 10, 24      1:00 p.m.      The Point of the Matter is Cactus      Presentation**

Cacti are uniquely equipped to thrive in the desert environment and every year bloom with spectacular flowers. We will look at the ones in Saguaro NP using a stunning photo gallery and learn a few of their uses for those living here and beyond. Accessible Program

**February 3, 10, 24      2:00 p.m.      Drive-Thru Geology      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 3, 10      5:00 p.m.      Sunset Hike      Guided Hike**  
**February 24      5:30 p.m.**

Join a park guide to take a short hike up to a rocky overlook of the Tucson Basin. Nature will determine how good the sunset is, but bring your camera just in case it's a famous Arizona sundown!

**February 4, 11, 18, 25      11:30 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.

**February 4, 11, 18, 25      3:00 p.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 survives in this land of little rain. Accessible program

**February 4**                      **4:30 p.m.**                      **Closing Time at the Ridge View Trail**                      **Guided Hike**  
**February 18, 25**                      **4:45 p.m.**

Join park staff to hike up the Ridge View Trail to watch and capture the sunset. Water and a flashlight are required on this 1.8 mile hike, roughly 2 hours. Reservations are required. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5153.

**February 5, 6, 12, 13**                      **10:00 a.m.**                      **Sonoran Lifestyles**                      **Guided Walk**  
**19, 20, 26, 27**

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.

**February 5, 26**                      **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

**February 5, 26**                      **11:30 a.m.**                      **Cristate Crusaders**                      **Guided Hike**

Admire and discover 4 of the most assessable crested saguaros off the Cactus Forest Loop. The tour will take 2 hours, including 2 miles of hiking. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.

**February 5, 12, 19, 26**                      **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

**February 5, 12, 19, 26**                      **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

**February 6, 13, 20, 27**                      **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.

**February 6, 13, 20, 27**                      **11:00 a.m.**                      **Not So Creepy Crawlies Presentation**

Come discover the fascinating world of snakes, insects and arachnids that live in Saguaro National Park in this 30-minute presentation. Accessible Program

**February 6, 13, 20, 27**                      **2:00 p.m.**                      **Here Come the Hummers**                      **Presentation**

Discover these tiny winged jewels that call Arizona their home. Accessible Program

**February 6, 13, 27      3:00 p.m.      Desert Botany 101      Garden Walk**

Join a park naturalist on this fitness hike to explore scenic Saguaro National Park. Sturdy hiking shoes, water and a trail snack are recommended.

**February 7, 14, 21, 28      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.

**February 7, 14, 21, 28      9:30 a.m.      Flash, Whoosh, Gush & Growth: Monsoons      Presentation**

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

**February 7      2:00 p.m.      "The Earth Laughs in Flower"      Presentation**

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

In special springs, when the winter rains have been plentiful, nature throws an exuberant party with wildflowers as the guests of honor. It is a spectacular but uncommon event with perhaps 10, 20, 30 years or more between such incredible displays. With such an abundance of flowers, there are not enough pollinators to go around. Discover the many fascinating strategies and tactics plants use to attract the pollinators they want and deter the ones they don't. Even though this won't be a banner season for our wildflowers, join desert naturalist Pinau Merlin in the theater to enjoy the splendor that can happen when conditions are just right. Accessible Program

**February 8      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

**February 9, 23      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

**February 10      11:00 a.m.      Poetry Morning in the Desert      Activity**

Bring an original or one of your favorite desert/nature poems to read and/or share. Or simply come to enjoy the beautiful views and words. Reservations are recommended. Call the Visitor Center at (520) 733-5151. Accessible program

**February 14, 21, 28      10:00 a.m.      Desert Discovery      Guided Hike**

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 14, 21, 28    11:00 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.

**February 16            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

**February 24    11:00 a.m.            Drawing the Desert    Activity**

Familiarize yourself with the Sonoran Desert by drawing it! Join us for a 2.5 hour program on a scenic one-mile desert trail where we'll give you some tips and tricks for successfully drawing the world around us. This program is open to everyone, at all levels of experience. Please bring your own sketchbook and preferred drawing utensil(s). Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended.