



# Saguaro National Park (West)

## August Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates the day of the program. Program listings can also be found at [www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu).

**August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10:15 a.m. Mountain Lions: Beyond the Myth Talk: 45 minutes**

Envision a puma stalking its prey, then uncover the true nature of this elusive but essential predator. Misunderstood, maligned, and nearly eradicated by settlers, the cougar remains threatened by human encroachment. *Wheelchair accessible*

**August 4, 11, 18, 25 3:15 p.m. Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool Talk: 30 minutes**

Lizards are small denizens of the desert that are a critical component of our desert community. Find out what it means when they do pushups or exhibit other odd behaviors. *Wheelchair accessible*

**August 3, 10, 31 3:15 p.m. Kangaroo Rat: Super Survivor Talk: 45 minutes**

Learn about the remarkable behavioral and physical adaptations these rodents possess that allow them to survive harsh desert environments. Find out how this nocturnal animal escapes predators, evades heat, and endures aridity. *Wheelchair accessible*

**August 6, 13, 20, 27 3:15 p.m. Cooking With Prickly Pear Talk: 30 minutes**

Learn how you can incorporate prickly pear into your diet. This program will show you how to collect and prepare prickly pear. Prepare for a sweet treat! *Wheelchair accessible*

**August 10, 17, 24, 31 11:15 a.m. also August 12, 19, 26 3:15 p.m. Living With Giants Talk: 45 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*

**August 1, 8 3:15 p.m. Raptors! Talk: 30 minutes**

Southern Arizona and the Sonoran Desert Region are renowned for the large variety of animal and plant species, especially birds, that can be found in the area. Among the most fascinating of those are the raptors, top predators of the avian world, who either live here year-round, or migrate through the area. *Wheelchair accessible*

**August 8, 22, 29 2:15 p.m. What is the Reason for the Saguaro Fruit Harvest? Talk: 30 min**

For over a hundred years the Tohono O'odham have harvested the saguaro fruit every summer. Come participate in a cultural experience and learn about this enriching tradition. *Wheelchair accessible*

**August 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 16, 19, 2:15 p.m. Creepy Crawlers: The Silent Majority Talk: 30 minutes**

Learn about some of our most feared and misunderstood arthropods who call this park home. Come discover how essential they are for our desert community and why we shouldn't fear these mostly harmless creatures. *Wheelchair accessible*

**August 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 11:15 a.m. Javelina: Our Desert Neighbors Talk: 30 minutes**

Sometimes referred to as the "desert pig," the javelina is not a pig at all. Learn about this intriguing creature and how it survives in this arid environment. *Wheelchair accessible*.

**August 1, 15, 29 11:15 a.m. Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant Talk: 45 minutes**

Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition. *Wheelchair accessible*.

### ***Daytime Walks***

**August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 2:15 p.m. Synergy in the Desert: The Sonoran Habitat Talk and Walk: 45 minutes**

For all of life, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" is true. The Saguaro is the focal point for a discussion of how the parts of the Sonoran Desert work together to create a rich living desert that is unique in the world.