



Saguaro National Park (West)

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.

November 3, 10, 17, 24 10:15 a.m. **Play Sonoran Desert Bingo!** *Game: 1 hour*

Learn about the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert while enjoying a rousing version of Bingo! Get five in a row – down, across, or diagonally – and win a non-monetary prize. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 9, 23 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 mountain lion remains threatened by human encroachment. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 4, 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.*

November 3, 10, 17, 24 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.*

November 15, 29, 3:15 p.m. **Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert: The Roadrunner** *Talk: 30 minutes*

The Greater Roadrunner is a popular and charismatic member of the desert community. Join a park naturalist for a Power Point presentation about the natural history, behaviors, and other facts about this colorful creature. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 8, 22 3:15 p.m. **How Do They Do It?** *Walk: 15 minutes, 100 yards*

Discover how the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert have adapted to the harsh conditions of this unique environment. (This program also is offered in Spanish November 1, 15 at 12:15 p.m.) *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 1, 7, 15, 17, 21, 23, 29 2:15 p.m. **Javelinas: 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.*

November 3, 10, 17, 24 11:15 a.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.*

November 2, 8, 14, 16, 22, 25, 30 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.

November 5, 7, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 3:15 p.m. **Homesteading Adventures** *Talk: 30 minutes*

The Hispanic women from homesteading families in the Tucson area left records of their adventures, and a ranger reads some of these fascinating first-person accounts. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Daytime Walks

November 7, 21 9:45 a.m. **Bird Walk** *30 minutes plus optional additional 30 minutes, ½ mile*

Join us for a 30-minute walk in the sandy wash behind the Visitor Center to see what birds live among the cacti and shrubs. Learn how they find food, water and shelter. Participants interested in more will drive 2 miles to Sus Picnic area with its rocky canyon and hills for another 30-minute walk to see what wrens, hawks and other birds live there. The walk is on sand and dirt roads and is scheduled for the second and fourth Saturday mornings of every month from January through April. No reservations required. All ages are invited.

November 5, 12, 19, 26 9:45 a.m. **The Plants Tell All** *Hike: 2 hours, 1½ miles*

Plants are the foundation of the web of life. Join a park naturalist to learn the secrets of what ties the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert together. Plant survival, insects and spiders, birds and mammals -- nothing is off limits for discussion on this discovery trek through the desert. For this moderate walk, closed-toed shoes, a hat, and water are required.

November 8, 22, 10:15 a.m. Adaptations: Recipe for Survival *Easy 100-yard walk: 30 minutes*
Take a walk in our Cactus Garden to discover some physical and behavioral adaptations of desert plants.

November 8, 22 11:15 a.m. Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant *Walk: 45 minutes, 100 yards*
Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

November 2, 16, 30 10:15 a.m. Sonoran Secrets to Desert Survival *Talk & Walk: 60 minutes, 200 yards*
Begin with comments on the shaded patio, then stroll a sidewalk next to the Visitor Center and identify the most common hazards hidden in the desert, uncover survival strategies of native plants and animals, and acquire practical tips to ensure your safety, particularly as temperatures rise with the approach of summer. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 7, 9, 14, 15, 18, 21, 23, 25, 29 11:15 a.m. Spiny, Shady, and COOL! *Walk: 30 minutes, 100 yards*
Come for a short walk and discover the great variety of cacti that inhabit this unique and fascinating desert.

November 10, 24 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 iconic 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.

November 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 10:15 a.m. A Hohokam Woman's Day *Walk: 30 minutes, 100 yards*
Join us as we try to help a Hohokam woman get through the trials and tribulations she may have experienced back in A.D. 400. We will look at desert plants and how she may have used them for medicinal solutions and foods for her family. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Childrens Programs

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10:00 a.m. Parents & Tots Walk *Guided Walk: 2 hours*
Bring your infant or toddler on this easy, ranger-guided walk as we explore the sights and sounds of the Sonoran Desert. Toddler backpacks are available for loan if you don't have your own. **Space is limited, so please call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 to make a reservation.**

Full Moon Programs

November 14 6:30 p.m. Moonrise Over The Mountains *Patio program: 45 minutes*
Popular guitarist and singer-songwriter Mark William and Native American flute player Robert Hval will play music on the patio as visitors watch the full moon rise over the mountains. Bring a folding chair and blankets or coats. *All ages. Wheelchair accessible. **No reservations necessary.***

Spanish Language Programs

November 15 12:15 p.m. ¿Como Pueden Sobrevivir? *Walk: 15 minutes, 100 yards*
(Spanish version of How Do They Do It?) Charla en Español donde discutiremos como las plantas y animales del desierto Sonorense se han adaptado a través de los años para poder sobrevivir y florecer en nuestro único y duro ambiente. *Wheelchair accessible.*